



CONSECRATION

OF THE

ARMENIAN CHURCH

OF

THE HOLY MARTYRS



ONSECRATION
OF THE
ARMENIAN CHURCH
OF
THE HOLY MARTYRS

September 28, 1958

Bayside, N. Y.

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**ԾՈՒՄ
ՍՐԲՈՑ ՆԱՀԱՏԱԿԱՑ
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ**

ՍԵՊՏԵՄԲԵՐ 28, 1958

ԼՕՆԿ ԱՅԼԸՆՏ

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS



Page 2

Sponsored by: Mr. and Mrs. Ghevont Aghajanian



MAIN ALTAR OF THE CHURCH

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PROGRAM

Star Spangled Banner.....Mrs. Edward Jamakordzian
Invocation.....Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian

DINNER

Opening Remarks.....Richard K. Gregory
Master of Ceremonies.....Artin Aslanian
WelcomeYervant Hampar
AddressArax Exerjian
Comments.....Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian
SongsMardiros Keoshaian
CommentsRev. Dougald MacLean
CommentsMsgr. Pascal Maljian
CommentsRev. A. A. Bedikian
SongsNorma Cazanjan
CommentsDikran Missirlian
CommentsNeil Hanes
CommentsHon. Steven Derounian
SongsEdward Karnikian
AddressArchbishop Mampre Calfayan
Der Getzo



IN a world of turmoil
Our foundation for life
Must be religion.
Let us perpetuate our belief
That God is love.
Let us consecrate our church
For the Future.
We dedicate in faith
Today, believing in the
Strength of Tomorrow.



HIS HOLINESS, VASKEN I
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians
of The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin



Եժ գոհունակութեամբ իմացանք որ Լօնկ Այլընտի մեր պատուական գաղութը սրտաբուխ նուէրներով գեղեցիկ հայկական եկեղեցի մը կառուցած է իր դպրոցով եւ սրահով :

Կը մաղթենք որ նորակառոյց եկեղեցին միշտ շէն ու պայծառ մնայ, որտեղ լսուի Աստուծոյ նշմարիտ խօսքը, որ այն քրիստոնէական եղբայրութեան սիրով ու համերաշխութեամբ իր շուրջը համախմբէ հայ համայնքը :

Կը մաղթենք նաեւ որ ձեր եկեղեցին միշտ հաւատարիմ մնայ ազգային աւանդութիւններուն, Սուրբ Էջմիածնին եւ մայր հողին եւ հանդիսանայ գաղութիդ ազգային կեանքի կեդրոն :

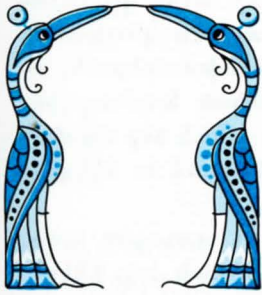
Մեր սիրոյ ողջոյնն ու հայրապետական օրհնութիւնը Լօնկ Այլընտի մեր պատուական գաղութին, եկեղեցւոյ կառուցման գործի անմիջական ղեկավարներուն եւ հոգեւոր դասուն :

Վ.Ա.ԶԳԷՆ Ա.Ռ.Ա.ԶԻՆ

Կաթողիկոս Ամենայն Հայոց



HIS BEATITUDE, ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN
Patriarch-Elect of Jerusalem



ւրախ եղայ շատ որ վերջապէս յառաջիկայ Սեպտեմբերին պիտի օծուի Լոնկ Այլէնտի մեր եւ ձեր եկեղեցին, պիտի ստանայ իր անունը եւ պիտի պաշտօնապէս սկսի իր պատմութիւնը:

Կը յիշեմ այն պայմանները որոնք ծնունդ տուին Լոնկ Այլէնտի մէջ եկեղեցի մը շինելու ծրագրին: Կը յիշեմ այն անձերը որոնք խանդավառութեամբ փառեցան գաղափարին եւ յարատեւութեամբ հետապնդեցին անոր իրագործումը: Կը յիշեմ այն ազգայինները որոնք հետզհետէ միացան առաջաւորներու խումբին, գործին մէջ դնելով իրենց սիրտը եւ իրենց դրամը:

Եւ Աստուած յաջողցուց ձեռնարկը, որով կը պսակուին փառաւոր ու յաւերժական պսակով մը անոնք, որոնք առաքինացան եկեղեցւոյ շինութեան գործին մէջ:

Ամերիկայէն մեկնելէն ետք հեռուէն հետեւեցայ շինութեան ընթացքին եւ լրումին: Երջանիկ կը զգամ որ Լոնկ Այլէնտի մեր սիրեցեալ ու պատուական ժողովուրդը, մեր Սուրբ եկեղեցւոյ քանկագին եւ օրհնեալ գաւակները, այսօր կը վարձատրուին իրենց զոհողութեանց եւ աշխատութեանց արդիւնքով: Կը շնորհաւորեմ բոլոր վաստակաւորները հոգեւոր սիրով եւ արդար հպարտութեամբ:

«Ողորմեա զեկեղեցի շինողաց, երայտաւորաց, պտղատուից, սպասարաց...»

Դարերու մէջէն եկող այս աղօթքը, այնքան Աստուծոյ մատուցուած խնդրանք մըն է, որքան քաջալերանք մը եւ պատիւ մը անոնց որոնք եկեղեցի կը շինեն Աստուծոյ փառքին, ժողովուրդի օգուտին եւ իրենց հոգիին/փրկութեան համար:

Կը լսեմ թէ արդէն կը ծաղկի կեանքը նոր եկեղեցիին շուրջ: Այնտեղ յանախողներ, փոքրեր ու մեծեր, Սուրբ Հաղորդութեան նամբով պիտի ամբացնեն իրենց կապը մեր նախահայրերու հաւատքին եւ իրարու հետ: Եւ այսպէս, կը քալէ հայ ժողովուրդը հայ եկեղեցիին հետ արտասահմանի մէջ, իր նակատագրի նամբուն վրայ, կուրծք տալով փոքորիկներու եւ չորցնող հովերու, որոնք կը հարուածեն իր ծաղկումը ներսէն եւ դուրսէն... Կը քալէ զինուած իր քրիստոնէական հաւատքով եւ իր հայրենի առաքինութիւններով, որոնց մէկ արտայայտութիւնն է նաեւ ուրիշներու կարգին, Լոնկ Այլէնտի նորակառոյց Հայ եկեղեցին:

Մեր սրտագին խնդակցութիւնները եւ շնորհաւորութիւնները կը յայտնենք Թեմիդ Սրբազան Առաջնորդին, Ձեզի, որ բոլորանուէր կ'աշխատիք եկեղեցւոյդ պայծառութեան համար, Շինութեան Յանձնախումբերուն, որոնց գոհողութիւններով եկեղեցին կանգնեցաւ, Ծխական Խորհուրդին, Թեմական պատգամաւորներուն, Հ. Ե. Ե. Կազմակերպութեան ձեր մասնաճիւղին, միւս ծխական կազմակերպութեանց եւ մարմիններուն եւ եկեղեցւոյդ բոլոր ծխականներուն:

Կը մաղթեմ որ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոս ինք ծաղկեալ եւ պողաքեր պահէ այն փոքր ածուն, որուն մշակութիւնը սկսած է Լոնկ Այլէնտի Հայ եկեղեցիին մէջ:

Եւ մնամ Հայրական սիրալիլ ողջունիլ եւ օրհնութեամբ,

Ազօթարար
ՏԻՐԱՆ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ

20 Սեպտեմբեր, 1957

Պատրիարք Ս. Աբողոյն Երուսաղէմի





HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP MAMPRE CALFAYAN
Primate of the Armenian Church in North America



եծ ուրախութեան առիթ մը եղաւ մեզի համար իմանալով որ ըստ Ձեր ըրած կարգադրութեան յառաջիկայ Սեպտեմբեր 28ին պիտի կատարուի նորակառոյց եկեղեցւոյն օծումը, որ արդարեւ ցնծութեան եւ խրախօսանքի տուն պիտի տայ համայնքիդ մեր հաւատացեալ ժողովուրդին:

Եկեղեցաշէն իրենց ծրագիրը արդէն իրագործուած ըլլալով այնքան օրինակելի կերպով, Ձեր պատուական ծխականները իրաւունք ունին այն օրը տօնախմբութեամբ հրճուելու: Հրճուանքով կը յիշատակենք այն բոլորանուէր եւ ջերմեռանդ գործակցութիւնը զոր արտակարգ կերպով ցոյց տուաւ ծովսիդ աւանդապաշտ ժողովուրդը Լօնկ Այլլընտի Պէյսայտ քաղամասին մէջ կանգնեցնելու Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական եկեղեցի մը, ուր պիտի կրնան խրմբուիլ շրջակայքի մօտն ու հեռուն բնակող Ձեր ծխականները՝ պաշտելու զԱստուած եւ կատարելու ազգային-եկեղեցական իրենց պարտականութիւնները:

Նշանակելի է երեւոյթը որ իբր նորակազմ համայնք՝ արդէն իսկ լուծած էք նաք գործունէութեան շրջանի մը յարուցուելիք անխուսափելի դժուարութիւնները, կազմած ըլլալով գործօն ծխական խորհուրդ մը, ինչպէս նաեւ եկեղեցասէր Տիկնանց Միութիւն, Հայց. Եկեղեց. Երիտ. Կազմակերպութիւն, կիրակնօրեայ եւ Հայ դպրոցի խնամակալութիւններ, Երիտ. Զոյգերու Միութիւն եւ այլն, որոնք Ձեր նախագահութեան եւ անմիջական հոգածութեան ներքեւ վստահաբար պիտի կարենան ընթացք տալ եկեղեցւոյ շինութեան եւ կրթական ու մշակութային գործերուն համար հարկ եղած բոլոր աշխատանքներուն:

Կը հայցենք ի Տեառնէ պարգեւելու Ձեզ եւ պատուարժան Մխական հորհուրդիդ, յարգելի Թեմական Պատգամաւորներուն եւ ենթակայ մարմիններու բոլոր անդամներուն համախոհ գործակցութիւն, եւ կը մաղթենք ամենքիդ քաջանդամութիւն եւ բարօրութիւն որպէսզի կարենաք միասնաբար Ձեր ուժերը ի սպաս դնել Աստուծոյ փառքին ու եկեղեցւոյն բարգաւաճութեան եւ ժողովուրդի լուսաւորութեան համար:

Մնամք սիրոյ ողջունիւ
Աղօթարար
ՄԱՄԲՐԷ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՍ
Առաջնորդ Ամերիկայի Հայոց



THE REV. VARTAN MEGHERIAN
Pastor of our Church



Y dear Parishioners,

We have built the church. We kneaded our faith, our inspiration and our sweat with the stone and mortar of the structure. Our efforts and sacrifices are crowned with success. The church building, dominating over a majestic boulevard, is our pride and glory. The conical form of the bell tower, of ancient and cherished Armenian architecture, is the mystical symbol of our prayers reaching to heaven.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with you for the realization of this sacred project. You have shown your unselfish devotion in this service. "Thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

Our work is not yet completed, however; because the ultimate purpose in building a church reveals itself only in the mist of eternity. Working in the service of the Lord is likened to climbing a mountain, the peak of which is in God's domain. We receive the precious inheritance of our Fathers and strive to make it richer and pass it on to the next generation to continue this sacred mission.

The greatest happiness and reward lies in the attaining of a worthy goal. For this reason, the building itself and its external features are not enough to clear the path to that goal. The faith practiced within the church, and its fruits, are more important.

Archbishop Karekin Servantzdians, an eminent Armenian churchman of the past generation, once visited an Armenian community where they had just completed a most imposing and costly church building. He praised the people, the building and its architectural beauty and opulence, but added, "I would not exchange all this with a true Christian soul."

The important meaning, therefore, is that we use the church and its physical aspect as a means toward the goal of becoming true Christians and that we grow stronger in faith and in our love of God.

May the blessings of our Lord be upon you all.

With prayers,

FATHER VARTAN MEGHERIAN

INTRODUCING OUR PASTOR



HE Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and was christened Garabed. He received his preliminary education in Armenian Schools in Aleppo, Syria, and in 1936 he entered the Theological Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In 1940, he was ordained arch-deacon by the then Patriarch, His Beatitude, Archbishop Mesrob Nishanian.

Having completed his studies, Deacon Garabed returned to Aleppo in 1944 and became an instructor in local Armenian schools.

He showed literary tendencies while at the Seminary, and published a volume of poetry in Aleppo in 1946.

By arrangement of His Eminence, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, then Primate of the Diocese of North America, Deacon Garabed came to the United States in 1947 to continue his studies at the Seabury-Western Episcopal Seminary and Northwestern University. He was graduated in 1952 and received a Master of Arts degree.

In November, 1947, Deacon Garabed married Miss Yefkin Der Bedrosian of Troy, N. Y. They now have two daughters, Zarmi and Lori, and a son, Narrek.

On February 29, 1948, Deacon Garabed was ordained priest by Archbishop Tiran and renamed Father Vartan. Subsequently, he was appointed pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, Illinois, where he served for eight years.

In November, 1955, Father Vartan was designated pastor of the Armenian Church of Long Island and was unanimously voted as such by the Building Committee. This action was approved by the Diocesan Council on November 16, 1955.

Father Vartan served also as Vicar-General of the Diocese of the Armenian Church from September 1955 to April 1958. During this time, he did a considerable share of the Diocesan work as well as his parish work in Long Island.

As Vicar-General, Father Vartan introduced the proposal of our Diocese's membership in the National Council of Churches and attended the preliminary meetings of the committees of the National Council. Our Diocese was accepted as a member in December 1957, and Father Vartan now serves as a member of the General Board of the National Council and on its Life and Work Division.

In the field of religious education, he proposed the formation of a Council for Religious Education (now functioning under his chairmanship) which prepares and sends Sunday School lessons and curriculum to all Sunday Schools of our Diocese.

In appreciation of Father Vartan Megherian's work, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Primate, granted him the privilege of wearing a purple flowered phelonion (Dzagghia Pilon) in April 1956.

Upon the recommendation of our Parish Council and at the request of the Primate, His Holiness Catholicos Vasken I, in an encyclical issued on November 20, 1957, granted Father Vartan the special right to wear a pectoral cross (Lanchakhach) for his devotion and service.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSECRATION



THE ritual origins of the consecration of a Christian Church go as far back as Hebrew times, to the consecration of Solomon's temple.

Consecration is "the act by which a person or thing is separated from common use and permanently dedicated to the service of God." Besides its permanence, a consecration is distinguished from simple blessing by its greater solemnity.

The word church (ecclesia) originally referred to the group of people who came together in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. It is only by extension that it came to mean the building in which people congregated for that purpose. Naturally the first Christians did not have special buildings for their religious services. They gathered together in private houses. It was only after the end of the third century that church buildings began to be erected. Thus our own mother church at Holy Etchmiadzin has the distinction of being one of the very first buildings in the world built especially as a church.

The essential part of the consecration of an Armenian Church is first the anointment of the Altar, then of the two pillars of the Apse, then of the center of the front of the Ambon (where the lectern is placed), then, consecutively, of the western, northern, and southern sides of the church, and finally of the Main Door. All but the Altar, Ambon, and Main Door are consecrated in the name of the twelve Apostles and of St. Paul. The anointing is done with Holy Chrism or muron and incense is used throughout the service. Holy Chrism is the symbol of grace or divine presence. Incense is the symbol of praise.

In a truly Christian community all buildings and all things should serve God. An Armenian church is a building where our Lord Himself is bodily present because the Divine Liturgy is celebrated there at least every Sun-

day. For this reason it has a very special function. It should be set apart. It should be consecrated.

When a church is consecrated, it is also given a "name". In fact, we do not merely name a church. We actually entrust it to the special care of the saint, or saints to whom the church is dedicated. We make of the church a gift to him. The "naming" of a church also involves a promise. It is a promise on behalf of the people of the church to live according to the ideals of the saint invoked, or according to the will of God.

Originally the word "church" did not apply to a building. It applied to the people who came together in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. To this day it really keeps that meaning. And we must bear in mind that when we consecrate a church building we also consecrate all the work that has gone into the tangible reality which is, in this case, the building as it stands today on Horace Harding Boulevard.

Our church therefore has been "set apart" for a special, sacred purpose. It has been dedicated to God. We have entrusted ourselves to the special care of the saint or saints invoked, and have promised to live as they would wish us to live, namely according to the holy will of God.

A consecration is also a joyful occasion. It is natural to feel joy when we behold a worthwhile achievement of our own. But we cannot rest until the gift that we make to God through His saints is as perfect as we can make it. We must make our church as beautiful as possible, engaging the help of the finest artists and using the best materials available within the utmost of our financial means. And we must aim, above all, to achieve our own spiritual perfection.

A church is, after all, a house which shelters a family. The people of a parish are a family. We must make a renewed effort on the occasion of the consecration of our church to make the Armenian Christian family of Long Island one that brings honor to the name "Armenian" and does justice to the name "Christian."



NEIL HANES
Godfather of our Church



AM extremely grateful for the high honor and privilege of being the Godfather of our Church on the occasion of Her Consecration. I shall always endeavor to be worthy of it.

Our Church is a reality because of the abundant Christian faith, sacrifice and devotion displayed by a splendid and united community.

The Armenian Mother Church has continued to exist for centuries under most adverse conditions because of the unwaivering faith the Armenian people have in the Lord and in His Church. Millions of Armenians have unhesitatingly given their lives to preserve this faith and to prove that the Armenian Church is indestructible.

We all agree that to honor and perpetuate their memory is our sacred duty. With complete humility and admiration, I wish that our Church be dedicated to them, and be named "ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS."

May the Lord make us worthy guardians of our ancient and honorable Church.

NEIL HANES



EIL HANES was born in Kharpert and brought up in Erevan, Armenia, by one of his aunts, when his whole family, excepting his father, Garabed Der Hovannessian, was killed during the Turkish massacres.

Neil's father, who was in America at that time, located Neil after much effort, and in 1924 brought him to Providence, R. I., where Neil grew up and received his schooling.

On February 27, 1938, Neil married Mary Bostonian of Chelsea, Mass. Their marriage has been blessed with two daughters, Elizabeth, age 15, and Rosemarie, age 12.

Between 1941 and 1953, Mr. Hanes was engaged in offset printing, silk screen printing and fabrication of plastic items in Woodside, Long Island.

In 1953, in association with Mr. Donald Hoover, he formed Hoover-Hanes, Inc., which corporation is engaged in the manufacture of plastic film and sheeting.

Mr. Hanes has contributed generously to our Church and his generosity at all times has had the support of his associate Mr. Donald Hoover, who, although not a member of our Church, has helped our Church financially, and encouraged us by his personal interest in our progress.

One of the most ardent and devoted workers of our Church, Neil Hanes is presently Treasurer of the Parish Council.

PARISH COUNCIL

The HISTORY of the
ARMENIAN CHURCH
of
THE HOLY MARTYRS



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THE Armenian Church of Long Island was born of a deep inner compulsion on the part of the many Armenians living here, for a place where they could worship God as their ancestors have worshipped throughout the centuries and where old and young could gather to keep alive the rich Armenian spiritual and cultural heritage.

The desire grew and gathered momentum. Many, happy in their American homes, felt that Armenians had much to contribute to this country by preserving and keeping alive the great Armenian traditions.

In the latter part of 1953 a few friends got together at Mr. & Mrs. Artin Aslanian's home in Manhasset to discuss the need for an Armenian Church on Long Island. There were present Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Dadour Dadourian, Manoug Exerjian, Dikran Missirlian, Richard K. Gregory, Yervant Hampar, Artin Aslanian, Peter Piranian, Joseph Chorbajian and Garo Artinian. To start the ball rolling, preliminary pledges of \$5,000.00 each were made by the Dadourian Export Corp. and Mr. Dikran Missirlian, and work was started to search for a proper location to build the church.

In April of 1954 some of the leaders of the Long Island Community gathered at the home of Dikran Missirlian where a Building Committee was formed and a tentative plan mapped out. Members of the Committee included Dikran Missirlian, chairman; Yervant Hampar, vice chairman; George Bashian, treasurer; Aram Mendikian, recording secretary; Lucy Hazarabedian, secretary. On the Advisory Committee were John H. Hazard, Zareh Kapikian, Henry Sahakian, Richard K. Gregory, Dr. John Karnig, Vahe Hampar, Zabel Aslanian, Paul Chaputian, Manoug Exerjian, Arax Exerjian, Puzant Piranian, Souren Allalemdjian, Krikor Hartunian, Garo Artinian and Joseph Chorbajian. The Building Committee considered favorably the purchase of 200 feet on Horace Harding Blvd, between Oceania and 210th Streets and asked Manoug Exerjian and Dikran Missirlian to negotiate for it through Brady and McGee, brokers, on March

18, 1954. A letter was written to Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, the then Primate of the Diocese of North America, requesting permission to proceed with the plans.

On June 28, 1954, the closing was made by Mr. Richard K. Gregory for three parcels of land and on November 29, 1954, the adjoining 40 feet on 210th Street was purchased at a total cost of \$27,378.75. To this was added the 40' x 100' lot adjoining our church at 210th Street, which was purchased early in 1958 for \$5,250.00, making a total land area of 32,000 square feet, which includes the area of the present parish house.

On June 21, 1954, the Certificate of Incorporation was prepared and mailed to Albany for approval and validation that made our Church an officially chartered institution.

Our first bank account was opened with Irving Trust Co., on June 24, 1954, with a deposit of \$8,125.00. By July 8 these deposits reached \$21,855.00 of which \$5,000.00 was a temporary loan from the Markarian Fund and the remaining \$16,000 represented the first contributions from Allalemdjian Bros., Garo Artinian, Hagop Barsamian, George Bashian, Paul Chaputian, Joseph Chorbajian, Dadourian Export Corp., Vahe Hampar, Yervant Hampar, Krikor Hartunian, Jack Hazard, Dr. John Karnig, Sarkis Keurpeyan, Krikor Koutnouyan, Aram Mendikian, Benjamin Mesrobian, Dikran Missirlian, Henry Sahakian and John Serabian.

A second meeting of the Building Committee resulted in the formation of various committees: Artin Aslanian was designated as chairman of the Architectural Committee, Manoug Exerjian, as architect, and Yervant Hampar and Souren Allalemdjian, as members. Publicity was headed by Garo Artinian, with Edward Jamakordzian, George Bashian and Krikor Hartunian as members. Fund raising was entrusted to Vahe Hampar as chairman, with Zareh Kapikian, Henry Sahakian, Dr. John Karnig, Edward Jamakordzian, Joseph Topalian and Gregory Melikian serving on the committee. Mrs. Arax Exerjian was appointed chairman of the Women's Auxiliary with Mrs. Zabel Aslanian as co-chairman. Mr. Jack Dadourian was designated as chairman of the Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary.

From the several sketches our architect Mr. Manoug Exerjian submitted, the Building Committee selected the one which was used for today's building. A goal of \$175,000.00 was set and the various committees went to work in earnest.

Sunday Church services were inaugurated and the first Divine Liturgy



CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY

was celebrated by the Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian in St. George's Episcopal Church, Flushing, on June 20, 1954. Frequent services were held thereafter in the same Church until December 16, 1958, when our new Church was ready.

The first inaugural dinner, sponsored by the Building Committee, was held on Sept. 26, 1954, at the Fresh Meadows Inn. Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, the Primate, offered the invocation and guests were welcomed by Mr. Dadour Dadourian. Richard K. Gregory, as master of ceremonies, introduced the guest speakers, Rep. Steven Derounian and Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, now in Jerusalem. He was the Priest-in-charge until we were able to have our own pastor. He will long be remembered affectionately by the Long Island Armenian Community. He did much to encourage our youth to take an active part in the work of building the Armenian Church on Long Island.



CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY

Our official fund raising campaign was started at the Inaugural Dinner resulting in pledges of \$63,104.00. Most of the original contributors doubled their pledges in this campaign and the response from the general public was very gratifying. In April 1954 the Women's Auxiliary was organized, and in August of the same year, the Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary. In February 1955 the first "Queens Ball" was held at the Hotel Pierre, New York City. It not only netted \$6,000.00 for the building fund, but also proved to be an outstanding social success. The success of the first "Queens Ball" prompted the second and third which were equally successful.

April 17, 1955, was set aside for the ground-breaking ceremony. The first part of the services, held at the Fresh Meadows Inn, was attended by 600 people. The program began at 1:00 P.M. with the blessing and distribution of "Madagh" (Sacrificial Meal). This was followed by a special ceremony in memory of deceased loved ones. Then came the blessing of

the crosses, which were distributed to those present, a few short speeches, and a voluntary offering which totalled \$10,000.00 in pledges. The participants then proceeded to the church grounds. Boy and Girl Scouts, with American flags, led the procession from 208th St. in Bayside. They were followed by school children and adults. The clergy were escorted to the church grounds by the choir, processional crosses and candle bearers. By the time the services started, the congregation had swelled to over 1,000 people. The Very Rev. Hmayak Intoyan, Pastor of the Holy Cross Church, Union City, N. J., was in attendance and the Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, Priest-in-charge of the Long Island Armenian Church, officiated. The four corners of the ground were blessed in a special service and the clergy dug the first shovel of earth. Eight children, 10 to 12 years old, using small shovels, did the same on the four sides of the grounds. With these traditional services, the ground had been blessed and was in readiness for our church.

During the first half of 1955, we were fortunate in obtaining the part time services of Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, who served as Priest-in-charge of our Church with distinction. He did much for this community in the beginning, taking active part in the work of the Building Committee and planting the seeds of the parish organizations. After Father Torkom's departure to Jerusalem, the Building Committee continued the work alone, until November 9, 1955, when the Committee unanimously and formally accepted the appointment of our Primate to have the Rev. Vartan Megherian as the Pastor of our Church. The Long Island Armenian Community is happy indeed to have in Rev. Vartan Megherian, a young and experienced Pastor, who has fully dedicated his talents, time, and effort to the needs of his community, thus earning its heartfelt gratitude.

Amidst all this activity the publication of our church bulletin was initiated. 1,200 copies of the first issue were mailed out in February 1955 to give all Armenians on Long Island first hand information on what was being accomplished. This meant a great deal of work. In this connection a special word of appreciation is due to Mr. Zareh Kapikian, Mr. & Mrs. George Vetzgian and their daughter Anahid, who worked tirelessly on this project.

In the meantime, the Building Committee, with selfless devotion, was spending many hours with church problems. There were meetings to attend, plans and vital decisions to be made which would concern all the

people who were a part of the Armenian Church.

The excavation of the grounds was started in June, 1955. The area was cleared of trees and brought to a level surface. The building contract was signed in September 1955, with Rubio Construction Corp. for a total sum of \$150,950.00 which was eventually increased to \$182,124.00.

A group of twelve teachers met in the early part of 1955 to formulate plans for the Sunday School with its various activities and classes. Increased activity took place after the arrival of our Pastor and his wife, Yerezgin Yefkin Megherian, who brought with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in Sunday School matters. By September 1956 a complete program was ready with Yerezgin Megherian as Superintendent and Mr. Haig Dadourian, Assistant Superintendent. Fourteen teachers were trained and were ready for the opening of Sunday School on September 30. Since the Church was not ready, rooms for the Sunday School were made available by the Flushing YMCA. 100 children registered for the first session and during the time Sunday School was held in the YMCA, additional facilities had to be provided to accommodate all of our children. In December 1956 the school was transferred to our new building where more than 240 children are registered and in regular attendance today.

In June the Church Choir had its first meeting in a private home. Edward Karnikian, Vahe Hajinlian and Mrs. Edward Jamakordzian took charge and taught the choir members the Badarak. In September 1955 the choir was formally organized. Mr. Edward Karnikian served as director and rehearsals were held once a week. In February 1956 the Parish Council appointed Mr. Harry Shalian choirmaster. Rehearsals were held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Flushing until our own facilities were available.

While actively engaged in organizing the Church Auxiliaries, the drive for funds went steadily on. Many methods were used. Lunches, lawn parties and teas were given in private homes as well as in restaurants. The church auditorium was also put into immediate use after its official opening. All proceeds were donated to the building fund.

The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was one of the highlights in the building of our Church. This took place on Sunday, September 25, 1955, at 4 p.m. at the church site, where 1,000 or more Armenians from greater New York and Long Island were gathered.

One stone was laid at each corner of the church. Sponsors of the cornerstones were Messrs. Dadour Dadourian, Dikran Missirlian, Yervant Hampar and Mrs. Artin Aslanian. Other stones, symbolizing the Apostles and Saints were also laid. Their sponsors were Ghevont Aghajanian, Souren Allalemdjian, Garo Artinian, Hemayak Avakian, Aris Avanozian, George Bashian, Joseph Chorbajian, Jack Dadourian, Frank Zotian, Manoug Exerjian, Richard Gregory, Neil Hanes, Vahe Hampar, Edward Jamakordzian, Zareh Kapikian, Caprial Kehishian, Peter Piranian, Henry Sahakian, Vahan Simidian, John Torigian, and Samuel Agabian.

The Very Rev. Muron Gourdjkian officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Fr. Vartan Megherian, then Vicar-General of the Diocese. Also participating were the Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian, the Very Rev. Alan Potookian, and the Rev. Vertanes Papazian.

The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was preceded by a dinner at the Fresh Meadows Inn where Mr. Artin Aslanian served as toastmaster. Speakers of the day were Fr. Muron Gourdjkian, Fr. Vartan Megherian, Deacon Hagop Nersoyan and Mr. Richard K. Gregory. New pledges were made on this day totalling \$34,084.00. At this ceremony, Mr. Frank Zotian presented a check of \$2,169.27 which represented the funds deposited in a local bank in the name of Long Island Armenian Apostolic Church started some 25 years ago.

During the erection of the Church walls, the gift of a Khatch-Kar or rock was brought by Mr. Avedis Derounian from the ancient monastery of Zvartnotz in Armenia. The temple of Zvartnotz may be considered the cultural monument of Armenians from the 5th to 7th centuries. The rock has been placed on the southern side of the facade, directly in the outside wall.

The first Annual Bazaar of the Church was held in the Flushing Armory on October 14, 15 and 16, 1955. Some 1,600 people attended during the three days and the bazaar netted a profit of \$10,574.00. The second Annual Bazaar was an even greater success, bringing \$11,224.00 net. Dr. John Karnig and Mrs. Odette Damadian were co-chairmen of both bazaars. The third Annual Bazaar took place on October 18, 19, and 20, 1957. It was a resounding success netting us nearly \$20,000.00. Chairman Paul Chaputian and his co-chairmen, Helen Vetzigian and Odette Damadian, worked very hard and very effective toward its success.



OUR CHURCH AS IT NEARS COMPLETION

On January 31, 1956, the newly-appointed members of the Parish Council met at the home of Mr. George Bashian and elected the following officers: Dikran Missirlian, chairman; Yervant Hampar, vice chairman; Zareh Kapikian, secretary; Jack Hazard, assistant secretary; George Bashian, treasurer; Dr. John Karnig, assistant treasurer; Vahe Hampar, Henry Sahakian and Garo Artinian, advisors.

Also in January 1956, the parish house, a two story structure, was bought for \$19,000.00, located at 48-39 211th Street, Bayside. Until it was sold on July 31, 1958, it served as the residence of our Pastor, Fr. Vartan Megherian. A new parish house was purchased for \$24,500.00 on August 1, 1958, at 58-45 Oceania Street (adjoining our church property), where our Pastor and his family now reside.

On April 29, 1956, a second membership meeting was held. A financial report made by the vice chairman showed cash on hand of \$8,685.63; paid for land and building, \$123,840.29; unfinished contracts, 103,056.99; total pledges, \$126,525.28; pledges due, \$17,525.00. A motion was made and carried unanimously that the church obtain a \$60,000.00 bank mortgage to facilitate payment of immediate contractual obligations. Reports were also made about our other church activities. The chairman of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Arax Exerjian, reported that in November 1955 by-laws were adopted by the membership and submitted to our pastor and Diocese for approval. It was also disclosed that a special project of the Women's Auxiliary would be to furnish and equip a modern kitchen for the church. A standing committee headed by Mrs. V. Peckjian was appointed to supervise and oversee the smooth functioning of the kitchen. We are happy to report that this committee was responsible for the very modern kitchen that we now have. The Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary reported, through the vice chairman, Mr. Haig Agababian, that their by-laws had been confirmed by the Parish Council and regular meetings were being held once a month. The chairman of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, Miss Mary Selvinazian, reported that it had held its first meeting on March 23, 1956, at the residence of Rev. Megherian with a charter membership of 38. Regular meetings have been held since and plans have been adopted to increase membership.

In May 1956 the First Annual Picnic was held, and while the weather made it necessary to hold the picnic indoors, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds who attended. A profit of about \$900.00 was realized.

In the summer of 1956 we started our Memorial Gifts campaign. The most popular item was the pew seats which were offered at \$100.00 each. The total number of the subscribers to date is 140. Most of the stained glass windows have been subscribed to with gifts ranging from \$1,000.00 to \$10,500.00. The Ladies Auxiliary undertook the purchase of the kitchen

equipment which cost \$10,000.00. The Nersessian and Krikor Varjarans have subscribed to two classrooms at \$3,000.00 and \$2,500.00 each respectively. The Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary has pledged the sum of \$2500.00 for the Baptismal Font, and the ACYOA the gothic lamp of the main altar.

At a membership meeting held on September 14, 1956, in the Flushing Armory, the following were elected Delegates to the Diocesan Assembly: Richard K. Gregory, George Bashian, Hagop Nersoyan, Krikor Hartunian and Vahe Hampar. Alternates were Neil Hanes, Garaud Garab, Bogos Horasanci and Shahab Zanazanian.

By October of 1958 our funds were exhausted. We applied to East New York Savings Bank for a mortgage of \$60,000.00 which was granted to us after a group of members and friends of our parish signed a group guarantee of \$2,500.00 each. They were Garo Artinian, Artin Aslanian, Richard K. Gregory, Vahe Hampar, Yervant Hampar, Neil Hanes, Donald W. Hoover, Dr. John Karnig, Dikran Missirlian and Manoog C. Tatosian.

The Church was now nearing completion and December 16 was set as the date for the opening ceremony. The eve of the opening day was a memorable one for our parish. The ladies sewed a temporary altar curtain, folding chairs were set up, and a temporary altar was made by Mr. John Tatosian. Archbishop Nersoyan donated 300 copies of his book "The Divine Liturgy" to be used during church services. Very Rev. E. Simonian of the N. Y. Holy Cross Church loaned the main painting, vessels, and vestments needed, and helped to make the arrangements. With the aid of the St. Gregory Church of N. Y. and some of our parishioners who supplied other necessary items, the altar was ready for our first Divine Liturgy.

The Most Rev. Mampre Calfayan, Primate of the North American Diocese, blessed the altar stone or "Vemkar" which is described as a marble stone, 16" x 12" x 1', representing Christ's tombstone. The sponsor of the "Vemkar" was Mr. Yervant Hampar, chosen by the Parish Council for his untiring service in the building of the Church. The Primate was assisted by Rev. Megherian. Ardashes Davidian and Edward Karnikian served at the altar as deacons. Choirmaster H. K. Shalian directed the choir. Juliet Jamakordzian was organist. Soloists were Lucy Jamakordzian, Isahag Aprahamian, Vahe Hajinlian, Onnig Hepsen, and Dr. Ara Bohcali.

In January 1957, the Parish Council, in considering the growing needs of the church for secretarial assistance, called upon Miss Mary Selvinazian, to take the position as church secretary. Miss Selvinazian brings to her job knowledge gained as a college graduate as well as a background

of devotion and help in church affairs. She is serving on a full-time basis, without regard for time or effort, and is an invaluable assistant to parish organizations, the Parish Council and the Pastor.

On February 17, 1957, our Annual Parish Assembly took place and the first election for Parish Council members was held. Elected to the auditing committee were Haig Yeterian, Dr. Martin Kimatian and Hemayak Avakian.

The new parish council with its chairman, Yervant Hampar, worked intensively with the Pastor toward the successful completion of the building and the organization of the parish.

The church auditorium was opened officially on April 28, 1957, with a dinner for 300 people. It was a cooperative event in which most of the various church organizations participated. The dinner was prepared by the Women's Auxiliary and served by the ACYOA members and the choir. The Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary decorated the tables. Mr. Paul Chaputian was in charge of the program. Mr. Hagop Nersoyan, the main speaker. Miss Adele Hovannessian and Mr. Edward Karnikian sang. Mr. Roy Appey played the accordion, the Sunday School children gave a recitation and the Church choir sang.

New additions in the building brought about until now are the altars, baptismal basin, chandeliers, carpeting, chancel railing, the main altar picture, and stained glass windows.

The parish organizations increased in quality and in numbers, and the membership of our church mounted to 525. A Pledge System was instituted in June 1958 with Mrs. Arax Exerjian appointed by the Parish council to direct the work.

On this Consecration Day our thoughts unavoidably go centuries back to a glorious day when the HOLY SPIRIT descended out of heaven from God and dwelled in Holy Etchmiadzin. Since then our forefathers have been building Churches. Following their wonderful example and with the help of the entire community we too completed a glorious edifice and invite HIM now to come and dwell in it. We ask that He fortify us to forge ahead in true Christian faith to greater achievements for His everlasting glory.



DADOUR DADOURIAN, *Honorary Chairman*
Building Committee



HE Armenian Church of Long Island adds another spiritual monument for the glorification of God through the path of our forefathers.

The completion of this sanctuary in itself attests our Christian faith and fraternal spirit of cooperation – a salutary achievement indeed.

This collective achievement should foster unity and continuous devotion for the maintenance of our church and perpetuation of our Christian heritage toward the cultural and spiritual enrichment of our country, the United States of America.

DADOUR DADOURIAN



DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN, *Chairman*
Building Committee



E always admire the devotion and spirit displayed by our forefathers who built magnificent edifices for the glory of God and Church under most adverse conditions.

Although we are more fortunate and more secure, we are nonetheless dedicated to the Armenian Church, and are willing to sacrifice our time, energy and worldly goods for Her Glory. The completion of our Church on Long Island is tangible proof that we

are worthy followers.

I sincerely thank all the members of the Building Committee, and in turn join them to congratulate the entire community, on a sacred job well done. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable support you gave us and happily join you in being justifiably proud of this accomplishment.

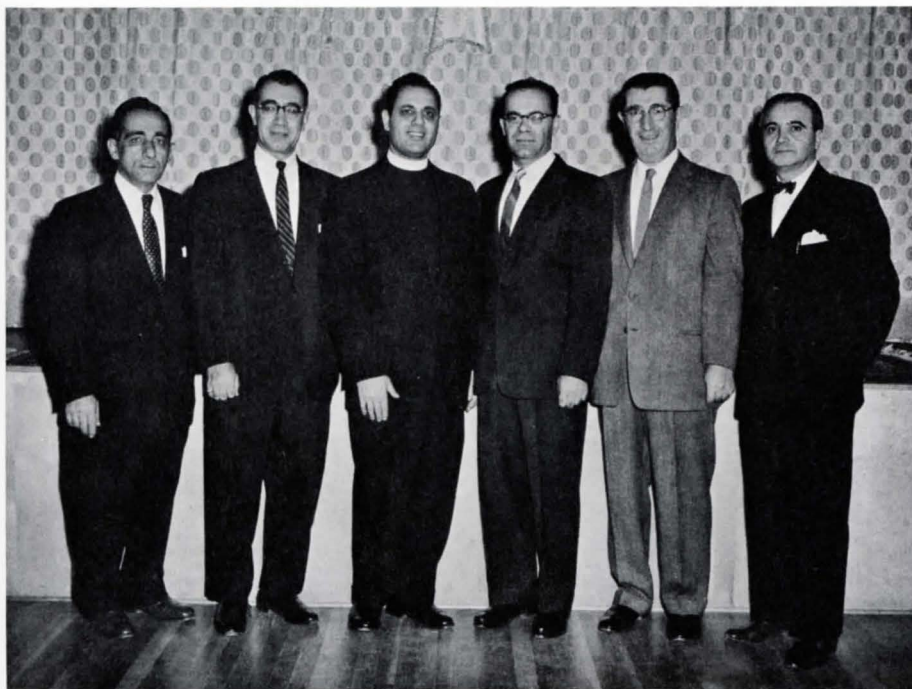
On this Consecration Day let us all re-affirm our faith in God and make a solemn pledge not only to support His Church every step of the way, but more importantly, to train our children in the love and dedication to our spiritual home – the Armenian Church.

Dikran Missirlian



THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Souren Allalemdjian, Mihran Andreasian, Mrs. Eugenie Andreasian, Garo Artinian, Hemayak Avakian, George Bashian, Mrs. Alice Bashian, Edward Boghossian, Joseph Chorbajian, Mrs. Arax Exerjian, Richard K. Gregory, Vahe Hampar, Yervant Hampar, Neil Hanes, Krikor Hartunian, John Hazard, Miss Lucy Hazard, Edward Jamakordzian, Zareh Kapikian, Mrs. Baidzar Kapikian, Dr. George Karnig, Edward Karnikian, Dr. Martin Kimatian, Mrs. Esther Kimatian, Fr. Vartan Megherian, Dikran Missirlian, Albert Nargizian, Hagop Nersoyan, Richard Peckjian, Mrs. Victoria Peckjian, John Serabian, George Vetzgian, Mrs. Helen Vetzgian, Haig Yeterian, Shahab Zanazanian.



OUR DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Left to right – Vahe Hampar, Richard Gregory, Rev. Fr. Vartan Megharian, Pastor, Hagop Nersoyan, George Bashian, Krikor Hartunian.

BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



YERVANT HAMPAR
Vice Chairman



RICHARD K. GREGORY
Legal Committee



GARO ARTINIAN
Publicity Committee



ZABEL ASLANIAN
Co-Chairman
Women's Auxiliary



ZAREH KAPIKIAN
Membership Committee



VAHE HAMPAR
Campaign Committee



ARAX EXERJIAN
Co-Chairman
Women's Auxiliary



ARTIN ASLANIAN
Architectural Committee



JACK DADOURIAN
Mr. and Mrs. Auxiliary



YERVANT HAMPAR, *Chairman*
Parish Council



ON the occasion of the Consecration of our Church, I extend heartfelt congratulations of the Parish Council to the entire Armenian community in Long Island.

This indeed is a truly memorable event. We now have cause and reason to rejoice. We have achieved the goal which had been our dream for many years!

We remember with gratitude the many persons who gave unstintingly of their time, talents and financial support to make our Church a reality.

Although this occasion is a milestone for our community, yet we view it only as a beginning . . . a beginning of service to our Lord, our Church and our Community.

YERVANT HAMPAR



THE 1956 PARISH COUNCIL

Seated, left to right: Zareh Kapikian, Yervant Hampar, Fr. Vartan Megherian, Dikran Missirlian, George Bashian.

Standing, left to right: Vahe Hampar, John Hazard, Dr. John Karnig, Henry Sahakian, Garo Artinian.



THE 1957 PARISH COUNCIL

Seated, left to right: Dikran Missirlian, Fr. Vartan Megherian, Yervant Hampar.

Standing, left to right: Vahe Hampar, Neil Hanes, Dr. John Karnig, Joseph Chorbajian, Zareh Kapikian, George Bashian, Manoog Tatosian, Paul Chapatian, George Vetzgian.

THE PARISH COUNCIL



THROUGHOUT Armenian Church History, lay parishioners have been privileged to take active part in the administrative phases of our church. They lay the ground work for closer understanding and cooperation between parish pastor and the community which he serves.

As the administrative problems of our churches became more complex, and the duties they were called upon to assume increased, it became imperative to create a body of parishioners to relieve the parish priest of some

of his burdens and also to carry out the administrative work of the church.

This administrative group, known as the Parish Council, consists in our church of eleven lay members and has as its president our parish priest.

In 1956, the Building Committee officers were appointed as the Parish Council until new elections could be held upon the completion of the church and the parish. They were: Chairman, Dikran Missirlian; Vice-Chairman, Yervant Hampar; Secretary, Zareh Kapikian; Assistant Secretary, John Hazard; Treasurer, George Bashian; Assistant Treasurer, Dr. John Karnig; Advisors, Garo Artinian, Vahe Hampar and Henry Sahakian. The appointment was confirmed by the Primate and the Diocesan Council.

This group occupied itself mainly with construction matters and maintained the status of our church as a parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

One of its important accomplishments was the formation of a parish membership which, upon reaching 420 persons, enabled our church to elect five delegates to the Annual Diocesan Assembly, according to the By-Laws of the Diocese.

At the Annual Parish Assembly held on February 17, 1957, Zareh Kapikian, Neil Hanes, Yervant Hampar, George Bashian, Dikran Missirlian, and Joseph Chorbajian were elected to serve on the Parish Council for two years, and George Vetzgian, Vahe Hampar, Dr. John Karnig, Manoog Tatosian, and Paul Chaputian for one year.



1958 PARISH COUNCIL

Seated, left to right: Neil Hanes, Yervant Hampar, Father Vartan Megharian, Dikran Missirlian, Zareh Kapikian.

Standing, left to right: George Vetzgian, Aram Hagopian, Dr. John Karnig, Joseph Chorbajian, George Bashian, Paul Chaputian. Absent: John Hazard.

The Pastor and newly elected Parish Council immediately began to work to put the parish on a solid foundation. Internal organization of the parish, the completion of the building, increasing the membership, the care of spiritually strengthening the parishioners, and creating the spirit of functioning as a community were the main tasks successfully performed by them.

It is noteworthy to mention here the Parish Council's appreciation for the unselfish, time-consuming efforts of its Chairman, Yervant Hampar and its Secretary, Zareh Kapikian, who became the moving spirit in the accomplishments of our church. They have worked day and night with the Pastor, Father Vartan, to carry out the Parish Council's decisions to the best of their ability in fulfilling the needs of this parish.

The Pastor and Parish Council feel extremely indebted to Mr. Richard K. Gregory, for the whole-hearted sacrifices he has made and is still making as the church's attorney. Mr. Gregory has not only willingly undertaken our legal matters without compensation, but has also given his direction and leadership in building our church and community. He will always be remembered in our parish with appreciation.

The present Parish Council, elected in February 1958, consists of the following officers: Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian, President; Chairman, Yervant Hampar; Vice-Chairman, Dikran Missirlian; Secretary, Zareh Kapikian; Assistant Secretary, George Vetzgian; Treasurer, Neil Hanes; Assistant Treasurer, Dr. John Karnig; Advisors, George Bashian, Paul Chaputian, Joseph Chorbajian, Aram Hagopian and John Hazard. Meetings of the Parish Council are held every week without fail, with special meetings whenever necessary.

To be elected a parish council member is a great honor which carries with it a great responsibility, long hours of work, and unlimited devotion and love to the Armenian Church. It must be said, unhesitatingly, that our Church has been very fortunate in finding eminently qualified, conscientious and devoted men to serve on the Parish Council. These men, together with a large number of other lay parishioners, have made our church grow from dream to glorious reality.

PARISH COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



THE Pastor and the Parish Council acknowledge with sincere appreciation the help and leadership which Mr. Richard K. Gregory gave in his capacity as General Chairman of the Consecration Committee.

We also extend our warm thanks to the various Committees for the Consecration:

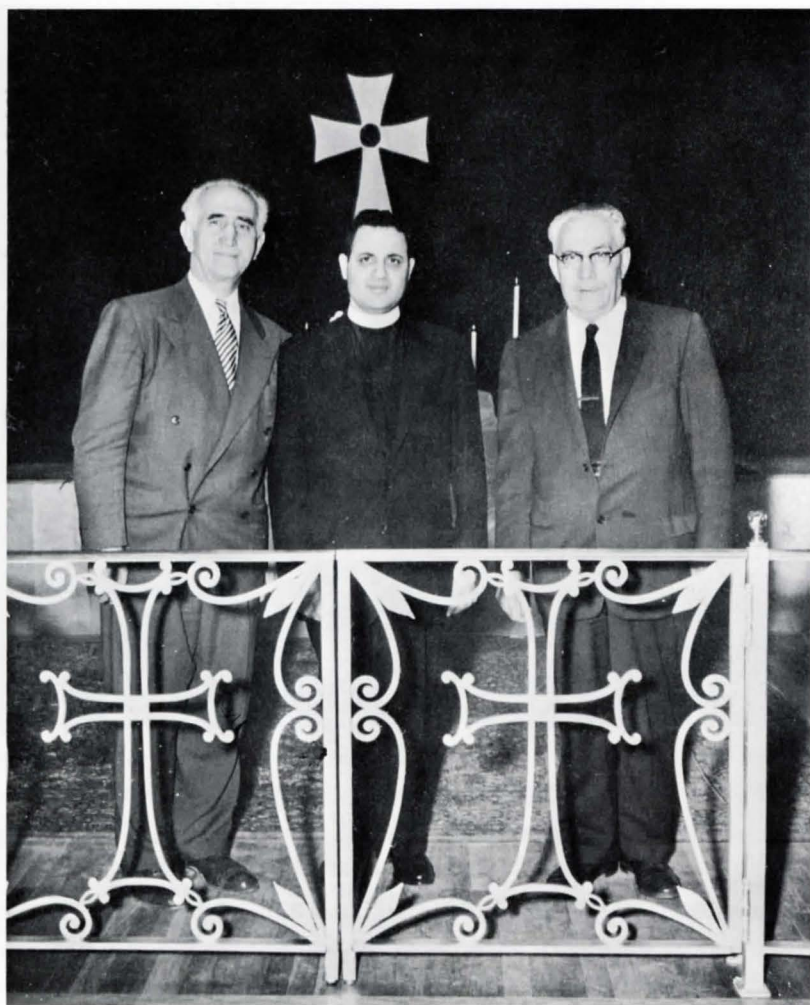
Especially, to the Chairman of the Souvenir Book, Mr. Garo Artinian, who not only produced this book in so artistic a manner, but also, with the members of his Committee, was able to make it a source of revenue.

To the Chairman of the Banquet Committee, Mrs. Artin Aslanian, who made arrangements for the dinner, and prepared a fine and appropriate program. The china plates showing our Church building will serve as a cherished memento of this unforgettable Consecration Day.

To the Chairman of the Ceremonies Committee, Mr. Yervant Hampar, who with his committee made all of the arrangements for the religious ceremonies. In addition, they made all arrangements to have the Church Building in a suitable state for this auspicious occasion which contributed so materially to the success of the ceremonies.

To the Chairman of the Consecration Fund Committee, Mr. Vahe Hampar, and his committee members, for their sincere efforts to make the occasion a financial success.

To the Publicity Committee headed by Mr. Albert Nargizian our appreciation for their work in publicizing this occasion.



OUR PASTOR
With his two hard working arms
Zareh Kapikian and Yervant Hampar



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

First row, seated left to right: Mary Selvinazian, Yeretzgin Yefkin Megherian, Fr. Vartan Megherian, Haig Dadourian, Alice Selvinazian.

Second row, left to right: Anahid Vetzgian, Diane Takooshian, Mrs. Alice Bazarian, Merle Serabian, Mrs. Lucille Kimatian, Marilyn Keosayian, Gladys Tarpinian, Grace Boghosian, Stella Kazazian.

Third row, left to right: George Chekijian, Harry Bazarian, Nerces Jebejian, Michael Simonian, Stephen Kimatian.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



ON September 30, 1956, an enthusiastic and expectant group of one hundred and five children assembled at the Flushing YMCA for the first session of the Long Island Armenian Church Sunday School. Many of the children of this new parish had been traveling a considerable distance to go to an Armenian Sunday School or had been attending Sunday Schools of other denominations. Now a certain excitement was in the air. It hung about parents, children and teachers alike, for this was a new venture for all. The modest beginnings at the YMCA soon attracted the attention of other parents, and the School began to grow.

On December 16, 1956, when the new church and rectory building were ready, the Sunday School moved into its new quarters and settled there with great pride and happiness. Enrollment increased steadily. By June of 1956, 241 students registered, making all of the existing facilities in the rectory and auditorium inadequate.

The Primary Department now has its own small tables and chairs set up in attractively decorated rooms. The tables, a gift from the Royal Metal Mfg. Co. (Messrs. Dadourian, Aslanian & Piranian) added much to the atmosphere and are enjoyed by all. The entire staff is deeply grateful for this generous contribution.

A special Thanksgiving offering, made by parents and friends of the Sunday School enabled the School to purchase a slide projector, screen and filmstrips for use in visual aids.

Two pianos have also been acquired by the School. They are the gifts of Mr. & Mrs. P. Torigian and Mr. & Mrs. H. Sahakian.

The School has been especially fortunate in receiving a gift of one hundred copies of the Holy Bible for use in the assembly period. These were donated by one of our own teachers who prefers to remain anonymous.

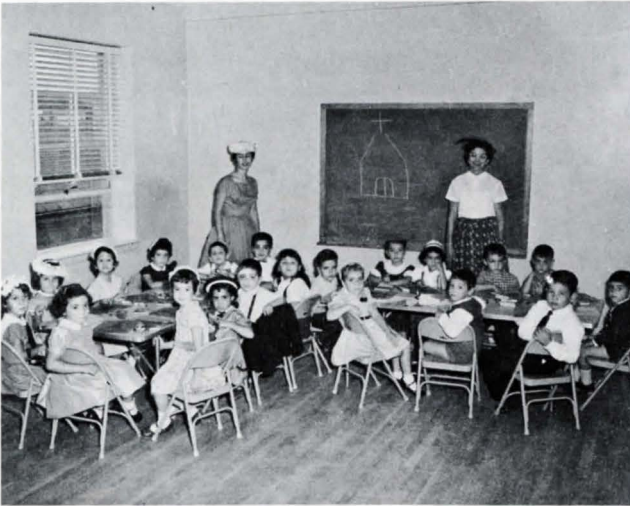
The Parish Council has supported the Sunday School wholeheartedly. It has provided the School with chairs, tables, blackboards and bulletin



YERETZGIN YEFKIN MEGHERIAN
Superintendent of
Sunday School



NURSERY SCHOOL CLASS



KINDERGARTEN CLASS



PRIMARY I AND II CLASSES



JUNIOR I CLASS



JUNIOR II CLASS

*Sponsored by: Mrs. Ardemis Bedrosian
In memory of her late husband, Nerses Bedrosian
Mrs. Esther Bodossian and Son
and Mr. and Mrs. Melik Tokatlian
In memory of Onnig Bodossian*



JUNIOR HIGH II
CLASS



SENIOR I CLASS

boards. It has even sent our teachers to Teacher Conferences in Pawling, N. Y., to further their training. For this, the entire staff wishes to thank the Parish Council and the Community. The Council is to be congratulated also on its decision to appoint Mr. Souren Allalemdjian and Mr. George Bashian to coordinate the work of our School which they have done with distinction.

The Sunday School staff for 1957-58 consisted of the following: Superintendent, Yeretzgin Y. Megherian; secretary, Alice Selvinazian; ass't secretary, Virginia Merjian; teachers, Gladys Tarpinian, Ann Vetzgian, Stella Kazazian, Diane Takooshian, Mrs. Alice Bazarian, Harry Bazarian, Grace Boghosian, Mrs. Lucille Kimatian, Nerces Jebejian, Peggy Mendikian, Merle Serabian, Robert Moomjian, Osanna Damborajian, George Chekijian, Marilyn Keosayian, Mary Selvinazian; three assistant teachers, Michael Simonian, Joan Mozian and Mrs. Laura Sarafian. Haig Dadourian, Grace Masoumian, Mrs. Mary Enkababian and Stephen Kimatian have also served as Sunday School teachers and helpers.

The school year of 1957-58 proved to be an exciting one, creating enthusiasm and promoting learning and growth. The children attended Church every Sunday, following their class periods, whenever possible. Children and teachers received Holy Communion on four occasions during the year, on Opening Day, at Christmas, Easter and on Closing Day in June. At Christmas and Easter the children were served Communion Breakfast graciously prepared by the Women's Auxiliary. At Easter each child received a begonia plant from the Sunday School.

One of the outstanding activities of the children is the filling of mite boxes throughout the Lenten Season. Each child fills his mite box by denying himself something. The joint effort of children and teachers enabled the School to purchase a silver dove as a container for Holy Chrism. This year the mite box offering will be used toward the education of a young student in the "Tarkmanchatz" School of Jerusalem.

At Christmas, the children presented a play written by Miss Osanna Damborajian, one of our teachers.

Throughout the year, children from the age of six and up were taught to recite and sing the Lord's Prayer in Armenian. They were also taught "Park Kez Der", "Der Voghormia" and "Soorp Asdvadz" as well as the meaning of the feast days of the Church. Older groups studied the Armenian Divine Liturgy and the Creed (Havadamk).

The Sunday School has had three graduates: Barbara Norhadian, Anahid Kamanjian and Stephen Kimatian. Other awards were made for perfect attendance and excellence in class work.

In June the entire school met for an outing at Cunningham Park in Flushing. The children fully enjoyed their picnic, many of them going home tired but triumphantly clutching the prizes they had won in various contests.

Parents and teachers gatherings have been held to acquaint the parents with the teachers and with the aims, purposes and curriculum of the Sunday School. Parents have been given the opportunity to meet the teachers and to discuss various school and pupil problems. A guest panel was invited to answer questions and discuss any topics the parents and teachers might choose.

The summer of 1958 found a new activity going on at the Long Island Armenian Church. A Vacation Church School, already an established activity of other Christian Churches in this country, but not in our own

Diocese, was held daily for one week in July. The program included worship, religious instruction, singing, refreshments, dancing, handcrafts and games. The keynote was informality, with between thirty and forty children attending, enjoying themselves and reluctantly returning home at the end of each session. Teachers and helpers were Yerezgin Y. Megherian, Supervisor, Osanna Damborajian, Mrs. Helen Fourounjian, Mrs. Lucy Jamakordzian, Mrs. Ann Karakaian, Mrs. Lucille Kimatian.

We who have worked with the students of the Sunday School feel that substantial progress has been made. We have noticed growth in knowledge and understanding not only among the little children but more noticeably among our young men and women who will further the aims of our Church in the future. The young people who have been asked to follow the Church of their forefathers are at last finding a way to understand and love her.

We will double our efforts to provide the best for them and want you to encourage your children and bring them to the Sunday School regularly. Your own lives as well as the life of our community will be enriched one hundred fold.

Due to Yerezgin Megherian's industrious activity, the program of the Sunday School became complete and realized. Our Yerezgin is not only appreciated by our parish for her work in the Sunday School, but is also very much loved and respected by all the children and teachers. She enjoys the position of being a real co-worker of our Pastor in the parish. The Sunday School staff would like to thank Rev. Vartan Megherian for his help, guidance and encouragement in making our Sunday School so outstanding.

Looking back upon the achievements of the past two years our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for making it possible for this parish to have a Church, a Sunday School and devoted leaders and members to carry on this noble work. It is our hope that these efforts to serve the Sunday School will prove pleasing to God and bear fruit for His glory.



THE CHURCH CHOIR

1st row: Zareh Kapikian, Mary Selvinazian, Edward Karnikian, Vahe Hajinlian, Father Vartan Megherian, Deacon H. K. Shalian, Lucy Jamakordzian, Isahag Aprahamian.

2nd row: Carmen Kaladjian, Laura Sarraf, Sonia Derderian, Florene Memegalos, Adrienne Vetzgian, Tiana Toumayan, Penie Allalemdjian, Shirley Kay, Queenie Allalemdjian, , Juliet Jamakordzian.

3rd row: Sarkis Soultanian, John Dilsizian, Ronnie Bajakian, John Saxe-nian, Hrant Yousoufian, Vahan Sahatjian, Onnig Hepsen, Dikran Cherchian, Onnig Kamanjian.

4th row: Liinda Der Kazarian, Victoria Dilsizian, Betty Hanes, Janet Serabian.

THE CHURCH CHOIR



UR Church Choir does not have a long history. It is hardly three years old with its unheralded beginning through the initiative of the Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, the former visiting priest of our community, who, on his departure, relegated to Mr. Edward Karnikian the task of maintaining the choir.

As an organized group the choir started its serious work through regular weekly rehearsals in March, 1956, under the direction of Arch-Deacon Haroutune

K. Shalian. Pending the completion of our church, for nearly nine months we held our rehearsals at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Utopia Parkway, Flushing. Since January, 1957, we have been in our church, holding weekly rehearsals throughout the year.

During the trying days of initial organization, it was highly encouraging for the choir to enjoy the confidence and good will of our pastor, Father Vartan, members of the parish council and parents of the members of the choir. No less encouraging was the zeal and earnest willingness of our members to submit themselves to the discipline of learning new hymns and chants in the "krapar" diction.

Without any pretense the choir will strive for the mastery and effective rendition of our chants and liturgical hymns. An achievement of high order that calls for time, persistent effort, qualified personnel, and numerically adequate membership.

The role of the choir, objectively, consists in serving the church and proving an essential factor in its spiritual life by participating in the performance of the rituals. The more effective, the more elegant its renditions musically, the more effective, the more resourceful a factor it will prove toward enhancing the spiritual aspect and appeal of the rituals in particular and the spiritual life of the church in general.

Our church choir, subjectively, is to serve and prove an effective factor in the spiritual and cultural development of its members. The Armenian Church for centuries has proven the spiritual bulwark of the race. The



HAROUTUNE K. SHALIAN
Choirmaster



LUCY JAMAKORDZIAN
Soloist



EDWARD KARNIKIAN
Soloist



ISAHAG APRAHAMIAN
Soloist



VAHAN O. SAHATJIAN
Deacon

Armenian's ardent faith and belief in the Christian precepts of life, the noble aspects of his racial character can be attributed to the Armenian Church. Young people serving in the church choir, partaking in the performance of the rituals, and identifying themselves as an integral part of the church-body, will consciously and unconsciously attain higher understanding, higher awareness of the spiritual values of the church, values in resonance with their racial spiritual inheritance, values that will unfailingly improve the mould, the pattern of their spiritual life, – the true, the real life.

The Choir is in continuous session with its weekly rehearsals throughout the year. The training in chants and liturgic music is augmented with explanatory notes and their musical construction in particular Armenian modes, the relationship of special chants to certain Feast Days with notes on their historical and traditional background.

The Choir has been not unmindful of its social life, with a half-hour period of games and refreshments at the end of every rehearsal, occasional parties in the winter and picnics and sea-shore outings in the summer.

The administrative body of the Choir consists of the following: Director: Arch-deacon H. K. Shalian; Chairman: Shirley Kay; Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Alice Terzian; Secretary: Adrienne Vetzgian; Asst. Secretary: Laura Sarraf; Treasurer: Mrs. Alice Avakian; Asst. Treasurer: Armand Boghosian; Counsellor: Betty Hanes.

The Parish Council, on the suggestion of the Choir Director, confirmed the appointment of a Ladies' Choir Committee for the purpose of assisting the Choir in recruiting new members and creating funds for its current needs. This committee consists of the following: Mrs. Esther Kimatian, Chairman; Mrs. Alice Avakian, Treasurer; Mrs. Asdghig Sarraf, Counsellor; Mrs. Carnig Kay, Counsellor; Mrs. Tzaynig Karajian, Counsellor.

During the last two years, faithful altar servers have been Mr. Edward Karnikian, who not only sings the deacon's part during the Badarak, but at the same time has as his special duty the care of the altar; Mr. Vahan Sahatjian, who is always there to assume the role of censuring at the altar; Arch-deacon Hagop Nersoyan, who assists the Pastor during the Badarak and served as preacher.

Worthy of every appreciation is Mrs. Edward Jamakordzian who enriches our choir every Sunday with her warm and beautiful voice which is so well suited to our hymns and church music.



ALTAR SERVERS



THE CHURCH CHOIR

The choir is also fortunate in having a group of male voices who, from time to time, render the Gomitas version of the Badarak under the direction of Mr. Isahag Aprahamian. They have been giving their services to nearby churches since 1948, but only recently they were officially organized in our church on Palm Sunday, March 30, 1958, having as their name the Gomitas Choir of New York. Their services are very much appreciated by our parish.

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR

ARCH-DEACON H. K. SHALIAN, *Director*

MRS. EDWARD D. JAMAKORDZIAN, *Soloist*

ISAHAG APRAHAMIAN, *Soloist*

EDWARD KARNIKIAN, *Soloist*

JULIET JAMAKORDZIAN and LITA HAMPAR, *Former Organists*

EDWARD KARAKAIAN, *Organist*

MRS. Y. MEGHERIAN, *Organist*

Armene Allalemdjian

Penny Allalemdjian

Carol Avanozian

Linda Der Kazarian

Victoria Dilsizian

Betty Hanes

Jean Jordan

Carmen Kaladjian

Shirley Kay

Arlene Karnig

Florene Memegalos

Laura Sarraf

Mary Selvinazian

Janet Serabian

Alice Terzian

Tiana Toumayan

Adrienne Vetzgian

Arthur Boodaghian

Armand Boghosian

George Chekijian

John Dilsizian

Vahe Hajinlian

Roy Karajian

Fred Paster

John Sexanian

Sarkis Sultanian

MRS. ALICE AVAKIAN, *the "god-mother" of the Choir*



LONG ISLAND ACYOA CHAPTER

1st row, l. to r.: Lita Hampar, Betty Pamuk, Adele Hovanesian, Mary Selvinazian, Father Vartan Megherian, Robert Hovnan, Anahid Vetzgian, Gladys Tarpinian.

2nd row, l. to r.: Vahe Jordan, Florence Avedisian, Agnes Harootian, Jean Jordan, Helen Hovnan, Juliet Jamakordzian, Adrienne Vetzgian, Tiana Toumayan, Virginia Merjian, Adrienne Nakishian, Barbara Yeterian.

3rd row, l. to r.: Albert Koondakjian, Al Eckert, John Papazian, Stephen Kimatian, Michael Simonian, Fred Paster, George Chekijian, Roy Karajian, Leo Takoushian, John Saxenian.

4th row, l. to r.: Richard Gedachian, Susan Kiretchjian, Janet Serabian, Susan Norhadian, Carol Babayan, Annette Hartunian, Lorraine Sebouhian, Arlene Tarpinian, Anahid Kamanjian, Barbara Norhadian, Rosemarie Pagdikian.

A. C. Y. O. A.



THE Armenian Church Youth Organization of America came into being on January 12th, 1946 at the Constitutional Assembly held in Providence, R. I., as the result of a national Christian youth movement created by the then Primate, Most Rev. Tiran Archbishop Nersoyan. After the election of a Central Council and a special committee to prepare a constitution, a national church youth organization became a reality, proving to all that Armenian youth

was ready to assume responsibility within the church.

31st Chapter – The Long Island Chapter of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America – was organized by Rev. Vartan Megherian on March 23rd, 1956, at his home. A group of 40 young people signed the charter application form which was later submitted to the Central Council of the ACYOA. Rev. Vartan Megherian, the Pastor of the Long Island Armenian Church and President of the Long Island Chapter, appointed a provisional Executive Committee consisting of Vahe Hajinlian, Chairman; Mary Selvinazian, Vice-Chairman; Anahid Vetzgian, Recording Secretary; Lita Hampar, Corresponding Secretary; George Chekijian, Treasurer; Betty Pamuk, Publicity Director; Arax Selvinazian and Walter Moomjy, Advisors; to serve until elections could be held.

From March to September, 1956, the group sponsored lectures, gave socials, and recruited new members, thus laying the groundwork for increased activities which were to take place when the chapter began to function in full force as part of the national organization. At the 10th Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA, held over Labor Day weekend 1956, in Washington, D.C., a charter was presented to the Long Island Chapter by the Central Council.

The same month the following Executive Committee was elected to serve for the year 1956-1957: Chairman, Mary Selvinazian; Vice-Chairman, Robert Hovnan; Recording Secretary, Anahid Vetzgian; Corresponding Secretary, Adele Hovanessian; Treasurer, Betty Pamuk; Pub-

licity Director, Rima Galustian; Advisors, Alex Dadourian and Lita Hampar. Also in September, 1956, a social was held for the dual purpose of welcoming the newly-elected officers and of celebrating Rev. Vartan Megherian's birthday. On that occasion, the ACYOA surprised Der Hayr with a cake and presented to him a beautiful desk pen in a marble base inscribed with his name.

Monthly membership meetings and activities were held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Flushing until our church was ready. The membership numbered about fifty.

The Parcel Post booth of the Bazaar was handled by the ACYOA. The members not only did a fine job, but also enjoyed the experience of thus working together with their elders for the benefit of the church.

During the year which followed, the chapter sponsored lectures by Deacon Hovannes Kasparian of Boston on "Christianity and the Fine Arts" and by our Pastor on "Armenian Music", "Marriage", and "Lent".

ACYOA members went to the Armenian Old Age Home and to the homes of members in the Flushing-Bayside area on the night of December 23rd, 1956, to sing Christmas carols in the American tradition. A warm glow arose in the eyes and faces of the parents as the tunes of the chorus entered their homes. It was a gratifying experience for the youth of our church to be thus welcomed into the hearts of the parishioners.

On the evening of January 20th, 1957, the entire membership was formally received into the ACYOA in solemn initiation ceremonies held by candlelight in our new church, with Rev. Vartan Megherian officiating. Approaching the altar, the members made the Pledge of the ACYOA, and dedicated themselves to the service of God and Church.

With the permission of the Parish Council, the ACYOA was the first organization to sponsor a dance in our new church auditorium on February 22nd, 1957, "Kevork's Kapers". It was a big social and financial success attended by over 300 persons. Dancing to the music of the New Yorkers and the serving of tasty refreshments contributed to the festivities. In addition, a surprise visit was made by George "Kevork" Washington, who drew the winning ticket for the raffle prize.

As ACYOA places considerable emphasis on interchapter relations, especially within a given region, the Long Island ACYOA enthusiastically took part in the Regional ACYOA 11th Anniversary Ball held at the Beekman Towers Hotel on February 23rd. The same weekend, February 22nd-

23rd, our chapter was host to a Regional Conference of ACYOA Executive Committees, the main purpose of which was to discuss and evaluate certain problems common to all chapters.

As part of the observance of Lent, ACYOA sponsored the showing of the film "The King of Kings", depicting the life of Christ, and participated in mid-lenten services during which the members gave their lenten offerings to the church.

On March 22nd, 1957, one year after the organization of the chapter, the Junior Group of the Long Island ACYOA was officially formed, and Rev. Vartan Megherian appointed a Junior Executive Committee consisting of the following: Chairman, John Papazian; Vice-Chairman, Stephen Kimatian; Recording Secretary, Tiana Toumayan; Corresponding Secretary, Anahid Kamanjian; Treasurer, Adrienne Vetzgian; Advisors, Lita Hampar and Roy Appey. The Junior Group held a cake sale on Palm Sunday in the church auditorium. Because of its great success, they have planned to make this an annual project.

All members received Holy Communion on Easter eve during the Divine Liturgy. Following church services, the Senior Group sponsored a traditional Armenian "havgeetakhagh" or Easter Egg Festival. The parishioners enjoyed a late snack and "egg fights" in the joyous spirit of the season.

On August 9th, 1957, the Long Island ACYOA gave a dance, appropriately called "A Mid-Summer Night's Dance", in our air-conditioned church auditorium. This was an experiment to see whether a city dance during summer would attract young people. The venture proved quite successful.

The ACYOA fiscal year ends in June, at which time elections are held, and an annual report is submitted to the Central Council. On the basis of all the reports received the Central Council annually chooses one chapter which has most successfully accomplished the aims and purposes of the ACYOA. This chapter is presented the achievement trophy of the Organization called the "A" Award, at the Annual General Assembly. This assembly is held in September over Labor Day weekend in a different locale each year and with a different chapter as host. Thus far there have been twelve such conventions, the latest one being held in Niagara Falls, N. Y.

The Long Island Chapter delegates to the 11th Annual Assembly were Haig Dadourian, Lita Hampar and Mary Selvinazian, elected by the mem-

bership at the June Annual Membership Meeting. They returned with news of the Organization and its decisions. They also brought home a certificate of honorable mention awarded to the Long Island Chapter as one of the runner-ups to the recipient of the "A" Award.

Encouraged by this honor, the ACYOA eagerly looked ahead to a year of work into which the members put their hearts and souls in order to achieve and live up to the aims and purposes of their beloved Organization. This they did under the leadership of their 1957-1958 Executive Committee consisting of Mary Selvinazian, Chairman; Gladys Tarpinian, Vice-Chairman; Shirley Kay, Recording Secretary; Joyce Devejian, Corresponding Secretary; Betty Pamuk, Treasurer; Rima Galustian, Publicity Director; Alice Missirlian and Anahid Vetzgian, Advisors.

At the request of the Central Council, an Encyclical was received from His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Catholicos and Patriarch of All Armenians, to the ACYOA, and was read on ACYOA Day, September 29, 1957 from the altar in all parishes of our Diocese. As an expression of the love of our youth for His Holiness, all proceeds from ACYOA Day celebrations were sent to him for the renovation of the Main Altar of Holy Etchmiadzin.

The educational activities of the 1957-1958 year were based on the theme of "The Divine Liturgy" with a lecture by Deacon Hagop Nersoyan and the showing of colored films and slides as highlights.

Social activities included a Barn Dance and the "Spring Spree Dance" as well as after-meeting socials, parties and summer outings.

Annual events were Christmas Caroling, Initiation Services, corporate Holy Communion on Easter Eve and the "havgeetakhagh" by Seniors, a Palm Sunday Cake Sale by Juniors, and the celebration of ACYOA Day.

A basketball team was organized and functioned successfully as a recognized athletic group of our community. Games and practice sessions are held at P. S. 74 across the Boulevard from our church.

As their gift for 1958, the ACYOA donated a tape recorder to our church for use by all the organizations of the parish. In addition to this, the Chapter fulfilled its pledge of donating the large gothic lamp which will hang over the main altar of our church. Symbolically, this lamp will always remain lighted, just as the light of the Church illuminates the minds and hearts of all who practice the teachings of the Armenian Church.

The Senior officers for 1958-1959 are the following: Chairman, George Chekijian; Vice-Chairman, Merle Serabian; Recording Secretary, Adri-

enne Nakishian; Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Yeterian; Treasurer, Alice Missirlian; Publicity Director, Michael Simonian; Advisors, Fred Paster and Mary Selvinazian. The Junior officers are: Chairman, Tiana Toumayan; Vice-Chairman, Linda Der Kazarian; Recording Secretary; Carol Avanozian; Corresponding Secretary, Susan Norhadian; Treasurer, Betty Hanes; Publicity Director, Barbara Norhadian; Senior Advisors, Misak Aprahamian and Joyce Devejian.

Delegates elected to represent our ACYOA at the Twelfth Annual Assembly held in Niagara Falls over Labor Day weekend were Lita Hampar, Nerces Jebejian and Mary Selvinazian for the Seniors, and Tiana Toumayan for the Juniors. LL

All the members and Executive Officers look to the spiritual guidance of our Pastor and President, Rev. Vartan Megherian, whose enthusiastic support is an incentive to all the young people of the Long Island community.



TEACHERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sponsored by: Vahram S. Derderian
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Dilemetin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guevrekian
Graphic Supply Co., Inc.

THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL



THE Armenians who have found a new homeland in America have grown to love it and to appreciate the many advantages it offers them and their children. But, like all Armenians throughout the world, they have not forgotten that theirs is a rich and ancient heritage, precious enough to be kept alive in the minds and hearts of the oncoming generation.

It is because of the appreciation of these facts that groups of Armenian intellectuals, as well as parish churches, organized Armenian schools for children in various communities here in America.

Beginning with the first scholastic year after the completion of our church, the Long Island Armenian School of our parish was organized in September 1957. Our Pastor, Father Vartan, knowing of the desires and decisions of the Krikor Varjarian of Flushing and of the Nersesian Varjarian of Forest Hills, Armenian Schools already in existence within the parish vicinity, to be combined under the motherly wings of our church, called a meeting of their school boards for organizing the parish Armenian School.

At that meeting, held on September 10, 1957, Father Vartan appointed a temporary executive committee from among the members of these two boards to pursue the work until new by-laws were ready and elections could be held. The committee consisted of Meline Bajakian, Chairman; Adrine Vartanian, Vice-Chairman; Arax Keyishian, Secretary; Arshaluis Artean, Corresponding Secretary; Virginia Alvandian, Treasurer; Beatrice Tatosian and Alice Ajelian, Advisors.

The Krikor Varjarian and Nersesian Varjarian had been in existence for about fifteen years, carrying on the work of teaching Armenian to the youngsters of their communities.

In January 1945, the Flushing Armenian School was organized by Dikranouhi Hampar, Araxie Dilsizian, Helen Nourian, Alice Hampar, Helen Vetzgian, Rose Mendikian, Beatrice Tatosian and Hermine Vosganian, with two classes being held at the homes of Mrs. Dilsizian and Mrs. Mendikian who also became the first teachers of the school.

In September 1945, with the generous help and cooperation of Rev. Dougald L. MacLean, Pastor of St. George's Episcopal Church of Flushing, the classes were held regularly at St. George's Parish House. For a full twelve years, Mrs. Vartanoush Paboojian patiently did the work of teaching with the gracious voluntary help of Mrs. A. Dilsizian.

At the first annual dinner held October 19, 1945, Mrs. Ossana Doghramajian very generously donated five hundred dollars to the school for its maintenance. In appreciation of this, the school was named "Krikor Varjaran" in memory of her father and father-in-law.

Upon the completion of our church, it was unanimously decided to combine the educational groups into one school. On this occasion, the Krikor Varjaran donated \$2,500.00 to the new Armenian School, with the understanding that one of the classrooms would be named "Krikor Varjaran". \$1,000.00 of this gift came from Mrs. Doghramajian.

Devoted services of Beatrice Tatosian, Arax Keyishian, Siranoush Davitian and Meline Bajakian as presidents of the Krikor Varjaran will be remembered with appreciation.

The Armenian School of Forest Hills was organized at the suggestion of His Eminence Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, then Primate of the Diocese, on the occasion of a requiem dinner held in memory of James Topalian, killed at Pearl Harbor.

Dr. Virginia Alekian Mouradian undertook the task of organizing an Armenian School in Forest Hills. She became the first president of the school board at a meeting held at the home of the late Mr. Nerses Bedrosian in 1942. Mr. Bedrosian at that time donated five hundred dollars for teachers' salaries. The committee decided to name the school "Nersesian Varjaran" in his honor.

On September 15, 1942, the school was opened in the study hall of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church, with the kind permission of the Right Rev. Monsignor McLaughlin.

The charter members of the Educational Committee were Dr. Alekian, Aghavnie Gregory, Ardem Bedrosian, Eran Kirk, Koharig Balakian, Adeline Movsessian, Siranoush Youvanian, Adrine Vartanian and Serpouhie Melkonian. The teachers of the Nersesian Varjaran have been Mrs. Hripsime Babertzian, Mrs. Adrine Vartanian, Mrs. Siranoush Youvanian, Mrs. Arsine Kondaian and Mrs. Vartanoush Paboojian, assisted voluntarily by Mrs. Serpouhie Melkonian.

At the time of the decision to combine the Forest Hills and Flushing Schools into one unit at our church, the Nersesian Varjaran decided to donate \$3,500.00 toward the parish school, with the understanding that one of the classrooms would be called "Nersesian Varjaran".

The devoted services of Dr. Alekian, Arshaluis Artean, Esther Bodosian, Alice Dadourian, and Adrine Vartanian, as presidents of the Nersesian Varjaran, will be remembered with appreciation.

The newly-appointed executive committee of the Armenian School of the Long Island Church, with the help of the Pastor, invited three teachers, Mrs. Vartanoush Paboojian, Mrs. Angel Hovagimian and Mr. Nerces Jebejian, to undertake the instruction of the Armenian language, and Mrs. Siranoosh Katchouny, assisted at the piano by Mrs. Shakeh Moomjian, to teach Armenian songs. Mr. Haig Shiroyan, in the early days of the school, voluntarily supervised the order and conduct in the classrooms. Mrs. Araxie Dilsizian gave her voluntary assistance wherever necessary.

On the opening day, September 15, 1957, the registration of pupils six to sixteen numbered fifty-seven and later increased to eighty. Instruction takes place on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the auditorium and upper classrooms of our church.

The school board accomplished many tasks during the 1957-1958 school year. First, it organized the Ladies' Group, which now has 75 members; second, it prepared the new by-laws for this group with the help of Fr. Vartan; third, it fulfilled a budget of \$1,700.00 by having luncheons and giving larger affairs, such as a Christmas dinner and Closing Day Hantess.

"Open School Day" was held on February 2, 1958, at which time parents visited and listened to their children in class. Later they enjoyed refreshments and exchanged ideas with the teachers.

The closing day of the first year of our Armenian School, held on June 15, 1958, was memorable. Two graduates, Adrienne Vetzgian and Victoria Dilsizian, who had attended Krikor Varjaran, received their diplomas that day, representing the first harvest of our school. The operetta, "Garmir Dzaghig," directed by Mrs. Siranoosh Katchouny, was the highlight of the day, with all the pupils of the school participating in costume.

It is gratifying that the Director of the Educational Council of the Diocese rates our Armenian School first in organization and teaching standards and facilities, along with the long-established school of St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, among the thirty schools visited by him

Sponsored by: Mr. Larry Martin

Father Vartan and Yeretzgin Yefkin Megherian

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Melikian

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Melikian

in the United States and Canada.

The present Executive Committee of our Armenian School consists of the following: Chairman, Meline Bajakian; Vice-Chairman, Adrine Vartanian; Recording Secretary, Baidzar Kapikian; Corresponding Secretary, Lucy Jamakordzian; Treasurer, Mary Enkababian; Advisors, Araxie Dilsizian, Arax Keyishian, and Ardem Bedrosian.

Upon assuming the duties as pastor of the Long Island Armenian Church, Rev. Vartan Megherian organized adult classes in Armenian language and Church History. The response was great and most satisfactory. Yeretzgin Yefkin Megherian, Nerses Jebejian, Krikor Koutnouyan and Haig Shiroyan were assigned to the Armenian language teaching, while the church history was first taught by Father Vartan and later by Deacon Hagop Nersoyan.

In America, the only means of preserving our Armenian language and culture is through our church and educational centers. The Armenian schools will help to keep alive our love and interest in our Holy Church and in the culture of our ancestors. They will bind us in friendship and understanding.

MR. & MRS. AUXILIARY



THE married youth of the Long Island Armenian community, in its anxiety to perpetuate the practice of the faith of the Armenian Church, and to actively support the newly organized Long Island Parish, formed the Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary in October, 1954.

Through the Auxiliary, the parents of the boys and girls of our younger generation try to foster the appreciation of Armenian culture by engaging the membership in religious, cultural and social events.

By directing the education and training of their children in the ideals of our Church, they are assuming an important role in the proper functioning and growth of our Church community . . . a role which will become increasingly important as time goes on.

The By-Laws of the Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary were prepared under the inspired guidance of Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian and the organization continuous to grow under the vigorous spiritual leadership of Rev. Vartan Megherian, our pastor.

The chairman for the first year was Mr. Jack Dadourian who provided his home for our first meetings. Under his chairmanship plans were made for fund raising activities, lectures and other educational and social events. In addition, the various committees of the Auxiliary, and in particular the Sunday School Committee, assisted other Church groups. In February, 1956, as a result of the first year's activities, the sum of \$300.00 was contributed to the Church.

During the latter part of 1956, membership meetings were held in our own newly built Church Auditorium, creating more enthusiasm. Mr. George Malekian, chairman for 1956, and his executive committee organized a dance, a women's luncheon at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Agababian, and other educational and social activities. Besides the annual contribution to the Church, the Auxiliary also pledged the donation of the Baptismal Font.

During the chairmanship of Harry Gurahian, who served in 1957, alongside the social and cultural activities which were held, the By-Laws of the



MR. & MRS. AUXILIARY

Mr. and Mrs. Auxiliary were completely revised under the direction of Father Vartan. The organization continued to grow and its activities became more numerous. Beside the annual dance, the Auxiliary sponsored a play in Armenian and English, which was well received.

The present Executive Committee consists of the following: Chairman, Haig Agababian; Vice-Chairman, Aram Hagopian; Recording Secretary, Jacqueline Hajinlian; Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Agababian; Treasurer, Edward Agababian.

Under the leadership of Haig Agababian, the Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary is functioning methodically in its social and cultural activities. It is noteworthy to mention the corporate Holy Communion which the organization took for the first time at Easter 1958. A play and other activities are planned for this year.

The Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary of Long Island is a potent force in the development and growth of our Church. It will continue to grow and flourish, for it is through the interest of the parents in the proper development and education of their children that the ideals and ideas of those who preceded them are perpetuated.

The members of the Auxiliary wish to extend their deep respect and gratitude to Rev. Vartan Megherian and the Parish Council. They always provided enthusiastic support, wise counsel and valuable cooperation.

ՆԱՐԵԿ

NARREC

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Published Semi-Monthly by the
ARMENIAN CHURCH
OF LONG ISLAND

Տ. ՎԱՐԴԱՆ ՔԼԵՍ. ՄԿԵՑԱՆ. Հովիւ
REV. FR. VARTAN MEGHERIAN, Pastor
209-15 Horace Harding Blvd., Bayside 64, N. Y. Tel.: BAYSIDE 5-0235

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Գ. ՏԱՐԻ, ԹԻՒ 15 Օգոստոս 1 1958 August 1 Vol. IV., No 15

**ՏՕՆ ՎԵՐԱՓՈՒՄԱՆ
Ս. ԱՍՏՈՒԱՆՎԱՆՆԵՐԻ
ԵՒ ԽԱՂՈՂՕՐ ՀՆԷՔ**

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ. ՕԳՈՍՏՈՍ 17, 1957

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary
and Blessing of Grapes.

Sunday, Aug. 17, 1957

The Service starts at 9:30 A. M.

Sermon in English

Ս. Պատարագի երգեցողութիւնը պիտի ըլլայ կոմիտասեան, ղեկավարութեամբ Պր. Խառնակ Արրահամեանի:

Արարողութիւնը պիտի սկսի առաւօտեան ժամը 9:30-ին: Քարոզը պիտի արտօնէ թէ անգլիերէն եւ թէ հայերէն: Խաղող կամ անոր փոխարէն զըրանակամ նուէր ընողները յոյժ հաճիմ ղիմել Հոգարարութեան: Յետոյ եմբ որ մեր սիրելի ժողովուրդը պիտի սիրէ խոտնեքամ մասնակցիլ յաղողօրնէ՛քի աւանդակամ այս զեղեցիկ արարողութեան:

ՎԵՐԱՓՈՒՄԱՆ Ս. ԱՍՏՈՒԱՆՎԱՆՆԵՐԻ

Վերափոխման տօնը մինչ Լիկից-ուսյ Տինդ տաղարներէն - Մնունդ, Ջատիկ, Վարդապետ, Վերափոխումն Ս. Աստուածածնի, Խաղիւրաց - Լուսին Լիկիցիւսյ Աստուածածնի Լոթր տօներէն զլիւսուրը - Յզուրիւն, Մը-

նունդ, Ընծայումն Լուսին, Աւետում, Վերափոխում, Գիւտ Գօտույ Լուսին Գիւտ Տօն:

Ըստ ասանդութեան, Ս. Կոյս Մարիամ, Քրիստոսի Տարբարձուհին Լուսին, Երուսաղէմի մէջ 15 տարի սպրեւէ Լուսին կր մեռնի Լուսին թաղուի Գեթսեմանիի իրենց ընտանեկան զամբարանի մէջ: Յուզարկաւորութիւնը կը կատարուի մեծ հանդիսութեամբ Լուսին Տարբարձուհի տաղարներու կողմէ: Միայն Բարթողիմէոս բացակայ է: Իր թաղումէն վերջ երեք ցորեկ Լուսին կը զիշէր հրեշտակային Լուսին կը լսուին անոր զերեզմանին վրայ: Երբ Բարթողիմէոս կուզայ, փափաք կը յայտնէ տեսնել Տիրամայրը վերջին անգամ: Ատաղանները երբ զերեզմանը կը բռնան, հոն չեն զտնէր անոր մարմինը, որմէ կը հետեցնեն թէ անիկա մեռած չէր այլ ի քուն կը զը միայն: Հրեշտակներու Լուսինութիւնը այլ կը նշանակէր: Եւ թէ Յիսուս իր մօրը խոստացած էր արդէն, վաղուց երկինք փոխադրել: Ահա այս է պատճառը որ առիթ մնջում բոտով կ'արակուի անոր երկրային կեանքի վախճանը Լուսին այ կը կուտի վերափոխումն Ս. Աստուածածնի:

Աստուածածնի այս տօնին՝ մեր Լ-

Sponsored by: Mr. and Mrs. V. Simidian
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Soutanian and Family
Mr. and Mrs. H. Takooshian
Mr. and Mrs. George Vetzgian

NARREC

THE CHURCH BULLETIN



WHEN we Armenians of Long Island first joined together to build the Long Island Armenian Church, one of the great needs was a channel of communication. Thus was born our parish Bulletin so that all might know what was being planned and accomplished.

Besides the other means of communication, our church sent the parish bulletin every month to the Long Island parishioners. At the start, Father Tor-kom Manoogian, then priest-in-charge, did this work with the help of Zareh Kapikian and Esther Kimatian. Later, the work of the church bulletin was done by our Pastor, Father Vartan Megherian, with the added help of Deacon Hagop Nersoyan, Edward Boghossian, Esther Kimatian, and Mary Selvinazian.

In January 1958, after long study, a name was chosen for our bulletin, and it began to be issued, semi-monthly, as "Narrec".

"Narrec" was the name of a small village in ancient Armenia. Its fame is due to the fact, among other reasons, that it was the birthplace and residence of Gregory, the angelic saint. Gregory of Narrec was born around 950 A.D. He became a monk in a monastery in his native village. He wrote there the most outstanding book of Armenian literature. This was, of course, the fruit of many years of meditation, prayer, and work.

Gregory of Narrec was a mystic. His great book is, as he calls it, a series of "conversations with God from the depths of the heart". This book itself has come to be known simply as "Narrec". Next to the Bible it has been the most venerated book of the Armenians.

So this name reminds us of a great saint of the Armenian Church — of a man whose burning religious zeal, sense of sin, and awareness of his need of God have seldom, if ever, been surpassed anywhere in the whole world. It reminds us of a book that occupies one of the highest summits of Armenian culture.

It is to be hoped, with the participation of every one of us, that our parish of Long Island will be living up to the great name that will adorn its

semi-monthly bulletin.

On the preceding page is a reproduction of NARREC, printed both in Armenian and in English. Many people, working with our pastor, devote themselves whole-heartedly to getting the news of the Church and its activities to our members and friends. Working nights and week-ends in homes and places of business – they give unstintingly of their time and talents to acquaint all the members of our Church with every vital phase of her activity. By their loyal and unselfish efforts they do much to cement the membership into one great family working together in harmony to preserve the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Armenians.



TYPICAL SCENES FROM QUEENS BALL

THE QUEENS BALL



ALTHOUGH the "Queens Ball" came into being as the answer to a serious financial problem, it has become a feature of the New York social season. Presented three times, each one was an outstanding event – financially and socially.

The problem, simply stated, was that while our entire Long Island community had already subscribed generously to the building fund, the year's quota had not been met. How then could additional funds be raised? The help of friends outside the Long Island community seemed to be the only solution and yet, how difficult to ask for donations from such friends when obviously they had their own churches to support. It was then that the idea of a "Queens Ball" was conceived.

Thus, on the fifth of February, 1955, in the Roof-Garden of the Hotel Pierre, the Building Committee presented the first "Queens Ball". Memories of that night still evoke a scene of graciousness and dignified gaiety. Smiling hosts and hostesses welcoming the arriving guests; joyful greetings as friends from Boston meet, friends from Detroit; graceful young women with flower baskets on their arms who, "with the compliments of the Committee" pin carnations on the lapels of the men.

With music in the air, the guests are directed up the wide and winding staircase. The setting shifts to the Baroque pink and white of the supper room, glowing in the glimmer of crystal and candles, brightened with flower-bedecked tables.

Benediction – and then supper. The audience is charmed by the talent displayed by that young master of the accordion, Roy Appy. A deep silence falls and now it is Anahid Ajemian who thrills the guests with her sensitive and accomplished performance on the violin. Finally, sweet young Cindy Lord comes forward, and her pert and winsome way sings her songs.

The program over, dancing begins. Stanley Melba is directing the orchestra and no one can sit still . . . The tempo goes faster . . . The spirits higher. All too soon . . . it is time to go home. The gratified hosts listen with



TYPICAL SCENES FROM QUEENS BALL

delight as the guests exhort them – “Be sure to invite us again next year!” And so, into the record marked SUCCESS goes another of our efforts to build the Church of Long Island, the first “Queens Ball”.

Encouraged by its success and spurred on by the continuous need for funds as actual construction work had begun, the second “Queens Ball” was undertaken, which featured the Cruise and Spring Collection of Countess Alexander, the noted designer of fine gowns. In real life, Countess Alexander has a dual identity, it is that of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Alexander, true Armenians and good friends of the Long Island Church.

The happy climax of the evening came when the guests were invited to take chances on the dresses displayed, the winner having the privilege of choosing any one of the models that would then be custom made for her. When Mr. Herant K. Liman offered to double the amount raised, excitement ran doubly high. Tickets were quickly sold. All in all \$1200. was raised as the price of the dress. Mr. George Bashian held the winning ticket. While Mrs. Bashian delightedly selected her dress, Mr. Bashian very graciously donated another \$100. to the fund.

The third “Queens Ball” was held on the second of February, 1957. Increasing attendance had necessitated moving the affair from the Roof-Garden to the Grand Ballroom of the Pierre. This time efforts were made to encourage our young people to attend and thus the charm of youth was added to the glamour of the evening.

Cindy Lord and her partner entertained with dialogues and songs, receiving a most enthusiastic reception. Again the “Queens Ball” proved a marked success.

Summarizing, it can be stated with satisfaction that the “Queens Ball” has become an attractive feature of the social season, entirely fulfilling the purpose for which it was planned. Over \$18,000. was raised through the three affairs and the greater part of this amount was donated by our friends outside of Long Island.

But perhaps, the greater gratification lies in the knowledge that the Church of Long Island has so many good and true friends . . . friends who have consistently encouraged us, not only with their donations, but by travelling long distances to be with us.

Finally, we wish to extend our appreciation to the following Honorary Chairmen, Co-Chairmen, Master of Ceremonies, Committee members and Committee of Patrons who worked so devotedly to make the three affairs resounding financial and social successes.

Honorary Chairmen

The Rev. & Mrs. Vartan Megherian
The Honorable & Mrs. Steven Derounian
Mr. & Mrs. Dadour Dadourian
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Manougian

Co-Chairmen

Mrs. Martin Aslanian
Mrs. John Kimball
Mrs. Manoug Exerjian
Mrs. Garo Artinian

Committee Members

Mr. & Mrs. Ghevont Aghajanian
Mr. & Mrs. Souren Allalemdjian
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Alexander
Mrs. Garo Artinian
Mr. & Mrs. Tigran Arrathoon
Mr. & Mrs. Artin Aslanian
Mr. & Mrs. Hamayak Avakian
Mr. & Mrs. Aris Avanzonian
Mr. & Mrs. George Bashian
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dadourian
Mr. Manoug Exerjian
Mrs. Richard K. Gregory
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hatounian
Mr. & Mrs. Yervant Hampar
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jamakordzian
Mr. & Mrs. Zareh Kapikian
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Karnig
Mr. John A. Kimball
Mr. & Mrs. Herant K. Liman
Mr. & Mrs. Dikran Missirlian
Mr. & Mrs. Yetvart Pamuk
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Piranian
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sahakian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahan Simidian
Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Vartanian

Committee of Patrons

Mrs. Dikran M. Sarkisian, *Chairman*

Mrs. Diran Aboulian
Mrs. Haroot Arootian
Mrs. Karo Avakian
Mr. & Mrs. John Constant
Mr. & Mrs. Vahram Derderian
Mr. & Mrs. Don Donelian
Mrs. Leon Geurdan
Mrs. Harry Kalfaian
Mrs. Arshag Karagheusian
Mrs. Mihran Karagheusian
Mr. & Mrs. Nuran Kenadjian
Mrs. Micael Missirian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Norian
Mr. & Mrs. Krikor Papazian
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Shahanian
Mr. & Mrs. Zareh Tchetcheyan
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tatosian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Tinghir
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Turnamian



TYPICAL SCENES FROM QUEENS BALL



Dr. John Karnig



Odette Damadiar



Paul Chaputian



Helen Vetzgian

CO-CHAIRMEN OF OUR ANNUAL BAZAAR

OUR ANNUAL BAZAAR



ACED with the inevitable and perennial problem of raising additional funds for the erection of our Church, the Building Committee adopted the idea of a church bazaar and organized a committee headed by Dr. John Karnig and Mrs. Vahan Damadian.

The first bazaar was held on October 14, 15 and 16, 1955, at the centrally located and spacious Flushing Armory. Many months of planning, organizing and hard work by the Bazaar Committee, together with the enthusiastic response of all those willing to work, made this first Long Island Church Bazaar an outstanding financial and social event. Approximately 1500 attended the bazaar and a net profit of \$11,000 was realized.

Encouraged by the success of this first venture, the Building Committee again appointed Dr. John Karnig and Mrs. Vahan Damadian as Co-Chairmen of the second bazaar.

As a result of the outstanding leadership provided by the Committee Chairmen, and the tireless and diligent work of all the committee members, and the whole-hearted support of the entire community, the second bazaar, held for three days at the Flushing Armory on October 19, 20 and 21, 1957 proved to be even more successful than the first. More than 1700 members and friends had a wonderful time and, more importantly, displayed a willingness to help raise funds for the completion of the building project. The profit realized from the second bazaar was \$11,500.

The third annual bazaar, under the able Co-Chairmanship of Mr. Paul Chaputian and Mrs. Helen Vezigian was held on October 18, 19 and 20, 1957, and was financially the most successful bazaar, as it netted nearly \$19,000.00.

The wonderful leadership and the unselfish efforts of all those who participated in the task of preparing for, and working at these bazaars, the many voluntary contributions of gifts and food, the whole-hearted support of those who attended, and above all, the united effort of an entire community, is responsible for the magnificent results obtained from these

bazaars.

The entire Parish is very grateful to the Chairmen of the Bazaar Committees and their members who made many personal sacrifices to ensure the success of these events.



MANOUG EXERJIAN
The Architect of Our Church

The Pastor and Parish Council of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs have dedicated the large stained glass window in the north center of our church to Mr. & Mrs. Manoug Exerjian in appreciation of their work and in recognition of Mr. Exerjian's devoted services and outstanding contribution towards the realization of our goal for an Armenian Church in Long Island.

THE CHURCH BUILDING



THRILL of pride courses through the heart of every Armenian who gazes for the first time — or the hundred and first time — on our very own Church! There it stands, serene and beautiful . . . blending the features of our ancient Armenian architecture and fusing the symbols of our great heritage with the hopes and aspirations of this new era in our new homeland of America. It is a dream come to life and like all great dreams, its realization has meant a great deal of thought and work on the part of many.

Through the efforts of many devoted members of the community many sites were examined before our present location was found. We were happy that our site was not only centrally located and accessible from all parts of Long Island, but sufficiently large for future expansion.

The selection of an architect was of paramount importance. After careful deliberation the committee selected a devoted and highly qualified member of our own parish, Manoug Exerjian, as the architect.

In planning our Church, Mr. Exerjian's purpose was to design the whole project, interior, exterior, and landscape to serve the needs of the community and to interpret the spirit of the present generation of Armenians in America. To this end, he visioned a semi-contemporary rendition of the exterior, utilizing the outlines and features of traditional Armenian architecture, thus fusing our roots, which lie deep in the past, with the hopes and dreams of the future.

Just as it stands, our Church is beautiful. However, to appreciate it fully, one must wait until the entire project is complete with stained glass windows, paintings, decorating, and landscaping.

The original plan consisted of the Church, a small connecting building and a Cultural Center large enough to accommodate classrooms, living quarters for the pastor, a small apartment for the caretaker, large meeting rooms, a library, and exhibition rooms. This ambitious undertaking was abandoned for practical considerations. It was felt that it would take too long to raise the necessary funds while the pressing need was to have a

Church immediately. It was also thought that once the Church was completed and paid for, the exact nature and extent of the needs of the community would be clearly evident. It will be possible in the near future to build the Community and Cultural Center with the view of meeting these needs adequately.

Our Church will accommodate at present, approximately 450 worshippers. The main altar of white korina wood with its Armenian dome was designed by our architect, Manoug Exerjian, and was successfully completed and installed by the Joseph Noe Studios by November 1957. At the same time, the baptismal basin, also designed by Mr. Exerjian, was made by Peacock Memorials, with carvings of an Armenian cross and the symbols of water and the Holy Spirit.

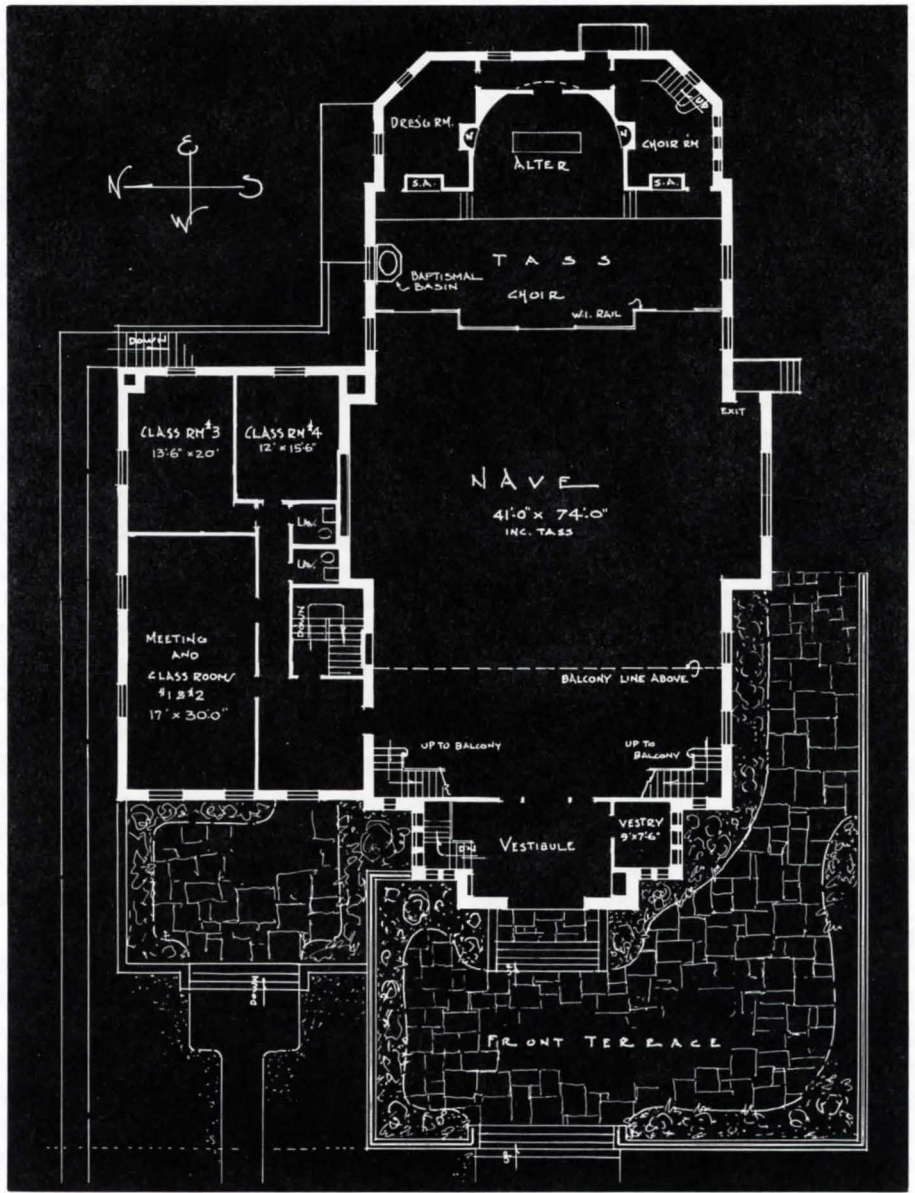
The Baldwin Organ of our church is of a beautiful oak finish and is an elaborately equipped console with Great and Swell keyboards, foot pedals, a harp attachment, and chimes. The chimes may be sounded both inside and outdoors in the belltower through a special amplifier system. It is an uplifting feeling to hear the Armenian Sanctus (Soorp, Soorp) echoing for a radius of one and a half miles.

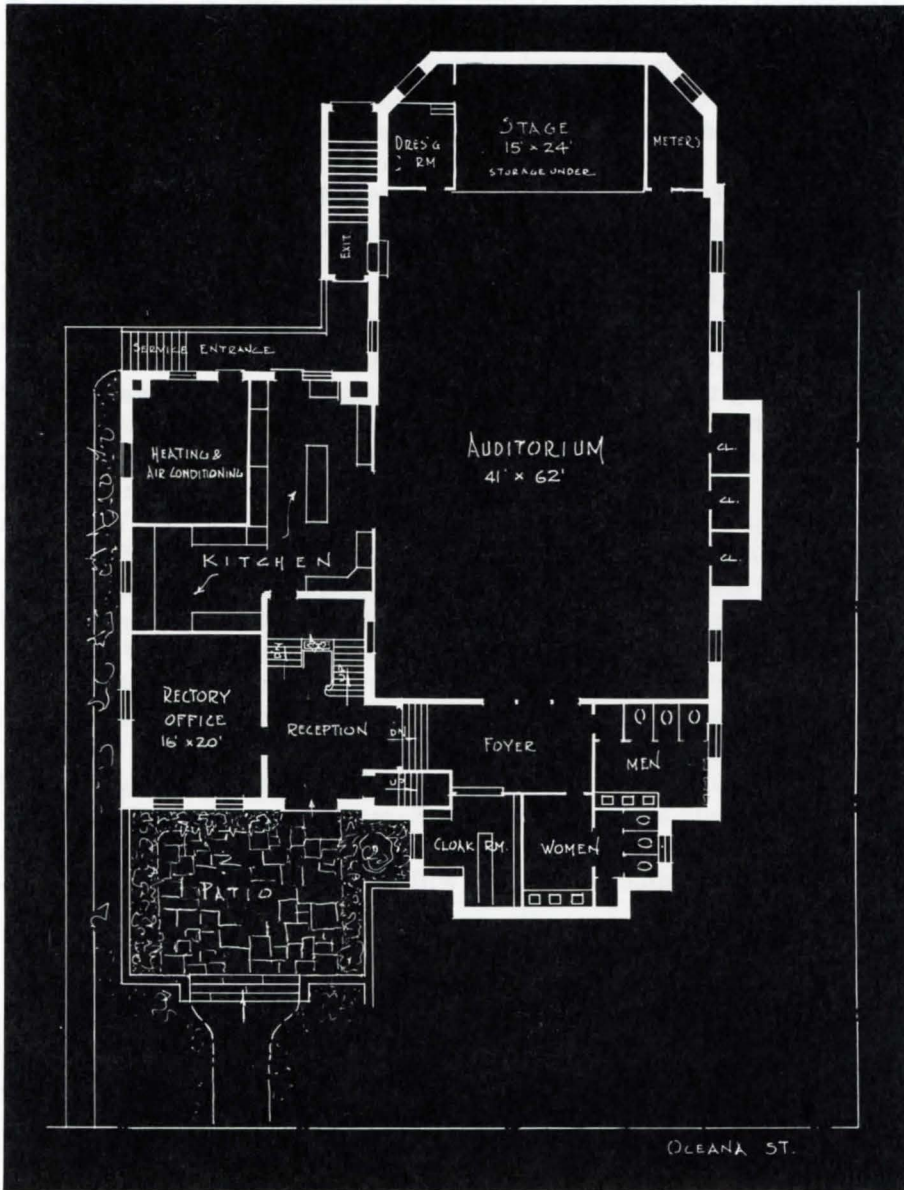
The church interior was endowed with six beautiful glittering chandeliers, a gift from Neil Hanes and Donald Hoover, his business partner and friend of our church. They cost \$7,500.00 and were made in Italy of approximately 2,000 pieces of clear crystal. The 160 lights of the three main fixtures along with those in the balcony are operated by a dimming mechanism. By January of this year, the chandeliers were completely assembled and installed.

During the past year, the chancel railing and carpeting were installed and many articles and vessels were purchased for the church.

The well-known artist, Mr. Ariel Agemian, has painted the main altar picture of the Madonna and Child.

Under completion are the twenty-one stained glass windows, designed by Mr. Ariel Agemian and manufactured by the Payne-Spiers Studios of Paterson, N. J. The two large transept windows will depict the Nativity and the Resurrection of Christ. The seven nave windows are representations of Saints Gregory, Sahag-Mesrob, Vartan, Nerses the Great, Nerses Shnorhali, Gregory of Narrec, Hripsime-Santoukht. The twelve small narthex windows will represent St. Thaddeus, St. Bartholomew, the four Evangelists, and other Saints.





Well-versed in Armenian History and Church and as a specialist in religious painting, Ariel Agemian is a great help in adorning our windows. Each window with its saint and symbols represents one historical event together with the character of the saint. Under Mr. Agemian's gifted brush strokes, our stained glass windows will reflect the Armenian soul and will remain unique in their design and presentation.

In the work of the stained glass windows, Mr. Avedis Kirishjian has helped by preparing the Armenian lettering used in the glasses.

A spacious auditorium is the pride of the community. To provide a suitable and gradual approach to the auditorium and impart the effect of not being in the basement of the Church, full advantage was taken of the pitch of the land and a sunken garden created leading to it.

In developing the plans it was found necessary to have a small rectory building adjacent to the Church which houses, on the lower level, a fully equipped kitchen, a heating and air-conditioning room as well as a private office for the Pastor. The rectory building on the second floor has four rooms which are being used temporarily for Sunday School, Armenian classes, or for special meetings. The auditorium and all rooms in the adjacent building are fully air-conditioned and decorated in a modern taste.

Our dream has come to life! All who worked on it can be well pleased with their efforts which have blossomed forth so beautifully. We have already begun to nurture visions of a new Cultural and Community Center where Armenians of all generations can gather in Christian fellowship and sociability to learn of their rich heritage.

This page would not be complete without expressing a few words of appreciation to our architect, Manoug Exerjian, not only for his artistic taste and long hours devoted to the work, but also for the large share he has in making this edifice one which will be the pride and glory of Armenians for generations.

COST

COMPLETED CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

Land cost	\$ 32,630.00
The Parish House	24,500.00
General Contractor	182,125.00
Air-Conditioning Contractor	23,580.00
Kitchen Equipment	10,000.00
Baldwin Electric Organ	5,000.00
The Pews	7,150.00
Altars	6,500.00
Chandeliers	5,400.00
Baptismal Font	1,725.00
Carpets	3,100.00
Folding Chairs, Tables & School Fixtures	3,700.00
Main Altar Picture	1,000.00
Stained Glass Windows	19,000.00
Office Fixtures & Machinery	4,000.00
Church & Altar Fixtures, Crosses, Robes, Censers, Candlesticks, Railings, Candlestands, Wall Crosses, etc.	5,000.00
Utilities, Vacuum cleaners, waxing machines	1,200.00
Sidewalks, Flagstones, Landscaping, etc.	3,000.00
Misc. Construction Works and Repairs, such as: Wall Decorations, Plaster Touching, Electric Fixtures, Hardware, Calking, Shoring, Roof Repair, etc., etc.	9,390.00
Fencing & Paving Rear Grounds	2,000.00
Total	\$350,000.00

DEBTS & UNFINISHED WORK AS OF SEPT. 1, 1958

1st Mortgage due to East N. Y. Savings Bank	\$ 53,000.00
Mortgage on Parish House	15,390.95
Loan to Armenian Prelacy Fund	28,000.00
Due on Stained Glass Windows	15,822.50
Due on Altar Picture	1,000.00
Misc. Other accounts	2,000.00
Fencing & Paving Rear Grounds	2,000.00
Total	\$117,213.45

The Pride, joy and satisfaction of building a House of God must be shared by all . . . and, as a large deficit still exists, all our friends and fellow Armenians are invited to make their donations to the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, 209-15 Horace Harding Blvd., Bayside 64, N. Y.

WE NEED A COMMUNITY CENTER



WITH deep gratitude and joyous heart we proclaim the first objective of our community completed. The church is a reality now! In this magnificent edifice we adore God with the same fervor and dedication as our forebears.

Our second objective is to build a Community Center for the religious, social, educational, and cultural activities of all Armenian groups on Long Island, to provide increased opportunities for our youngsters, parents and youth to enjoy greater relaxation together.

A Community Center will provide us with more classrooms and especially a nursery where we can attend to the very young and thus give the young parents the opportunity to come to church and worship.

For the youth, the Community Center will provide the best means for expressing their talents culturally and spiritually. It will also be their athletic quarters, housing basketball courts and other sports facilities, thus causing their coming together to keep their interest and spirit under the protection of the Armenian Church.

As for the parents, a future Community Center holds the promise of an expansive area for our large community to hold meetings, social gatherings, weddings and other large affairs. A building of the church, yet distinct and separate, it will satisfy all our needs as Armenians to give expression to our ethnic, social and cultural life in this country.

It would have a large hall for social gatherings, with sports facilities. It would have classrooms and an equipped nursery for Sunday and Armenian Schools, a large meeting room, organization rooms, a library, living quarters for visiting clergy, and a small apartment for the caretaker.

We are hopeful that this vision will be fulfilled in the not too distant future. With God's help, our devout people of Long Island spared nothing to build the church and there is still the confidence that we can accomplish this new task so that the Armenian spirit will flourish and endure through generations to come.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



XCITEMENT and happy anticipation filled the air when some sixty ladies gathered for tea at the home of Mrs. Vahan Simidian on October 27, 1954. The one thought that was uppermost in the minds of all was put into words by Mrs. Manoug Exerjian who said: "As you know, at last we are going to have an Armenian Church on Long Island. A plot has been purchased, a Building Committee appointed and further plans are underway."

"You were told all this" she further added, "at the Inaugural Dinner when you and your husbands enlisted in the Building Campaign. Now, Mr. Dikran Missirlian, Chairman of the Building Committee, has appointed Mrs. Artin Aslanian and myself as temporary co-chairmen of the Women's Auxiliary and asked us to see what we, the Armenian Women of Long Island could do to help build the Church."

She went on to describe plans for organization, a program of activities, and finally to propose that, as the women's contribution towards the building of the Church, they should undertake the equipment of some special room.

Responding enthusiastically, the women voted in quick order to form the Auxiliary and to undertake a special project. It was decided that this special project should be to plan and equip the one room in a church which gets constant use, is most important to the many gatherings held in the auditorium, but usually gets the least attention . . . the kitchen!

At the conclusion of this meeting all present resolved to work towards the building of the Church and this important women's auxiliary.

Four years have passed since that day. In these four years, the Women's Auxiliary has not only successfully completed its special project but it has become a strong integral part of our Church, aspiring to provide its members with rich spiritual, cultural and social interests.

It is interesting to note that in organizing the Auxiliary, the women, first under the guidance of Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian and then of Rev. Vartan Megherian, realized that their purpose was not simply one of rais-

ing funds or of helping out when needed, but as one encompassing much more. Their By-Laws, ably drawn up by a committee of women long experienced in group work and headed by Mrs. Mihran Andreasian, states that their purpose shall be "to unite the women of the Parish in a program of worship, study, service and fellowship." Undoubtedly, it is this larger purpose which has given the organization the impetus to grow so quickly and effectively.

The original group of 60 now enlists a membership of 170, enrolled through the efforts of Mrs. Zareh Kapikian and her committee. The interest and zeal of these members may be seen in the scope of their work.

The Ways and Means Committee, directed by Mrs. Vahan Damadian and Mrs. Shahab Zanazanian, concentrated its efforts on raising the \$10,500.00 needed for the equipment of the kitchen. Various types of events took place to raise this fund; notably four Rummage Sales with Mrs. Haig Mergerian, Mrs. Victoria Peckjian and Mrs. Haig Shiroyan as chairmen; three picnics with Mrs. Martin Kimatian and Mrs. John Marashlian as chairmen; three Strawberry Festivals under the chairmanship of Mrs. Neil Hanes; and many luncheons, fashion shows, etc. Some of these luncheons have been held in the homes of Mrs. Artin Aslanian, Mrs. Manoug Exerjian and Mrs. Nishan Vartanian.

Chairmen for these luncheons have been the following: Helen Norhadian, Victoria Peckjian, Esther Kimatian, Charlotte Missirlian, Alice Bashian, Adelle Gedachian, Odette Damadian, Anahid Zanazanian, Eugenie Andreasian, Alice Hampar, Arax Yeterian and Elizabeth Sahakian.

But raising funds for kitchen equipment was not the only problem entailed in the "Special Project". The women were especially concerned to have the kitchen designed for maximum efficiency. To this end, a Special Project Committee was formed with Mrs. George Vetzgian as chairman. The committee, under the supervision of our architect, Mr. Manoug Exerjian, studied and worked earnestly to insure a well-designed kitchen with the best possible equipment, which included glass ware, linens, etc., and finally to see to it that all equipment was installed according to specifications.

Upon completion of the project, Mrs. Victoria Peckjian was appointed Chairman of the Housekeeping Committee, whose responsibility is to keep the kitchen at top efficiency at all times.

While it may seem that financing, equipping and maintaining the



SOME MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

kitchen has received the exclusive attention of the Auxiliary, it is by no means true. In spite of the urgency of raising "Special Project" funds, the Women's Auxiliary has also found the means to help out such worthwhile projects as the Jerusalem Fund, the Armenian Welfare Home, Sunday School Communion Breakfasts, Church dinners, Bazaars and the Queens Ball.

Furthermore, the Auxiliary established various committees to serve certain needs of our Church. "Mas", at first prepared by Mrs. Arax Kechejian and a few women, was later the responsibility of a committee headed by Mrs. John Babaian. A Sunday School Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gregory Berberian was formed. This committee in the past provided and served the Sunday School Communion Breakfasts for the children at Christmas and Easter but hopes to make more tangible gifts to our Sunday School in the future. The Diocesan Liaison Committee, whose purpose is to act as a connecting link between the Diocesan Auxili-

ary Committee and the Parish, was headed by Mrs. A. Sarraf.

Other Service Committees are: the Hostess Committee which, under Mrs. S. Agabian, provided and served the refreshments that make the social hour at each meeting so pleasant; the Visiting Committee, headed by Mrs. A. Sarraf, which corresponds with or visits members of the Auxiliary as the occasion arises; and, finally, the Publicity Committee with Mrs. Martin Kimatian, as chairman, which publicized events and kept a history of the Auxiliary; Mrs. Mary Davidian served as Membership Committee chairman in 1955.

These then are the ways in which the Women's Auxiliary attempts to serve; but there is another aspect to its work, the duty to "keep abundant the Christian life among its members." St. Luke tells the story of Martha and Mary; of how Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His word, while Martha bustled about, serving. And when Martha remonstrated, demanding that Jesus bid Mary to help her, Jesus said, "Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part."

Thus, mindful of Mary's example, our members give thought to the spiritual and moral values at each meeting when excerpts from the Bible or other appropriate material is read. These periods of devotion were led by Mrs. Arousiag Nercessian and members of her committee.

A period of study was also incorporated into each meeting when Mrs. George Bashian and her committee presented programs dealing with the history of Armenia and the Church. At times these programs may be entertaining as well as enlightening, as when Yerezgin Megherian presented a charming talk on Armenian Folklore and Proverbs, or when Mrs. Edward Jamakordzian sang some lovely old songs of Armenia.

In four years, the Women's Auxiliary has grown from an idea to a well organized institution, which has attempted to build, to serve, to worship and to educate, and, to establish a true Christian fellowship among its members.

These activities have required the energies of many more members than have been mentioned in these pages. It is regrettable that space does not allow the recording of every committee member, indeed, of every member, for each one has been of inestimable help.

The Executive Committee responsible for the organization and development of the Auxiliary during the first three years of its existence has been:

*Rev Vartan Megherian, president; Mrs. Manoug Exerjian, chairman; Mrs. Artin Aslanian, vice-chairman; Mrs. Carnig Kay, recording secretary; Mrs. Zabelle Berberian, secretary during 1955; Mrs. Eli P. Kimatian, Jr., corresponding secretary; Mrs. Henry Sahakian, treasurer; Mrs. Krikor Hartunian, assistant treasurer. The advisors have been Mrs. Vahan Damadian, Mrs. Zareh Kapikian and Mrs. George Vetzgian.

During 1958, the Women's Auxiliary engaged in the following activities: a Lenten Supper, preparation of a dinner for the Jerusalem Fund, Easter Communion and Breakfast, Luncheon and Fashion Shows, a Rummage Sale, a Picnic, and arrangements for the Consecration Dinner.

The present Executive Officers are: Mrs. Artin Aslanian, chairman; Mrs. George Vetzgian, vice-chairman; Mrs. Eli P. Kimatian, Jr., recording secretary; Mrs. Edward D. Jamakordzian, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anthony Mooradian, treasurer; Mrs. Don Donigian, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Manoug Exerjian, Mrs. John Gedachian and Mrs. Haig Mergerian, advisors.

The chairmen of the standing committees are: Mrs. Shahab Zanazanian, publicity; Mrs. Martin Kimatian, Ways and Means; Mrs. Victoria Peckjian, Housekeeping; Mrs. John Gedachian, Membership; Mrs. John Tatosian, Educational; Mrs. George Norhadian, Hostess; Mrs. O. Sarraf, Visiting; Mrs. N. Kechejian, "Mas"; Mrs. Mihran Andreasian, Decorating; Mrs. Carnig Terzian, Church School Liaison; Mrs. John Tatosian, Diocesan Liaison.

The Executive Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the many members who have participated in the work of the Auxiliary. While these formative years have been a period of trials and error, any success that may be credited to the Women's Auxiliary is due to the devotion of each and every one of its members through the guidance of our Pastor. It is through their work that the Women's Auxiliary has grown to take its place in the life of the Church and the Parish.

MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

<p>Agabian, Sophie Agababian, Siranoosh Aghajanian, Arax Agopian, Mary Aidenian, Shamiram Ajelian, Alice Alvandian, Virginia Andreasian, Eugenie Artean, Arshalous Aslanian, Zabelle Astor, Sara Avakian, Alice Avanozian, Emma Babaian, Emma Babayan, Elizabeth Bajakian, Azniv Bajakian, Meline Barber, Virginia Bashian, Alice Bedrosian, Ardemis Berberian, Annahid Berberian, Zabelle Boghosian, Arshalouise Boghosian, Zohra Chekijian, Araxi Chrovian, Rose Dadourian, Alice Dadourian, Elise Damadian, Odette Damga, Joy Darmanian, Nevart Davitian, Siranoosh Der Kazarian, Lillian Dickranian, Siran Dildarian, Eliz Dilsizian, Araxie Doghramian, Ashken Donigian, Alma Rose Enkababian, Mary Erganian, Zabelle Evrenian, Vehanoush Exerjian, Arax Fourounjian, Helen Garab, Varsenig Gardiner, Sirarpi Gaynor, L. Gedachian, Adele Gedachian, Arax Gorvetzian, Joan Gregory, Aghavne</p>	<p>Gregory, Harriet Hagopian, Suzanne Hajinlian, Dikranouhi Hampar, Alice Hampar, Dikranouhi Hanes, Mary Hartunian, Mary Hartunian, Roxie Hatounian, Lillian Hekimian, Alice Holobigian, Margaret Horasanci, Zephyr Hovanesian, Shushik Hovnan, Lucy Jamadanian, Araxie Jamakordzian, Lucy Javian, Alice Jeknavorian, Vart Kadeyan, Ann Kaladjian, Esther Kalaydjian, Arousiag Kapikian, Baidzar Karajian, Tzainig Karnikian, Rose Kasparian, Pearl Katchouny, Siranoosh Kay, Isabel Kechejian, Araxie Kalebjian, Shakey Keosayian, Ann Keurian, Alice Keuseyan, Mary Kimatian, Esther Kimatian, Lucille Kiremidjian, Florence Kirishjian, Nevart Kurkjian, Ardem Macoulian, Armine Manoogian, Anne Marshlian, Roxie Margosian, Alice Markarian, Nellie Megherian, Yefkin Mekjian, Beatrice Mendikian, Rose Mergerian, Araxie Merjian, Lillian Merjian, Mary Missirlian, Charlotte Moomjy, Shamiram</p>	<p>Mooradian, Ann Nargizian, Alice Nazarian, Alice Nersesian, Aroosiag Nishanian, Azniv Norhadian, Helen Nouryan, Helen Pamuk, Mayda Papalian, Catherine Papazian, Mary Papazian, Mary Papazian, Minnie Pashaian, Isabelle Paternayan, Nancy Peckjian, Victoria Pilibosian, Anna Piranian, Anahid Puskuljian, Mary Rapiel, Mary Roubian, Genevieve Sahagian, Astrig Sahakian, Elizabeth Sahatjian, Azniv Sanosian, Virginia Sarafian, Laura Sarraf, Astrig Sebouhian, Laura Selvinazian, Siranoush Serabian, Nevart Shiroyan, Kohar Simidian, Mano Stambolian, E. Takoushian, Araxie Takusian, Koharig Tatosian, Beatrice Terzian, Alice Tookmanian, Kanarik Topalian, Arous Torigian, Janine Torigian, Shakeh Toumayan, Mary Vartanian, Adrienne Vartanian, Zabelle Vartian, Varsenig Vetzgian, Helen Yeldezian, Viola Yeterian, Arax Zanazanian, Anahid</p>
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DONATIONS, GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

THE LAND FOR OUR CHURCH
HAS BEEN DONATED BY THE FAMILIES OF:

Dadour Dadourian
Artin Aslanian
Poozant Piranian

THE MAIN ALTAR:

Jack and Alice Dadourian

2 SIDE ALTARS:

1 – Messrs. Abraham & Joseph Chorbajian
1 – Mr. John Hazard

THE MAIN CENTER STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS AT EACH
SIDE OF THE CHURCH:

1 large Window by Mr. & Mrs. Dikran Missirlian
1 large Window still available

7 LARGE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS REPRESENTING
THE SAINTS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH:

1 – Mr. & Mrs. Ghevont Aghajanian
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Garo Artinian
1 – Mrs. Zabel Aslanian
1 – Avanozian Family
1 – Mr. & Mrs. George Bashian
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Hrant K. Liman
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sahakian

12 STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS ADORNING THE FACADE
AND THE WESTERLY WALLS:

1 – Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Agabian
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Hampar
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Yervant Hampar
1 – Dr. & Mrs. John Karnig
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Avedis Kirishjian
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Nubar Nouryan
1 – Mr. & Mrs. John Serabian
5 still available

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1 – Mr. & Mrs. Avedis Kirishjian
1 – Mr. & Mrs. Nubar Nouryan
1 – Mr. & Mrs. John Serabian
5 still available

ENTIRE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT:
Ladies' Auxiliary

1 MEDIUM-SIZED CLASSROOM:
Nersessian Armenian School

1 SMALL CLASSROOM:
Krikor Varjaran Armenian School

THE BAPTISMAL FOUNT:
Mr. & Mrs. Auxiliary of Long Island

CHANDELIERS:
Hoover & Hanes, Inc.

THE CHANCEL RAILING:
Dr. & Mrs. Aram Boghosian

THE MAIN ALTAR PAINTING:
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Maralian

THE MAIN ALTAR CURTAINS:
Mrs. Araxie Dilsizian

THE MAIN ALTAR LAMP:
The ACYOA of Long Island

2 SIDE ALTAR LAMPS:
Mr. & Mrs. Antranik Enkababian

THE BAPTISMAL FOUNT LAMP:
Mr. & Mrs. Souren Allalemdjian

BISHOP'S CHAIR:
Mr. & Mrs. Karnig Moomjian

SAROUK CARPET, 10 x 14:
Bashian Bros.

CARPET FOR CELEBRANT'S DAIS:
Mr. George Bashian

300 DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS:
His Grace Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan

JASHOU KIRK:
(A Rare Book, 827 Pages, Printed 1799):
Diran Shen Hovhanessian of Istanbul, Turkey

ORIGINAL PAINTING OF "ST. STEPHEN":
Miss Gloria Perkins

REPRODUCED PAINTING OF "IMMACULATE CONCEPTION"
BY MURILLO:

Mr. Krikor Koutnouyan

CHALICE:

Mr. & Mrs. Armenak Mardirossian

2 HAND CROSSES DECORATED WITH JEWELS:

1 – Mr. & Mrs. Robert Guevrekian

1 – Mr. & Mrs. Aram Hagopian

MAIN ALTAR CROSS:

K. N. Paster & Family

SMALL STANDING CROSS:

Mr. Y. Hagopian

1 PAIR ANTIQUE BRONZE, GOLD-PLATED, STANDING
CANDLESTICKS FOR BEMA:

Mr. & Mrs. Ohannes Magarian

CANDLESTICKS:

2 pairs – Mrs. Oscar Babayan

1 pair – Mr. & Mrs. Mihran Bakalian

1 pair – Mrs. Eran Kirk

1 pair – Mr. Vahan Sahatjian

1 pair – Mrs. Keushgenian

1 Side Altar Set – Mrs. Shushik Hovanessian

2 KSHOTZ OR FANS:

Mrs. Haig Shiroyan

SURPADOOP FOR HOLY COMMUNION:

Mr. Mike Missakian

2 SILVER MASS TRAYS:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chaputian

ALTAR CLOTHS:

1 large cloth crocheted by Mother Chorbajian

1 purple velvet, gold embroidered –

Mrs. Takouhi Tombakjian

1 hand-crocheted – Mrs. Ovsanna Boghosian

1 – Mrs. Tufenkjian

2 – Mrs. Mary Zanjhette

1 – Mrs. A. Avakian

1 – Mrs. Freda Boyajian

1 set – Mrs. Ester Kehyaian
 1 set – Mrs. Sahagian
 1 set – Mrs. George Agsar
 1 – Mrs. Acabe Artinian
 1 – Mrs. Aghani Damborajian
 1 – Mrs. Hagop Vosgerjian
GOLD-PLATED GOSPEL COVERING:
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Kazazian
GOSPEL-HOLDER CLOTH:
 Mrs. Takouhi Tombakjian
CHALICE COVERS:
 1 – Mrs. Rosette Darakjian
 1 – Mrs. Dikranouhie Tezekian
 1 – Mrs. Lucille Kimatian, made by her mother
 1 – Mrs. Sema Mazlemian
NICHE CURTAINS:
 Mrs. Beatrice Kevorkian
ANTIQUÉ EMBROIDERED ROBE:
 Mrs. H. Ayvazian
WHITE WEDDING RUNNER:
 Mrs. P. Apelian
2 ARMCHAIRS:
 1 – Mrs. Arax Holopigian
 1 – Mr. & Mrs. George Vetzgian
PIANOS:
 1 Upright – Mr. & Mrs. Puzant Torigian
 1 Spinnet – Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sahakian
OFFICE SAFE:
 Mrs. B. Derounian
CLASSROOM WALL CABINET:
 Mr. Vahak Deirmendjian
6 FORMICA TOP SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLDING TABLES:
 Royal Metal Mfg Co.
2 PING-PONG TABLES:
 Royal Metal Mfg. Co.

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Mr. & Mrs. Vagharshag Aprahamian.....	300.00
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Hemayak Avakian	500.00
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sebouhian	200.00
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Haig Selian	25.00
Stephen Selian	50.00
Selvinazian Family	100.00
Mrs. A. Semerjian	50.00
Dr. Harry Seneca	100.00

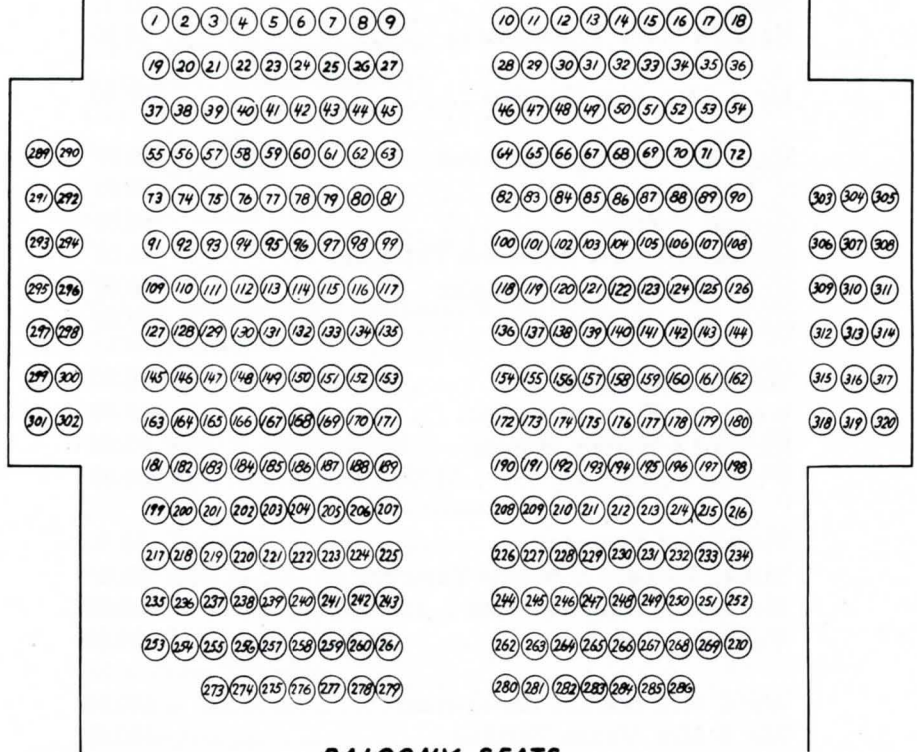
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Serabian	200.00
John Serabian	1,100.00
Mr. Edward Seropian	100.00
Mr. Khoren Seropian	25.00
Yenovk Shegiran	500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Shekian	200.00
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Karl Shishmanian	50.00
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Mr. & Mrs. Vahan Zarifian	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Alexan Zorayan	50.00
Mr. Frank C. Zotian	300.00
	TOTAL \$195,354.64

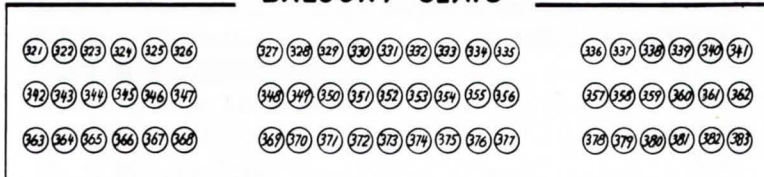
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| # 45 – Mrs. Arax Alice Avakian | # 117 – Fred M. Barsam |
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# 172 – Harry Chébukian	# 261 – George Vetzgian
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# 181 – Mr. & Mrs. William Hovnan	# 278 – Frank C. Zotian
# 188, 189 – Nicholas Astor	# 279 – Sooren Manuelian
# 190 – Thomas Fourounjian	# 280 – Mesrob Bajakian
# 191 – Norair Hartunian	# 286 – John S. Babaian
# 206, 207 – K. N. Paster	# 287, 288 – Mr. & Mrs. Caprial Kehishian
# 208, 209 – Missak Merjian	# 299, 300
# 225 – Sidney Ardouny	301, 302 – Richard K. Gregory
# 226, 227 – Haig Yeterian	Still available: 234 seats

**SPECIFIC AND MEMORIAL GIFTS THAT ARE
STILL AVAILABLE:**

The Main Entrance Door: \$10,000.00
 1 Large Classroom: \$5,000.00
 5 Small Stained-Glass Windows: \$1,000.00 each
 2 Paintings for Side Altars: \$1,000.00 each
 1 Chalice: \$500.00
 2 Smaller Altar Crosses: \$250.00 each
 2 Jajanches: \$400.00 each
 1 Processional Cross: \$300.00
 1 Gold Covering for Gospel-Books: \$300.00
 1 Set of 12 Candlesticks for Main Altar: \$450.00
 1 Set of Candlesticks for Side Altar: \$200.00 per set
 2 Multiple Candle Stands: \$1,000.00 each
 Vestments: \$300.00
 234 Pew Seats: \$100.00 each

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Avakian, Mr. & Mrs. Aramyis
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Avedis, Mr. & Mrs. Azad
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Babayan, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar
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Darakjian, Mrs. Rosette
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 Zarifian, Mr. & Mrs. Vahan
 Zorzopian, Miss Iskuhi

*Deceased

OUR PLEDGE SYSTEM



THE members of the Long Island Armenian Apostolic Church, in an effort to keep their church financially stable throughout the year, resolved to inaugurate the "Pledge System."

The "Pledge System", very simply, is a system whereby, at the beginning of the year, each parishioner pledges an amount equal to the total sum of his offerings if he attended Church every Sunday during the year. Thus, his pledge, together with the pledges of all the parish, furnishes the means whereby the annual expenditures incurred by the activities and upkeep of the Church may be assured.

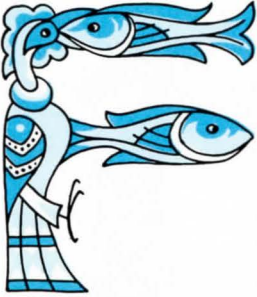
This system, in use by almost all American Churches, has already been put into effect by several Armenian Churches and with great success. It is a fitting and dignified method of financing wherein every member accepts his responsibility and obligation. In practice it has been found to be not only business-like, but especially conducive to a more personal interest and greater participation in the affairs of the Church by the parish members.

The first Long Island Church pledge canvass started in May, 1958, and has already achieved a fair measure of success. Even now the great majority of the members have pledged their support. Another very encouraging aspect of the "Pledge System" is the fact that many parishioners who were not regular members of the Church sent in their pledges without personal appeal from the Pledge Committee.

Thus, it may be seen, the "Pledge System" works not only for the financial benefit of the Church but, by drawing attention to the needs and works of the Church, it can also draw the entire parish into participation in that work. In turn the Church, herself, can more effectively minister to her parishioners.

Surely, the people of the Long Island Armenian Parish are to be congratulated. They have built a beautiful Church and, in adopting and subscribing to the "Pledge System", they have endowed her with the means by which she may more truly serve.

THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE



FROM the moment the idea of building an Armenian Church on Long Island was conceived, to its glorious completion, our Publicity Committee, with the full cooperation of the Press, did an outstanding job.

Progress reports, news releases, articles of interest appeared constantly, keeping the entire community always well informed on all phases of our activities.

Publicity doesn't just happen, as everyone knows. It requires hard work, sacrifice and professional

know-how. We were extremely fortunate in having Mr. Garo Artinian as Chairman of the Publicity Committee and Mr. Krikor Hartunian, his assistant, as well as Mrs. Esther Kimatian. Because of their knowledge, experience and great devotion to the Armenian Church, they were able to bring to our readers all important aspects of our community life.

Now that the building of the Church is completed, publicity is done through the church office.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Armenian and American Press and to our Publicity Committee.

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RICHARD K. GREGORY
Chairman, Consecration Committee



AM grateful to our Pastor and the Parish Council of our Church for appointing me General Chairman of the Consecration Committee.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Garo Artinian, Chairman of the Booklet Committee; Mrs. Artin Aslanian, Chairman of the Dinner Committee; Mr. Vahe Hampar, Chairman of the Consecration Campaign Committee; Mr. Yervant Hampar, Chairman of the Ceremonies Committee; and Mr. Albert Nargizian, Chairman of the Publicity Committee, for their untiring efforts to make this day a memorable one in every respect.

Thanks are also due to the members of the various committees for their important contributions in making our Consecration Day a notable one. The cooperative spirit which has prevailed among our members from the day our Church was first conceived, is a tribute to our Parish. With such spirit, our Church will truly be a place of worship for all Armenians on Long Island and a center of community activity.

We look to the past with pride of achievement. We look to the future with confidence that we will carry on the glorious and sacred traditions of our Mother Church.

RICHARD K. GREGORY

AN EXPRESSION OF SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS
TO MY CO-WORKERS



It has been a great privilege to work with the wonderful people who have made up the Consecration Committee. Without their dedicated help and untiring efforts it would not have been possible to prepare this book which brings to the members of our Church the full story of the efforts, trials, the sacrifices and triumphs which have gone into the building of the Long Island Armenian Church – from the moment of its inception to its proud completion. Today it stands as a living symbol of our faith in God and of our gratitude to Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

My sincere gratitude and thanks to the following:

Edward Karnikian and the Manhattan Typesetting Corp. for setting type for the entire Consecration Booklet at nominal cost to us.

Nubar Dorian, Mary Selvinazian and Virgiina Chekijian for their editorial assistance and proof-reading.

Henry Mavian for his leadership in securing sponsors for this book with the able assistance of: Haig Agababian, Souren Allalemdjian, George Bashian, Dikran Cherchian, Anthony Dilimetin, Vahe Hajinlian and Martin Kapoian.

Esther Kimatian for her painstaking research and preparation of the History of our Church.

Arax Exerjian, Odette Damadian, Hagop Nersoyan, Harry K. Shalian, Haig Shiroyan and Yeretzkin Megherian for the preparation of several of the articles in this book, and their editorial assistance.

Henry Mavian and the Lafayette Photo Engraving Co. for the generous donation of expensive color plates used on the cover of this publication.

Paul Chaputian and the Edison Photo Engraving Co. for supplying other photoengraving plates.

Digeorge, who designed the Consecration Booklet, giving unselfishly of his time and talent to produce the front cover and the initial letters – the product of extensive research from ancient Armenian texts.

Bud Freeman, associate of Digeorge, for his invaluable suggestions.

My profound thanks to the many individuals and business enterprises who sacrificed the accepted method of sponsorship and advertising, and by their generous contributions, not only made this consecration book possible, but also aided the Church financially.

And finally, special thanks to all others who through word or act made their contribution to the success of this project. More so to those who may have rendered unique services and who merit specific mention, but whose names may have been inadvertently overlooked.

Garo Artinian, *Chairman*
Consecration Book Committee

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

Filed in the office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on June 22, 1954

We, the undersigned, DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN, presiding officer, and YERVANT HAMPAR and GEORGE BASHIAN, do hereby certify as follows:

1. A notice of the meeting of the members of LONG ISLAND ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, an unincorporated religious association should be incorporated, was duly given in pursuance of Sections 191 and 193 of the Religious Corporations Law, and such meeting was held in accordance therewith on the 18th day of June, 1954, at 8:00 o'clock in the evening of said day, at which meeting a majority of the duly qualified voters of said unincorporated religious association, being at least (6) in number, were present.

2. DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN was the presiding officer of such meeting and YERVANT HAMPAR, GEORGE BASHIAN, HENRY SAHAKIAN, JOHN K. KARNIG, VAHE HAMPAR and ZAREH KAPIKIAN were present and voted thereat.

3. At such meeting, it was duly determined to incorporate such unincorporated religious association in pursuance to Article 10 of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York.

4. The name of the proposed corporation as decided upon at such meeting is LONG ISLAND ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH.

5. The principal objects and purposes for which this Corporation is to be formed as follows:

(a) To establish and maintain a church for religious worship and prayer in accordance with the traditions, practice, customs and usages of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

(b) To conduct and maintain services for divine worship and religious observance, in accordance with the traditions, practice, customs and usages of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

(c) To establish and maintain a school for the teachings of the Armenian language, traditions, and religious education.

(d) To conduct and maintain a community center for communal interests which will strengthen the ties of its members and worshippers to one another and to the community as a whole.

(e) This religious corporation shall function in accordance with the laws, regulations, practice, discipline, customs, rules and usages of the

Armenian Apostolic Church and be under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, a religious corporation of the State of New York, with its principal office presently at 630 Second Avenue, in the City, County and State of New York.

6. The principal place of worship of such Corporation is to be located in the County of Queens, City and State of New York.

7. The number of Trustees decided upon at such meeting was nine (9).

8. The names of the Trustees elected at such meeting to hold office until the first annual election are respectively as follows:

JACK HAZARD	148-50 59th Ave., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
GARO ARTINIAN	77 Blenheim Drive, Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.
ZAREH KAPIKIN	172-14 32nd Ave., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.

9. The names of the Trustees elected at such meeting to hold office until the second annual election are as follows:

HENRY SAHAKIAN	11-56 67th Drive, Forest Hills, L. I., N. Y.
JOHN K. KARNIG	27-09 Little Neck Blvd., Bayside, L. I., N. Y.
VAHE HAMPAR	33-05 Utopia Parkway, Flushing, L. I., N. Y.

10. The names of the Trustees elected at such meeting to hold office until the third annual election are respectively as follows:

DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN	219 Kensett Road, Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.
YERVANT HAMPAR	36-36 167th Street, Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
GEORGE BASHIAN	125 Boulder Road, Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.

11. The date fixed by such meeting for holding of the first annual election of the Trustees of such Corporation was the 28th day of January, 1955.

12. That all of the members of the Corporation are of full age and residents of the State of New York, and at least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of them are citizens of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto affixed our seals and signed our names this 21st day of June, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

(signed) DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN

(signed) YERVANT HAMPAR

(signed) GEORGE BASHIAN

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

ss.:

On this 21st day of June, 1954, before me personally came DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN, YERVANT HAMPAR and GEORGE BASHIAN, to me known and known to me to be the same persons described in, and who executed, the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation, and they thereupon severally duly acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

KENNETH C. SCHWARTZ
Notary Public, State of New York



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Mr. & Mrs. John Pilibosian
and Family

Mr. & Mrs. H. Tevonian

Mr. Avedis H. Melkonian

Mr. Ardash Poladian

C. Thienel's, Florist

Mr. & Mrs. Haig Mergerian

Mr. & Mrs. Aramais Safarian

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Robert Moomjian

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