

ADDENDUM VI

PRESENTED TO THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

by Yeretzgin Patricia Buttero

May 4, 1996 - King of Prussia, PA - 10th Annual Women's Guild Assembly

Your Eminence, Honored Clergy, Diocesan Delegates, and Guests:

As Chairman of the Women's Guild Central Council, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to bring you greetings of the Women's Guild Central Council. Even though this was on short notice, the women are always ready to respond to the call of duty.

I will not talk about all our achievements because you can read about them in the Diocesan Annual Report. But know this much about our Women's Guilds -- we have 1,851 dues paying members -- out of 47 parishes in our Diocese, not including our mission parishes, 46 parishes are active in supporting the Central Council. Three of the 46 parishes re-organized their Women's Guild in 1995 and one is organizing a Young Women's Guild.

The Council is made up of nine dedicated members. The primary goal of the W.G.C.C. is to help individual Guilds be of assistance to their parishes. We constantly encourage our Guilds to sponsor retreats and conferences.

We are excited about our Pilgrimage to Armenia, scheduled for June of this year. One of the highlights of the Pilgrimage will be a visit to Boarding School #21 in Stepanavan. Over \$10,000 was sent to FAR to assist in the renovation of the school. This money came from all the Women's Guilds for the Earthquake Fund.

The School Bag Committee has raised an additional \$15,000 which will enable us to send another thousand bags filled with supplies and materials this summer. Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian has been Chairman since the beginning.

Women Saints Day was successfully held in many parishes throughout our Diocese, coordinated by Araxy Gokberk.

Another on-going project of the W.G.C.C. is the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program or CASP, headed by Julie Ashekian and ably assisted by her husband, Clement. You have all received in your packets the CASP Report. To date, we are sponsoring 1,500 children which includes four orphanages. In addition to the 1,500, 400 children have received assistance through the CASP Program and have reached the age of 18 and others have relocated. There are more than 800 sponsors accounting \$576,000 of which \$194,000 was brought in, in 1995. Six hundred (600)

donors, including in lieu of flowers and various fundraisers, this accounts for \$107,000. Forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000) was brought in, in 1995. To date, \$411,000 has been taken over to Armenia for distribution and expenses. At the request of CASP, an audit was done for 1994 and an audit for 1995. Both audits were sent to the Diocese at the time it was requested.

I would publicly like to thank Julie, a special woman, who has given of herself to the CASP Program, along with her husband Clement, they have generously given of their time -- 24 hours a day -- and their home to this program. Julie and Clement have demonstrated, in their own sincere and modest way -- with grace and dignity -- their passionate interest in the welfare of Armenia's children. May God bless them and their family with good health so that they may continue to do His will. As Julie has completed her term of office on the Council, she will continue as CASP Coordinator.

We are proud to be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Women's Guild Central Council.

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