

93rd Diocesan Assembly

Attending the 93rd Diocesan Assembly from our Parish were our Pastor, Der Sahag Kaishian, Parish Council Chairlady, Zarty Chilingirian and myself. Hosting the Assembly was our sister church Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church of Chelmsford, MA.

The 93rd Diocesan Assembly began the First Plenary Session on Thursday, May 4, 1995 - 2:00 P.M. at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Nashua, NH with our Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presiding over the Assembly. All Plenary Sessions were held at the Sheraton Tara Hotel.

First Plenary Session

The Assembly elected Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian of St. John's Armenian Church - Southfield, Michigan to Chair the Assembly. With 107 Delegates present at the first session, the newly elected delegates were confirmed. We witnessed a video tape of His Holiness Karekin I's message to our Assembly.

Courtesies Committee was appointed, which included me. Nominating Committee Chairman, Sahag Sahagian read names of those to be elected to the Diocesan Council; Diocesan Board of Trustees; Nominating Committee, Proposals Committee and Auditing Committee. A report of the Clergy Conference was given by Deacon George Devejian. Mr. Zaven Kasparian read the report of the New England Regional Diocese. St. Nersess Seminary report was presented and accepted. Mr. Victor Arzoomanian gave a report of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) and Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR). A report of the Unity Committee was presented by Mr. Zarvin Kasparian in which he stated that the Prelacy has presently stalled proceedings.

Second Plenary Session

Elections were the first order of business Friday morning May 5, 1995 after the 2nd Plenary Session came to order. The Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presented his message to the delegation. Panel discussions which included: Religious Vocations, Armenian Heritage, Total Youth Ministry,

Christian Mission and Outreach at Home and Abroad, Diocesan Administration and Structure, Stewardship & Development commence in assigned rooms at 10:00 AM. The Second Plenary Session resumed at 2:00 P.M.. Reports of the following were presented and accepted: ACYOA;Choir Association;Woman's Guild;Clergy Stipend Committee;Diocesan Council;Auditing Committee and Proposals Committee.

Third Plenary Session

The 3rd Plenary Session commenced Saturday, May 6, 1995 at 8:45 AM. Within all 3 sessions of the Assembly, it took six ballots to complete elections of various committee offices. Elected to the Diocesan Council were: The Very Reverend Haigazoun Melkonian (our former pastor), Reverend Yeprem Kelegian, Mr. Haig Dadourian, His Honor Vincent Gurahian and Dr. Dennis Papazian.

All panel discussion reports were presented.

Reverend Dr. Joan Campbell, General Secretary of The National Council of Churches of Christ, reported on the special Task Force visit to Armenia and meeting with the new Supreme Patriarch, Catholicos of all Armenians, His Holiness Karekin I. Reverend Dr. Campbell's report included a video of their trip.

The Assembly adopted a budget of 3.5 million dollars for 1995-1996.

The Courtesies Committee report was received by the Assembly.

The 94th Diocesan Assembly site for next year will be hosted by St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Wynnwood, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul S. Tavitian
Diocesan Delegate