

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S INTERIM REPORT  
1967

MEETINGS: The Parish Council met regularly every week since taking office, and to-date hold 34 meetings. At all times collaboration between council members was close, cordial and harmonious. Close contact was maintained with the various auxiliary committees of the church and during the period under review several joint meetings were held with the respective executive committees and every possible assistance was extended to them for the successful accomplishment of their projects.

PAROCHIAL NEWS LETTER: Every effort was made to publish the church bulletin regularly and despite difficulties a fair standard was maintained. Unfortunately it has become impossible to continue publishing the newsletter twice monthly and henceforth it will appear on a monthly basis. The task has become too onerous and very few council members can devote the extra time and work over and above their regular parish duties that go into its preparation, compilation and mailing every fortnight. Efforts were made to enlist volunteers, but we had no response. Our experience also has proved that very few persons appear to read our publication which unfortunately causes us great dismay especially after the time and trouble taken to serve the community by keeping them abreast of events and news pertaining to the church. It should be borne in mind that each issue costs the church \$20.-.

IMPROVEMENTS TO CHURCH & AUDITORIUM: The baptismal font plumbing was modernised and hot and cold water faucets were installed and were linked with the water heater and main. In addition, drainage of the font was led to a special underground tank in the boiler room. The cost of these improvements amounted to about \$150.-.

Members will have certainly noticed the improvement in the cleanliness of the hall, auditorium, kitchen and washrooms.

In response to the demands made at the last Parish Assembly 6 thermostatically controlled electrically heated baseboard units were installed to ensure a comfortably heated church this winter. This job was undertaken under the guidance of the Hydro inspector. The cost of the units and installation came to about \$450.-.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: A full scale membership drive was started last summer and the response so far has been satisfactory - 25 new members having been registered to-date. The community should bear in mind that the letters of appeal sent out urging them to enrol as dues paying members must be given due consideration as the rising costs make it difficult to maintain the necessary standard befitting the parish. The church expenses average \$2000 a month - this amount is the bare minimum required. We would recommend every dues paying member to approach a relative or a friend who has not yet registered

to persuade him to do so. If each member with a little effort induces only one member to send in his dues, the results would certainly be far reaching in strengthening the financial position of our church which in turn will give us the moral and spiritual satisfaction that we have accomplished a worthy deed.

We appeal to one and all to consider the month of November as "Church Dues Month" and let us each persevere in this very simple way of working for our church by asking every fellow Armenian to remember to pay his church dues and if not get a member to enrol as soon as possible. We are confident that every one will respond wholeheartedly and help us in repaying a further substantial amount of the mortgage.

FINANCE: The attached statement portrays the financial position of the church, which outwardly does not appear too brilliant, but on the other hand \$3000.- have been written off the mortgage which now stands at the reduced sum of \$7000. Furthermore a total outlay of \$1400.- was made for improvements to the church (Baptismal font, Heating and a fully automatic duplicating machine was acquired for the office by the former Parish Council last January at a cost of \$785.-).

The school committee and the A.C.Y.O.A. have handed us their financial statements with these brief results:

A.C.Y.O.A. Deficit \$568.21                      1966/1967  
June 20th 1967 cash on hand \$691.01

School Committee Deficit \$800.43            (six months period)  
June 30th 1967 cash on hand \$531.43

Note: The school committee holds sponsor pledges in the amount of \$1200.-.

AUXILIARY BODIES:

A.C.Y.O.A. The Parish Council is taking a keen interest in this Organisation and the newly elected committee has appreciated this and is fully cooperating with us. Frequent joint informal meetings have been taking place and a number of new reforms and ideas have been introduced to attract new members. We heartily endorse their programme and recommend all parents to encourage their children to frequent the A.C.Y.O.A. We would like to give our reassurance that they will not be disillusioned.

SCHOOL BOARD: This Committee has greatly enhanced the standard of our school and in spite of innumerable difficulties, financial and otherwise, has successfully accomplished the task that it was entrusted with by the Parish Council and is continuing to do so since the reopening of the school. There have been a few changes in the teaching staff owing to resignations. The community should be grateful and appreciative of the efforts made by these

dedicated persons who voluntarily sacrifice their spare time to teach our youngsters their mother tongue. We think it opportune to stress upon parents to assist the principal and teachers by closely supervising their children's lessons and urge them to complete their home studies with care. Unfortunately owing to the increased cost of transportation we have been compelled to pass a small share of the burden to the parents. It is hard to believe but 60% of the total expenditure is devoted to transportation alone.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Their executive committee has always cooperated with willingness and devotion with the Parish Council and has assisted us in our several undertakings. We are gratefully appreciative of their ceaseless fund raising efforts on behalf of the church and school. Their organisation is truly a wonderful one and we hope that ladies who are not yet members, and who can spare a few hours a month, should make a small effort by joining their ranks. It is only fair that the burden should be divided a little more equitably amongst the members of our growing community.

GENERAL: Whether we are working as a member of one of the church organisations or not, we must bear in mind one important factor, and that is the church needs us not only for financial support but also as a devoted son or daughter to do our share in any way we can, no matter how small our contribution may be. It is always better than none at all; so we beg you to remember if any one approaches you with a request for the church, school or the ladies auxiliary, please set a good example and do not refuse.

The Pastor and Parish Council on their behalf and on behalf of the various church organisations wish to express their deep appreciation to the devoted deacons, choir members, and all the generous members of the community for their unfailing support and close cooperation.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY: The 65th annual diocesan assembly was held at the Detroit Parish. Unfortunately the two diocesan delegates of our Parish were unable to attend. The following proposals were unanimously passed.

- 1) The 1968 Annual Diocesan Assembly is to meet in the Cathedral in New York under the presidency of His Holiness the Catholicos of All Armenians.
- 2) A proposal was tabled that the Diocesan Council appoint a committee towards the implementation of the following suggestion with the A.G.B.U.

To raise a fund of one million dollars during a triennial period 1968-71 from special campaigns in aid of the Armenian Schools with the motto "Never forget your Armenian Language".

3) Petition to the United States Senate

It was decided to request the United States Senate to ratify the international treaty banning genocide.

4) Resolution Concerning the Youth

The Assembly passed the following resolution concerning the youth of the Diocese, inasmuch as "it is common knowledge that in order to make our Church more vital and meaningful to our people, we must enlist the co-operation and participation of our youth.

"The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organisation of America is aware of the needs and problems the Church is faced with in this contemporary culture and changing times.

"They have also been painfully aware of the serious difficulties involved in keeping the interest and participation of our youth in our Church and community life.

"In due time this Organisation has made systematic observations and study of the youth of our Church, and is convinced that in order to strengthen our youth, one of the essential means to be used, in addition to everything that our Pastors and the Central Council doing, would be to have trained youth leaders in our communities."

The Diocesan assembly strongly recommends that each Parish appoint a youth leader, to work either full or part time. In case such a person is not available, each Parish should encourage and, if possible, sponsor the training of such individual in the field of youth work."

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