

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
1968

The past year has been a most significant one for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Canada. The Highlight marking our calendar was the jubilant occasion of the visit of His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of all Armenians, to New York where he consecrated on April 28th the Cathedral of St. Vartan.

His Holiness later visited Montreal and was received with full honours by the Governor General of Canada, the Premier of the Province of Quebec as well as civic and religious leaders of Montreal, where he laid the corner stone of the new church under construction in that city.

The Supreme Patriarch also presided at the annual Diocesan Assembly which was held in the new Cathedral. Your three diocesan delegates - A. Cavouk, G. Pederian and H. Selian - attended all sessions of the Assembly.

The Visit of His Holiness also marked another happy occasion for our Diocese when the Catholicos at a special ceremony elevated our beloved Primate to the order of Archbishop.

Meetings

Your Parish Council met regularly, at least twice monthly, during the past year. Attendance on the whole was very good. At a number of the meetings we were happy to have our Suffragan Bishop presiding and were fortunate to avail ourselves of his counsel and guidance. His Grace Bishop Vatche on more occasion than one readily acquiesced to our appeals in cases of emergency and flew out to be amongst us at very short notice, in spite of his over-loaded schedule.

We wish to express to His Grace our sincere appreciation for his tireless efforts to consolidate and improve the parishes in his diocese since he took office a year ago. We take this opportunity of expressing our devotion and loyalty to His Grace and extend our good wishes for success in his sacred mission.

The Parish Council wishes also to express gratitude to our Pastor, Very Rev. Father J. Tashjian, for his close collaboration and for the wholehearted assistance he has given us.

Finally I take this opportunity of expressing sincere thanks to all my colleagues for their kind support, as well as to all the executives of the various committees for their close collaboration.

### Accounts

The attached financial statement depicts a fairly satisfactory result for the year. The budget approved at the last Parish Assembly was balanced and the entire mortgage was repaid. One point of concern is the drop in plate collections - \$3,676 against \$4,065 in 1967 - even though the estimated overall attendance has been larger in 1968. The dues paying membership gained very little in number over the previous year, in spite of repeated approaches to our parishoners the response was very weak and new registrations were few. These two sources of income are of utmost importance as they represent the only guaranteed revenue for the Church. Our Parishoners must bear this important factor in mind, especially as the Church is no longer in debt, this does not mean that we can relax under the pretense that henceforth things will be easy. The continuous rising costs of maintenance, repairs and renovations in addition to the responsibility of meeting the budgets of the Armenian School and Sunday School are a heavy drain on Church funds. This is why we are making an appeal to all our parishoners to bear in mind the absolute necessity of registering as dues paying members. Please think it over and if each member makes a small effort to induce a non-member friend to register they will greatly assist the Church to balance the annual budget.

### Social and Cultural

Activities were varied and well supported. The annual picnic was a great success and the financial results very gratifying. As the community grow larger numbers of volunteers are required to serve on sub-committees and consequently members are kindly requested to respond readily when approached for their collaboration in any field of their choice. The efforts of both the cultural and entertainment committees were very successful and the community witnessed numerous praiseworthy achievements during the past year. A hearty word of thanks to every member of the two committees.

### Ladies' Auxiliary

The executive committee once again organized several highly successful fund raising events. This entailed good planning and lots of hard work. The end result being an interim donation of \$1500 to Church funds. Such a contribution could only be achieved through the dedicated efforts of our enterprising ladies. Their devotion is deeply gratifying and greatly appreciated.

### School Committee and Teachers.

These two bodies, as in the past, have rendered invaluable service to the entire community. The standard of the Parish School, thanks to the personal interest shown by a number of dedicated men and women, is improving annually. We have to-day reached a stage where without the time consuming efforts of these handful of energetic nationals, we could

never possess this unique opportunity and advantage of teaching our children their mother tongue.

Sunday School.

The classes have been completely reorganized and attendance has vastly improved thanks to the competent persons who volunteer to instruct the pupils the traditions of our Church in both Armenian and English. The entire community owes a great debt of gratitude to all these highly dedicated persons for the wonderful contribution they are making. Their sole satisfaction and reward, in this materialistic era, being to teach our youngsters our language and religion.

Deacons - Choir - Organists.

These devoted servants of the Church are very often taken for granted - yet here again we have a wonderful team of highly devoted men and women who unobtrusively fulfill their duties every Sunday with the utmost dedication. It should be borne in mind that in addition to their presence in Church on Sundays, during snowstorms in winter and heatwaves in summer, they devote many additional hours for choir meetings and practice.

Centennial Committee.

This committee successfully terminated its mission. The final project was accomplished two months ago where many of you who were present at the University of Toronto witnessed the presentation of a set of books to the University library. Mr. O. Dzalian was the Parish Council delegate and Chairman of the committee and we would like to express sincerest thanks for the skill and time he unreservedly devoted towards this valuable contribution made by the Armenian Community of Toronto on the historic occasion of Canada's Centennial. Finally to all our very generous members of the community we would like to express our deepest gratitude for their unceasing financial support and presentations to the church.

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Toronto , January 24th 1969