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ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH

678 RICHMOND ROAD

RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143

ANNUAL REPORT - 1996

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Կիրակի, Փետրուար 23, 1997 - ժամը 1:00-ին յետ միջօրէի

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, February 23, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER BEFORE MEETINGS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Jesus, Wisdom of the Father/ give me wisdom to always think and speak and do what
is good in your sight./ Save me from evil thoughts/ words and deeds./
Have mercy on all your creatures/ and on me, a sinner.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit/
now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen

PRAYER AFTER MEETINGS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
O Christ, Guardian of all/ may your right hand shelter me/ during the day and at night/
at home and while traveling/ while asleep and awake/ that I may never fall./
Have mercy on all your creatures/ and on me, a sinner.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit/
now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen

RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

"All persons who have been baptized and confirmed in the Armenian Church, who accept its doctrines, canons and rites, and who fulfill their obligations to the church and community, shall be members in good standing of the Parish Church and shall constitute the Parish Assembly."

"Every member of the Parish, 21 years of age or over, shall pay the church an annual dues."

"Members in good standing of a Parish Church, who are twenty-one years of age or older, may participate in the assemblies of the same parish and may vote, provided that at least six months have elapsed since the date of their registration as members of the Parish and their dues have been paid. They may be eligible for office one year after becoming members."

"Members who fail to pay their dues for one or more years, automatically forfeit their right to vote at Parish Assemblies, or to hold elective office within the Parish. Such members may reinstate these rights by payment of their dues in arrears for at least the previous two years."

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARISH ASSEMBLY

"The agenda of the Parish Assembly shall be prepared by the Parish Priest and the Parish Council. Other matters of new business may be added by majority vote of the Parish Assembly."

"At Parish Assemblies the presence of a minimum of one-third of the eligible voting membership or fifty members shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be rendered by majority vote of members present and voting."

"In a Parish Assembly each member shall be entitled to one vote which is not transferable and must cast in person."

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1997

AGENDA

Opening Prayer & Prayer for Deceased Parish Members

1. Welcoming Remarks by Very Reverend Father Simeon Odabashian, Pastor
Welcoming Remarks by Sebouh Setrakian, Parish Council Chairman
2. Verification of Dues Paying Members
3. Election of Parish Assembly Officers
 - A. Chairman
 - B. Secretary
4. Minutes of the 1996 Annual Parish Assembly
Minutes of the May 19, 1996, Special Parish Assembly
5. Elections - Conducted by Nominating Committee
 - A. Parish Council: 3 to be elected
 - B. Nominating Committee: 3 to be elected
 - C. Auditing Committee: 3 to be elected
 - D. Diocesan Delegate: 1 to be elected
6. Old and New Business
 - 1997 Diocesan Assembly
 - St. Gregory of Narek Endowment Fund
7. Parish Council Activities/Financial Report
8. Approval of 1997 Budget
9. Diocesan Delegate's Report
10. Parish Auxiliary Reports
11. Election Results
12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

MINUTES OF THE 1995 PARISH ASSEMBLY

**ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1996

Opening Prayer and Prayer for Deceased Parish Members

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by Deacon Norman Odabashian. He opened the meeting with a special prayer for the deceased members of our church. He commented that he had a memorable visit to Armenia and wished that all would one day have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage. He read part of the Catholicos' message delivered on the occasion of his enthronement.

Welcoming Remarks by Deacon Norman Odabashian, Deacon-in-Charge

Deacon Norman gratefully acknowledged Parish Council and other individuals who volunteer their services.

Deacon Norman advised the Assembly that there is a cloud over our church due to a misappropriation of funds by David Andonian, Treasurer. He said that this should be considered as a problem within our family and that one person's mistake not take apart the whole church family. "Repay no one evil with evil" from St. Paul's letter. Deacon Norman read a letter of apology received from David Andonian. (Attachment 1)

Welcoming Remarks by Mona Karoglanian, Parish Council Chairman

Mona Karoglanian, Parish Council Chairman, gave her welcoming remarks and thanked all of the volunteers who serve our church.

Verification of Dues-Paying Members

As Thelma Bagdasarian took roll call, copies of the 1995 Annual Report were distributed to each dues-paying member. 63 members were present (64% of the dues-paying member church body), constituting a quorum.

Election of Parish Assembly Officers

Mona Karoglanian invited the Nominating Committee to conduct the election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day, taking additional nominations from the floor.

Chairman of the Day

Russell Arslanian

Eileen Hacherian (from the floor)

Secretary of the Day

Anna Karayan

Cindy Russell (from the floor)

- **Note:** Nominations, elections and announcement of election results were handled by the Nominating Committee at various times as the Parish Assembly meeting progressed.

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Since the Annual Report was not sent to the dues-paying members prior to the Annual Parish Assembly, a motion was made, seconded and passed to have the 1995 Annual Meeting minutes read aloud. This was done by Serop Demirjian, Parish Council Recording Secretary.

Additions to the minutes were made by Ara Bagdasarian referring to page 2, paragraph 1, regarding the Sewer Update. He pointed out that the referred to details were not attached. Mona said that this will be corrected.

George Sakian asked that the Senior Citizen dues reduction matter referred to in the minutes be clarified. Mona said the issue could be discussed under Old and New Business. Anita Arpajian moved to accept the 1995 minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Paul Arslanian. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, the Nominating Committee announced that Russell Arslanian was elected Chairman of the Day and Anna Karayan, Secretary of the Day.

Russell Arslanian thanked Dick Aursanian for the efficient manner in which he conducted last year's Annual Meeting and ending it before 4:00 P.M. Before this year's Annual Meeting got underway, Russell made two comments to the Assembly:

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

- The Secretary of the day, Anna Karayan, will be taping the proceedings, along with taking notes. Tape recordings will aid in transcription.
- Only dues-paying members' comments will be accepted by the Chair.

Russell said that since the misappropriation of funds issue is controversial, the Chair will allow everybody to speak and not allow any one person to dominate the discussion.

• Elections - Parish Council

There were two additional candidates nominated from the floor, completing the slate for the election of four (4) new members to the Parish Council.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Archie Andonian | Debra Vendetti-Svete (from the Floor) |
| Vladimir Arutyunov | Paul Arslanian (from the floor) |
| Ara Bagdasarian | |
| Sebouh Setrakian | |
| Arek Torosian | |
| Thelma Bagdasarian | |

Discussion - "Misappropriation of Funds" Issue

Archie Andonian requested that the misappropriation issue be resolved before election of Parish Council. Sam Mirakian agreed by stating that the financial status of the church is important when Parish Council will make decisions regarding maintenance and any undertaking of progressive church activities.

Russell said that the misappropriation issue will come up for discussion under Item 6 of the Agenda. Sam said that the letter from David Andonian makes the picture clear, that the community wants to know how much money was misappropriated.

With a majority vote, by the show of hands, it was decided that the meeting progress with the Agenda format (Attachment 2)

Sam Mirakian requested a Treasurer's Report. Archie Andonian requested that his name be removed from the slate of names for election to Parish Council.

There was discussion regarding David Andonian's admission of wrong-doing. Jack Hacherian said it appears that the community wants to know the amount of money that was misappropriated. Russell asked Jay to provide this information.

Jay Bagdasarian said the total amount is approximately \$22,500. Referring to the 1995 Annual Report, he walked everyone through the various figures as they appeared in the St. Gregory of Narek Financial Statement (for year ending 12/31/95) - both the Income and Expenditure pages found in the 1995 Annual Report (Attachments 3 and 4). Jay pointed out the item "Misappropriated Funds" on each page, together, totaling approximately \$22,500.

Jay continued. The Auditing Committee was made aware of the misappropriation of funds on February 10, 1996, the date of a scheduled meeting. The committee had unsuccessfully tried to meet numerous times with the Treasurer to audit the books. David Andonian informed Mona Karoglanian, by telephone, that there was a problem. David was contacted by the Auditing Committee who advised him to bring all of his records to the meeting. David attended the meeting, at which time he surrendered the Treasury records. Parish Council then promptly removed David Andonian from all signature cards. On February 11, 1996, the Auditing Committee turned over a post-dated check for \$10,457.94 (received from David Andonian on February 10, 1996) to the Assistant Treasurer, Robert Bagdasarian.

In order to determine the extent of misappropriation of funds, the Auditing Committee is in the process of reviewing the Treasurer's records for 1993 and 1996. (The Treasurer's records for 1994 and 1995 were part of the Financial Report presented at the 1995 Parish Assembly.) David Andonian served as Treasurer from 1993 to February 10, 1996.

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Discussion - "Misappropriation of Funds" Issue (Continued)

There was concerned discussion regarding this issue and the restitution of the misappropriated funds by David. Paul Arslanian asked if there was an unfortunate demise of David, who would be liable for the restitution of the funds--his wife? Russell said that it was a valid point and this question should be considered by the Parish Council in resolving this issue. Jay advised that there is an on-going investigation by the Auditing Committee. The committee has requested the involved banks to provide 1994 records, consisting of microfiches of deposits and fronts and backs of checks handled.

Jay assured the Parishioners that the results of the Auditing Committee's investigation of this matter will be made known to them.

Russell invited Jay to present the Auditing Committee's suggested list of controls to be put in place when anyone deals with church funds. Jay presented the following four recommendations:

- That all weekly income (cash or checks) is to be tabulated by someone other than the Treasurer. The Treasurer then takes the money and deposits it. Thus, there is separation of collection, counting and actual depositing.
- The checking account should be reconciled by someone other than the person handling the cash.
- Each disbursement should be reviewed by Parish Council each month for their appropriateness.
- All church checks should require 2 signatures--signed by the custodial and non-custodial holder.

John Benneian suggested that the Treasurer should be bonded.

Russell said that the appropriate way of addressing this issue is only after all the related information is obtained and that there is no definitive way of saying how the matter is going to be handled.

Archie Andonian reiterated his deep concern about the misappropriation issue saying it is a matter of principle. There was a grievous violation of trust. The church was taken advantage of by this unconscionable act. He said the amount is secondary and again asked the Chair, "how is the matter is going to be dealt with?"

Russell assured Archie that the matter is in the hands of the Diocese. The reason for presenting the issue to the Parishioners is that there has been rampant amounts of rhetoric and hear-say about the matter and that it is incumbent on the Parish Council and Auditing Committee to disclose what has happened and to alleviate any concern of Parishioners who may feel they are not being informed of church matters. It would appear that it is most inappropriate at this time for the Parish Council to state how the matter is going to be resolved.

Naz Yessayan said that at the Parish Council meeting, Deacon Norman was clear, saying that he spoke with the Diocese and the Arch Bishop. The guidance given to him was, "get the money as fast as possible, and if we can't get the money to proceed with legal action to obtain funds."

Old and New Business

Continuing Discussion - "Misappropriation of Funds Issue"

Mona Karoglian explained that during the absence of Deacon Norman, on behalf of the Parish Council, she spoke with the Primate. She was advised to try to collect the money, get an admission of wrong-doing and an agreement to pay back the money. Mona stated that we are under the direction of the Diocese. If the funds cannot be collected, then the Diocesan Council will direct us how to proceed. She said the first ideal situation is to get the money ourselves.

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Old and New Business (Continued)

Continuing Discussion - "Misappropriation of Funds Issue"

Jack Hacherian said that he participated in the meetings regarding this issue as the Diocesan Delegate. He advised the Council that the Primate would not be able to make a rational judgment without the total facts.

After substantial information was gathered, the Parish Council, the Auditing Committee and Jack agreed to advise the Primate. Because there was concern of liability, caution was exercised. The apologetic letter from David Andonian read by Deacon Norman at the beginning of the Assembly meeting acknowledging his mishandling of funds is an admission. Jack assured the Parishioners that we are on the right track.

Sam Mirakian urged Archie Andonian to have his name put back on the slate for Parish Council election. Archie consented.

1997 Diocesan Assembly - Cleveland

(Co-Chairmen: Mona Karoglanian and Eileen Hacherian)

Mona Karoglanian read a list of activities planned for the Diocesan Assembly which will take place May 1 through May 4, 1997, to be hosted by St. Gregory of Narek. (See attached Exhibit for outline of activities scheduled.)

Mona reviewed the preliminary work done by the Co-Chairmen. She said that some committees have been formed--work is underway.

- Due to the nomination of Arek Torosian to Parish Council, Dr. Todd Russell replaced him on the Nominating Committee.

Sam Mirakian asked Mona how much money is needed up front for the preparation of our Diocesan Assembly sponsorship? Mona said that \$5,000 are needed initially for deposits and preliminary expenses with a possible return of about \$15,000, or \$20,000.

Fund Raising - Dr. Sebouh Setrakian

Sebouh presented two charts depicting projected income and necessary projects requiring substantial funds:

| <u>FUND-RAISING INCOME</u> | | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| (Projected) \$100,000/3 Year | | Projects | |
| Diocesan Assembly | \$ 15,000 | Sewer Tie | \$ 50,000 |
| 3-Year Pledge | 30,000 | Face Lifting-Church Property | 50,000 |
| Weekly Fish Fry | 15,000 | -Re-Carpeting | |
| Raffle with Cash | 30,000 | -Painting Church (Inside) | |
| Dinner with Pledges | 10,000 | -Landscaping - Repairs | |
| Car Raffle | | -Altar Curtain - Signage | |
| Instant Bingo | | -Church Doors, Frames, Lobby | |
| Weekly Bingo | | -Parish House Repairs | |

Thelma Bagdasarian, Finance Committee member, requested Parishioners submit ideas for fund raising, advising any members of the Finance Committee. Mary Arslanian suggested regular Pancake Breakfasts.

Sebouh carefully detailed and discussed each items listed on the above charts. There was discussion. Sebouh said that if funds cannot be raised, that the Parish Council would have to resort to Parish Savings.

Sam Mirakian asked about the sewer project. Ara Bagdasarian gave an overview of what had transpired last year when the Whitlatch extended an offer to tie in with the Whitlatch Development's sewer. Due to David Andonian's negative presentation to not sell the back 3 acres and with respect to our church's financial stability, the Whitlatch Development issue was defeated. Ara said that the church would have realized \$120,000 clear, deposited in our bank accounts from the sale of the back unused 3-acre site. The Whitlatch Company would install the new sewer system and absorb the cost of approximately \$50,000.

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Fund Raising - Dr. Sebouh Setrakian (Continued)

Ara asked the Assembly if it would like the Sewer Committee to re-pursue the offer that had been made by Whitlatch. There was discussion regarding whether Whitlatch would reconsider and make a similar offer. Naz Yessayan said that Whitlatch may reconsider if there would be enough home units that could be built on the 3 acre site. George Sakian said that he received a call from Whitlatch who said they want approvals in place before they will reconsider, and give us another chance.

• Elections - Parish Council and Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee returned and announced that the following individuals were elected to Parish Council:

Archi Andonian
Vladimir Arutunoyov
Ara Bagdasarian
Dr. Sebouh Setrakian

Nominees for Nominating Committee were taken from the floor.

Mary Arslanian
Alice Bagdasarian

Anita Arpajian (from the floor)
Dina Aurslanian (from the floor)
Leslie Bagdasarian (from the floor)
Serop Demirjian (from the floor)
Margarite Yeranosian (from the floor)

Hall Rental - George Sakian

George reported that the 2 Caterers, Gena Pasquale Aveni and her brother, Raymond Pasquale, have paid all of their debts. George referred to the report published in the 1995 Annual Report which recapitulates hall usage and rental income profit. 1995 revenue from Caterers, with kitchen use, totaled \$32,386.50. George stated that all revenue was turned over to the Treasurer and that he has documentation of all receipts and related funds as they were relinquished to David Andonian for the years 1994 and 1995. George said that he has requested Deacon Norman to provide a cost analysis of the hall operation. It was recommended that a Profit and Loss Statement be presented to Parish Council. Jack Hacherian said that figures are needed to arrive at a statement. On behalf of the community, Sam Mirakian commended George on the fine job he is doing. George said the work is time-consuming. He said the work is voluntary, that his heart is in his service to the church.

Old Business

The matter of Senior Citizen church members' reduced dues was discussed. It was suggested by Louise Demirjian that it be an individual decision. Russell suggested that the Parish Council should draft a policy regarding the Senior Citizen Church dues issue.

• Elections - Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee returned and announced the elected individuals to the new Nominating Committee:

Mary Arslanian
Alice Bagdasarian
Serop Demirjian

• Elections - Auditing Committee

The Nominating Committee took nominees for Auditing Committee from the floor:

Lisa Richardson
Cindy Russell

Debra Vendetti-Svete (from the floor)
Murad Demirjian (from the floor)
Russell Arslanian (from the floor)
Leslie Bagdasarian (from the floor)

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Sewer Project Update - Arek Torosian

Arek reported that the committee met with the sewer engineering contractor, Stephen Hovancsek and Associates to determine what course the Parish should take. Serop wondered whether the project could be placed on "hold" considering the possibility of the Whitlatch project reopening? Ara Bagdasarian advised that we not wait. It was pointed out that the sewer matter had to be taken care of as soon as possible. Naz Yessayan asked whether there is a record of what the current septic tank is costing us? Arek responded there is no study. He said that the present septic tank set up does not necessitate immediate concern. Arek said that when there is a sewer tie-in, the church will be assessed sewer charges and that the sooner the tie-in takes place, the better. Arek said there was a decision made at the previous meeting that we connect to the man hole provided by the developer vs. connecting to the street. Costs have been incurred which had never been considered.

- Alice Hacherian stated that when dues-paying members leave the meeting prior to adjournment, they make it known to the roll caller at the Parish Council desk to save time.

Parish Council Activities/Financial Report

Mona Karoglanian said that on Saturday, February 10, 1996 David Andonian admitted he had taken substantial money from church funds. Jay Bagdasarian requested him to bring his records. The Auditing Committee spent more than 100 hours going over the records maintained during David's term of office as Treasurer (1993 through February 10, 1996). The Diocese has full knowledge of what has transpired.

Mona said that Parish Council has approved safeguards which were spelled out by Jay Bagdasarian. A meeting was held with Deacon Norman, Auditing Committee, Jack Hacherian (Diocesan Delegate-Representation) and Parish Council. The Parish Council was advised that restitution would be made. A check (post-dated February 13) in the amount of \$10,457 and some cents, was deposited against no funds. Check has since been re-deposited.

Approval of 1996 Budget

Dina Aurslanian moved that the 1996 Budget be approved. Haig Arpajian seconded. Motion passed. Arek Torosian said that the projected amount of \$50,000 for the sewer project may not be used in 1996, or the project may exceed the amount budgeted.

Elections - Auditing Committee

Newly elected members of the Auditing Committee are:

Russell Arslanian
Lisa Richardson
Cindy Russell

Parish Auxiliary Reports

Sam Mirakian moved to accept all reports submitted by auxiliary organizations. Alex Bagdasarian seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes Reference/Correction

Elizabeth Zadnik pointed out that her late mother's name, Mrs. Rose Kalousdian, was not listed with other Armenian community members who passed away in 1995. She referred to Page 6 of the Annual Report. Russell accepted the omission. Deacon Norman said the reason for the omission was that the services were performed outside of the Armenian Church rites.

Elizabeth complimented the community and the Parish Council on the dignified manner in which the misappropriation of funds issue is being handled.

Finance Committee

Jay Bagdasarian reported that Deacon Norman initiated the Finance Committee in 1995 for the purpose of prudent investment of church funds to realize better return. Parish Council indicated to the Finance Committee that they wanted the funds invested for a maturity of one (1) year or less. Presently, the yield on our funds is 5.3% to 5.5% compared to a former yield

Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly

Finance Committee (Continued)

of 2.3% The desire of the committee is to later use accumulated interest moneys for further investment in higher yield products. The Finance Committee members are:

Archie Andonian
(David Andonian)
Jay Bagdasarian

Thelma Bagdasarian
Serop Demirjian
Jack Hacherian

Annual Assembly Minutes

George Sakian said that upon completion and approval of the transcription of the Parish Assembly Meeting minutes, they should be mailed to all dues-paying members within 30 days rather than waiting until the next annual meeting for reading about what transpired. Jeannette Aurslian suggested that the minutes could be posted on the bulletin board for reading by Church members. Anita Arpajian said that the minutes would be exposed to those other than dues-paying members. Sam Mirakian added that restricted information would become known by those other than dues-paying members. There was further discussion regarding the dissemination of the minutes. Alice Hacherian suggested inserting the minutes in a PAROS (church news publication) mailing.

A motion was made by George Sakian that upon completion of the minutes as prepared by the Secretary of the day, the minutes are to be mailed to every dues-paying member within 90 days. Sam Mirakian seconded. Motion passed.

Thelma Bagdasarian pointed out that the minutes cannot be disbursed without Diocesan approval of the minutes and of the elected individuals. The motion was amended to include the phrase: "and after Diocesan approval" inserted before "the minutes are to be mailed...within 90 days."

Motion correctly reads as follows:

"Upon completion of the minutes as prepared by the Secretary of the Day and after Diocesan approval, the minutes are to be mailed to every dues-paying member within 90 days."

Sandy Arslanian asked whether the community would be made aware of the outcome of the meeting regarding the "misappropriation of funds". Russell said the Parish Council, Deacon Norman and the Diocese will determine whether a special parish meeting will be called or how the issue will be communicated.

Ara Bagdasarian commended Jay Bagdasarian, Cindy Russell and Archie Andonian for their handling of the "misappropriation of funds" issue. Archie said that he was unable to participate completely because of his being out of town. Ara thanked Deacon Norman for his guidance and leadership. He thanked Alan Borozanian, Attorney, for volunteer legal research work (concerning the issue) rendered to the church.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Alex Bagdasarian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Arslanian seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Deacon Norman closed the meeting with a few remarks and commendations. He thanked the officers of the day for their work and thanked the parishioners for their attendance.

After closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

- Respectfully submitted.

Russell Arslanian
Russell Arslanian
Chairman of the Day 3/17/96

Anna Karayan, 3/17/96
Anna Karayan
Secretary of the Day



Report of the Deacon In Charge and Pastor January - December 1996

Introduction

I begin this report with a word of thanks to our most gracious triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For it is in His name that during 1996 we continued forth as faithful parishioners of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church.

I am thankful to all our parishioners who through their active participation in the life and worship of the Church, beautifully expressed their love and respect for Christ and His Holy Church. In this context I am most appreciative of all the individuals who willingly gave of their precious time and talents in Parish Council, Choir, ACYOA, Women's Guild, Church School and Social Club.

Absence from Duty

In 1996 I served as Deacon In Charge for just under ten months. From January 22 - February 19 I took a leave of absence in Armenia. June 7 - 17 I accompanied the Diocesan Young Professional's Trip to Armenia. For the entire month of December I was on my post-ordination retreat at St. Nersess Seminary.

Worship Life and Visiting Clergy

Sunday is the major day of the week when all Christians gather to worship the risen Lord. On most Sundays of the year we worshipped using portions of the Night Office, Morning Office and the complete Midday Office with the distribution of pre-sanctified holy communion. For each Sunday I prepared a bulletin and delivered a sermon based on the commemoration and readings of the day. On most occasions the sermon was given in both Armenian and English.

On the majority of Sundays, worship was followed by fellowship in the Cultural Hall. I am thankful to the many individuals who volunteered to host fellowships on various occasions. One Sunday a month we honored the children born that month.

Thanks to the assistance of our Diocese I was able to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgy as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| January 7 | Armenian Christmas - Reverend Father Haik Donikian |
| April 7 | Easter - Reverend Father Diran Papazian |
| May 26 | Benefactors' Memorial Day - Reverend Father Haik Donikian |
| June 16 | Father's Day - Reverend Father Diran Papazian |
| June 30 | Very Reverend Father Vahan Hovhannessian |
| August 18 | Feast of the Assumption - Reverend Father Diran Papazian |
| September 1 | Reverend Father Diran Papazian |
| September 29 | Feast of the Holy Cross - Reverend Father Diran Papazian |
| October 20 | Cultural Day - Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian |
| December 1 | Ordination - Archbishop Khajag Barsamian |
| December 22 | Western Christmas - Reverend Father Diran Papazian |

Requiem services were held as requested. On the Sundays of Lent I conducted the Sunrise Office and on Wednesdays of Lent with poor attendance the Peace and Rest Offices. The exception to this was Wednesday, March 13 when the Women's Guild held its *Michink* Dinner, followed by the Women Saints Commemoration.

The services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were conducted by the Reverend Father Diran Papazian with the participation of our deacon, choir, altar servers and faithful.

I cannot express appreciation enough for the commitment of our deacons and choir, who travel long distances to keep the liturgical traditions alive. Special thanks to Deacon Serop Demirjian who faithfully conducted worship in my absence. Also, Anita Arpajian is to be commended for playing the organ and leading the choir simultaneously.

On May 5 and December 29 no services were held.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of **Holy Baptism** was administered to the following:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| January 6 | David Hamburg |
| | Aram & Maro Yeranossian |
| June 30 | Samantha Arslanian |
| August 10 | Adam Kallibjian |
| September 1 | John George Richardson |
| September 28 | Jacqueline Kananian |

The Sacrament of **Holy Matrimony** was administered to the following:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| August 16 | Danielle Topalian & Alan Vangar |
| August 31 | Linette Klimczak & Cliff Arslanian |
| September 28 | Melanie Sadar & Ara Aprahamian |
| November 30 | Kathy Asadorian & John Shahinian |

The Rite of **Christian Burial** was administered for:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| February 23 | Levon Alanakyan |
| April 27 | Louise Ohanian |
| May 7 | Anahis Davidian |

Day to Day Activities

Besides my daily office hours, I spent time ministering to the sick and elderly. I visited the work places and homes of parishioners. I held meetings for those preparing for baptism and marriage. Although I had specific office hours, I encouraged parishioners to call at anytime according to their needs.

Parish Life

I led a discussion for a few of our young adults at Catawba Island on July 27. For the fourth year I promoted the MidWest Regional Hye Camp among the youth of our parish. I managed to raise some funds from generous sponsors for children unable to pay their way. I am grateful to Mrs. Alice Patena, who organized the travel to and from camp. Since camp she has volunteered as advisor to the ACYOA Juniors. For the third year in a row August 11-14 I travelled to Hye Camp to be with the youth of our parish and to teach religion.

For six weeks in the fall I conducted a Bible Study for a small group of interested people. Thanks to the initiative and organization of Mrs. Anna Karayan, a local commemoration of 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Choir Association was held on November 10. Lillian Tookman and all former and present choir members were honored. I am most thankful to Mrs. Louise Demirjian and Mrs. Anna Karayan for superintending the Church School during 1996. I have attended meetings and programs of the various organizations of our Church to the best of my ability and as my schedule allowed.

Diocesan Events

I represented our Church during: the visit of His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians January 11-14 in New York City and January 19-20 in Detroit; the Annual Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly hosted by Sts. Sahag Mesrob Armenian Church in Wynnwood, PA - April 29 - May 5; the Choir Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America in New York City - October 24-26; the funeral of the national benefactor, Alex Manoogian, in Detroit, July 18.

Mission Parishes

Under the direction of His Eminence the Primate, I organized divine liturgies for the mission communities of **Columbus** - January 5, April 7, August 18; and **Erie** - January 6, April 8, August 19. I met with the mission parish councils with Reverend Father Nerses Jebejian on September 16 - Erie and September 17 - Columbus.

Ecumenism

A group of women from Church Women United visited our church on April 26. I gave them a tour and an introduction to the Armenian Church. I participated in the local ecumenical group called the Hillcrest Ministerium, which unfortunately stopped meeting in the spring. I continued to bring my active participation to the organizing group of the Eastern Christian Celebrations and Traditions Seminar. In 1996 the group sponsored a lecture by Bishop Kallistos Ware - March 8 at Sts. Helen & Constantine Greek Orthodox Church and the annual seminar on Catholic and Orthodox relations at Notre Dame College - October 11&12. I represented our church at the Episcopal Consecration of Bishop Basil Schott, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma - July 11. I arranged for a meeting with Bishop Anthony Pilla, R.C. Bishop of Cleveland and Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Chancellor of the Armenian Diocese, on October 21. I attended Vespers at St. Mark Coptic Church - November 25 and a banquet in Honor of His Holiness Pope Shenouda, Patriarch of All Copts at the Renaissance Hotel - November 26.

Ordination

December 1, 1996 was the most joyous day of my life as I was ordained a celibate priest of the Armenian Church. Words cannot express the spiritual joy I experienced as His Eminence the Primate anointed me and gave me a new name. On the glorious day of my ordination I was overwhelmed with the united participation of the Armenian community. I give special thanks to Sebouh Setrakian and his committee for seeing to every detail with excellence. I thank the entire community for participating in this great event. I pray that the enthusiasm of that day remains and indeed grows as we go forward to host the Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly in the spring of 1997. I am thankful to all who participated in the services and banquet as well as in the successful fund drive to assist a church school in Armenia.

Conclusion

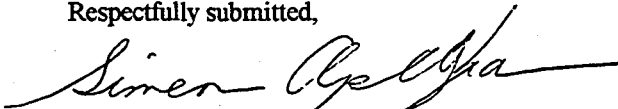
After much prayer and thought I decided to commit myself fully to the service of God as a celibate priest. Fully convinced that there exists no greater love than that of God's for us, I have taken up as a goal the bold preaching of the Holy Gospel of Christ. As we draw near to the new millenium we see each day how uncertain and changing life is. Now is the time to fully embrace the saving truth of God's Word expressed through the timeless liturgical tradition of the Armenian Church. For all the countless hours spent in negative talk about this one or that one, I challenge everyone who reads my words to redirect that energy in a positive and edifying direction by holding up God's holy name and keeping alive our beautiful and preciously unique Armenian tradition for generations to come.

Acknowledgements

Although everyone has contributed in their own way, I would like to express special thanks to the following individuals who have been of great help in keeping St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church alive:

Sebouh Setrakian, parish council chairman and parish council members
Naz Yessayan (treasurer) & Vladimir Arutyunov - church Picnic
Mary Arslanian, rummage sale
Cindy Russell, treasury assistance
Jack Hacherian, diocesan delegate
George Sakian, hall rental & sewer tie-in project
Mona Karoghlanian, diocesan Assembly chairman and her committee
Anita Arpajian, former *Paros* editor
Dina Aurslanian, present *Paros* editor
Sandy Aurslanian & Alice Hacherian, Cultural Day Committee
Sam Mirakian, Tekeyan Armenian Radio Program (WUJC 88.7 FM) for event promotion
AGBU Cleveland Chapter for Armenian Language School and cultural programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Fr. Simeon Apegha Odabashian
Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our Parish had an exciting year. The culminant point of 1996 was the Ordination of the Very Reverend Father Simeon Odabashian. The ceremony was very touching and emotional. Our parishioners labored hard and effectively. Overwhelming crowd participated and became part of our most memorable Ordination weekend. We could not have anticipated a better attendance. The weekend was full of love, humility and good fellowship. We have every good reason to feel proud and fulfilled. We are indeed fortunate to have Father Simeon as our Pastor and spiritual leader.

After a long winter, and the 81st Martyr's day commemoration, we enjoyed a very nice, good spirited picnic where over 300 Armenians enjoyed a day of good food, fun and fellowship. It was a nice big family reunion. Indeed, Vladimir Arutyunov, Naz Yessayan and their committee did a superb job organizing. In August, Mary Arslanian headed with all her enthusiasm the 12th annual ramage sale. On September 6, the diocesan assembly committee hosted a very successful family night kick-off for the 95th Annual Diocesan Assembly in Cleveland. In October, the Women's Guild organized a very interesting cultural day with Miriam Attarian from New York who discussed "Art Forms in Armenian Daily Life." The event was very well received. In November, we honored all past and present choir members of St. Gregory of Narek Church. As always, the Sunday School is vibrant thanks to very dedicated superintendents: Anna Karayan and Louise Demirjian, dedicated teachers and interested children. By the time we will get to our annual assembly, we would be also hosting Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Diocesan Chancellor, and Mr. Dean Shahinian for our program: "How can St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church meet the spiritual and cultural needs of our changing community."

In addition, 1996 has been the year of face-lifting of the St. Gregory of Narek Church compound. Against all odds, we had the sewer-tie project accomplished with a cost of \$48,000. The parking lot was paved and striped. A new roof for the church was installed. A new carpet for the altar was put down. The beauty of the church was enhanced by a new inscription above the main altar, a new oriental carpet for the main altar, a new oriental runner and a new coat hanger for the narthex.

Yes, as far as building, we are ready and have certainly a beautiful church and a facility in tip-top shape. Now, it is time that more of us come together, worship on a regular basis and take advantage of this facility. It is time again to come forward, to be active, take responsibilities and participate in the St. Gregory Armenian Church love and family. We can do it. I encourage everyone to participate and to give as much effort and time as they can, but we need you. Don't be shy from taken responsibilities. If we share all the tasks, it will be much easier on everyone.

It is time to redirect our energies for positive good. Too much is at stake here: our parish and our identity. The future of our parish depends upon us and the inclusion of everyone, particularly the young ones into the governing bodies of the church. We can make of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church a jewel among the Armenian Churches of this country

and a special place for our heritage. We need to work actively together and share our responsibilities. All year long, it has been the aim of the Parish Council to keep communication and harmony among all parishioners and to involve everyone in the responsibility of maintaining a nice community life around our church. We are pleased to see some old timers and new faithful joining our Church.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Parish Council and their families for their dedication to our Church. Indeed, the task of this elected body is very heavy. The Pastor and Parish Council are entrusted with the difficult mission of keeping a parish vibrant, viable and enriched with our religious and cultural traditions as well as financially stable. I would like also to thank every parishioner who helped us during the year in different capacities. Without their help, the Parish Council members alone could not have accomplished all the tasks. I would like particularly to thank everyone who has been helping the Church Service relentlessly every Sunday.

In 1997, we are hosting the 95th Annual Diocesan Assembly in Cleveland. This is a premier for our community. This is a big honor for our Parish to host. Clergy and Diocesan Delegates are eager to visit our Parish and our city. The delegation will be led by his Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The committee has been working very hard for over a year, now it is the time that all of us join efforts and make it a successful event with the usual St. Gregory of Narek hospitality. The participation of everyone would be very meaningful and important to our community.

Let's say, "We are here, we are proud, and we are ready to respond to Father Simeon's challenge to make our Church a prosperous place for our faith."

Selboud Setrakian

1996 Parish Council Annual Report

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Chairman : | Sebouh Setrakian |
| Vice Chairman: | Mona Karoghlanian |
| Secretary: | Archie Andonian |
| Treasurer: | Naz Yessayan |
| Assistant Treasurer: | Robert Bagdasarian |
| Advisors: | Ara Bagdasarian Vladimir Arutyunov |
| Diocesan Delegate: | Jack Hacherian |

The Parish Council sponsored and supported several activities and projects in 1996. These events and our spiritual leader Deacon Norman Odabashian who was ordained to the holy order of the priesthood on December 1, 1996 were instrumental in fusing our church community and bringing the parishioners together. As expected, the Parish Council members worked hard with the entire community to make each project a successful event.

The Parish Council had 21 regular business meetings and 1 special meeting in 1996. Each meeting was well planned ahead of time and conducted according to an agenda. Some highlights from Parish Council Sponsored or Supported events are given below:

- JANUARY** 7 Feast of Nativity, Blessing of Holy Water. Reception by AGBU
10-23 His Holiness Lord Lord Karekin I Catholics of all Armenians visits New York, Washington DC., Providence, Boston, Detroit and Chicago
28 "Video Explanation of Divine Liturgy : Part I" presentation and discussion led by Deacon Serop Demirjian
- FEBRUARY** 4 "The Divine Liturgy: Part II" by Deacon Demirjian
18 Poon Paregentan, luncheon sponsored by ACYOA Juniors
25 Annual Parish Assembly and luncheon
28 ACYOA Lenten Dinner
- MARCH** 13 Meechink (middle of lent). Dinner and program by Women's Guild commemorating biblical Women Saints
22 "William Saroyan: The Man - The Writer" documentary film presented by AGBU
31 Palm Sunday : Annual ACYOA Brunch and Program

- April** 4 Commemoration of the Last Supper (Washing of Feet)
 7 Easter - Fellowship sponsored by the Women's Guild
 21 Commemoration of the 81st Anniversary of the 1915
 Genocide of the Armenian People
- MAY** 12 Mother's Day Reception and Program by Sunday School
 and AGBU Language School
 19 Special Parish Assembly on misappropriated Church funds
 24-26 ACYOA Sports Weekend in Cape Cod
 26 Pentecost. Benefactors' Day. Requiem Service and
 Reception.
- JUNE** 2 Church School Closing Program. Sunday School Staff
 Recognition and Reception by Parish Council
- JULY** 7 Feast of Transfiguration. Vartavar.
 14 Annual Church Picnic
- AUGUST** 1-2 Rummage Sale by Women's Guild
 4 AGBU Steak Roast and Tavloo Tournament
 10 - 17 Hye Camp, Lake Pleasant, WI
 18 Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God
- SEPTEMBER** 14 AGBU School Opening
 15 Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
 22 Sunday School starts
- OCTOBER** 5 AGBU Cultural Program
 13 Cultural Day Dinner and Program by Women's Guild.
 20 Cultural Day Celebration - presentation by Mariam
 Attarian, watercolorist, sponsored by Women's Guild
 27 Children's Halloween Party sponsored by ACYOA
- NOVEMBER** 10 Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the
 AACCA, Guest Speaker Mrs. Rose Mekenian, sponsored by
 Parish Council, Family of Lilian Tookman and Church
 Choir
 30 Visit of His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian,
 service of Calling to Priesthood of Dn. Norman Odabashian
- DECEMBER** 1 Sacrament of Holy Ordination and Ordination Banquet
 8 Christmas Tree Trimming by Sunday School
 22 Church School Christmas Pageant Reception by Choir &
 Parish Council
 24 Western Christmas Eve Service of Carols.

Respectfully submitted,



Archie A.T. Andonian
Parish Council Secretary

DIOCESAN DELEGATE REPORT 1996

The 94th Annual Diocesan Assembly was held May 2nd-4th, 1996, in Wynnewood, PA, hosted by Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church. The Assembly was presided over by His Grace Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate. Dr. Garo Garibian was elected Diocesan Assembly Chairman. Our church was represented by Dn. Norman Odabashian (now Fr. Simeon Odabashian) and Diocesan Delegate Jack Hacherian. 134 Diocesan Delegates registered for the Assembly.

1995 was considered an important year for all Armenians, the year of the election of the 131st Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Karekin I, formerly Karekin II, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

At a Special Diocesan Assembly convened on January 14th, 1995, of 142 delegates, 24 were elected to represent our Diocese with our Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and His Grace Bishop (now Archbishop) Papken Varjabedian as delegates to the National Ecclesiastical Assembly during the week of April 3rd, 1995, at the Holy Mother See in Etchmiadzin, Armenian, for the purpose of electing a Catholicos.

As of Dec. 31st, 1995, there are 43 organized parishes, 35 with pastors, and 17 mission parishes in our Diocese. In the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America total number of clergy was 59, including the Primate.

The three Primates of the Armenian Church in North America were in communication to discuss matters of mutual concern, particularly the unity issue. The Diocesan Unity committee advised the Assembly, our Primate, Bishop Khajag Barsamian, seeking to further Unity progress, will now allow Prelacy clergyman to participate in Diocesan Liturgical services, however, only by special permission from the Primate, and only for specific sacraments such as weddings and funeral services.

The Assembly scheduled an in depth review and discussion with three Youth Panels to permit 23 Jr. ACYOA, Sr. ACYOA, and young professionals to present and discuss their views and questions relating to the Youth and the Armenian Church, ACYOA, problems the youth face including alcohol, drugs, pre-marital sex, organize on the parish level a "Young Professionals" organization to include both members with formal education and young men and women in their own business but not necessarily with a formal education. In the panel I participated in, I was amazed and proud at the presentation of our youth, their confidence, ability to communicate their ideas and needs, their intense desire to become involved and accepted. The Diocesan Assembly has recognized that time must be allocated in our meetings for our Youth since our Youth is the future of the Armenian Church.

Our Diocese complex in New York was under extensive and very expensive restoration and repairs. The project was virtually completed by the end of 1995 with costs expected to remain within the estimated \$3,500.00. Improvements were made to the sound system, air conditioning, and the deteriorated plaza floor was re-covered in a very attractive granite. The renovation had a positive effect on the rental and catering income, providing increased revenue. The Armenian Church Endowment Fund posted very impressive results for 1995. Over \$8,900,000 in donations was received by the Fund. Consider these figures - in 1980 ACEF had \$1,500,000 and 51 donors. As of Dec. 31, 1995, the Fund had over \$32,000,000 with 730 donors. Earned income for 1994 and distributed to Beneficiaries in April, 1995 - \$1,247.00.

Respectfully Submitted,



JACK HACHERIAN
Diocesan Delegate

ACYOA JRS. ANNUAL REPORT 1996

MEMBERS

Chairman-Heather Darroch
Vice Chairman-Grey Elloian
Secretary-Stacy Patena
Corresponding Secretary-Alex Yessayan
Treasurer-Greg Andonian
Advisor-Alice Patena
Very Reverend Father Simeon Odabashian

Chris Andonian
Karina & Bagrad Arutyunova
Elise Arpajian
Nishan & Vartan Davidian
Lauren Demirjian
Ani & Peter Ghazarian
Megan Patena

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| January | Monthly Meeting |
| February | Poon Paregentan |
| March | Monthly Meeting St. Herman's |
| April | Monthly Meeting |
| August | Hye Camp |
| September | Monthly Meeting/ Elections |
| October | Picnic in the Park Halloween Party |
| November | Monthly Meeting |
| December | Iceskating |

Up Coming Events for 1997

| | |
|------------|---|
| February 9 | Poon Paregentan Celebration Armenian Dancing |
| March 16 | Dobama Theatre - <u>Beast On The Moon</u> |
| April 26 | Lock- In |
| April 27 | Marter's Day Play |
| May | St. Herman's |
| June | Detroit |

In Addition:

This year the ACYOA Juniors are proud to have Mrs. Alice Patena as our new advisor. She has helped dramatically in organizing and donating her time. Mrs. Patena is a wonderful addition to our driving organization. Without Mrs. Patena the ACYOA Juniors would not be as active as they are today. Her caring and devoting nature is wonderful. On behalf of the ACYOA Juniors I thank Mrs. Patena for her time and effort. We are very excited she is a part of our Armenian organizational family.

Also this year one of our longest members, Melissa Yessyan, was shipped off to college. Melissa held position as a camp counselor during Armenian Hye Camp. We are sorry she is no longer able to attend the activities held because of her residence at Bowling Green State University. Although she is welcome to participate at any time when she is home for break, we miss her presence here in Cleveland.

ACYOA Juniors reports have served to inform and hopefully encourage participation and awareness in the various bodies throughout the community. Most importantly as we embark on life's journey we come to many choices in our lives. As time lingers understand that God is in your presence. Learn that all the organizations within the church community are not based on activities and parties held, but should be a support group with members believing in the same idea. Members who not only understand their Armenian heritage yet understand God is loving and all forgiving. Thank you

Respectfully Submitted,

H. Darroch

Heather Darroch

CHURCH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

1996

Church School Year 1995-1996

Church School Staff: (January - June, 1996)

Administration

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Head | Deacon Norman Odabashian |
| Superintendent | Louise Demirjian |
| Treasurer | Leslie Bagdasarian |

Teaching Staff

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Teachers - Preschool | Leslie Bagdasarian and Beth Davidian |
| Teachers - Elementary | Cheryl Arslanian and Nina Setrakian |
| Teacher - Upper Elementary | Lisa Richardson and Arek Torosian |
| Teachers - Junior | Ara Bagdasarian and Serop Demirjian |

The church school year 1995-1996 was exciting. The dedicated and enthusiastic staff helped make the year for the children enjoyable. The Assembly began at 10:45 A.M. in the church. At 11:00 A.M., the children proceeded to their classrooms with their teachers for further instruction.

Highlights of the 1995-1996 church school year included the following:

| | |
|----------|--|
| January | Birthday Fellowship Holy Communion |
| February | Birthday Fellowship "Poon Berekendan" (Carnival Sunday) Celebration Holy Communion Junior Group Field Trip - Helped prepare a meal for the homeless at St. Herman's House of Hospitality - (Orthodox-Church Sponsored Homeless Shelter) |
| March | Birthday Fellowship Children participated in the "Washing of the Feet" Maundy Thursday Service |
| April | Birthday Fellowship Palm Sunday - Children led recessional with blessed palms Holy Communion - Easter Sunday |
| May | Birthday Fellowship Mother's Day Observance Holy Communion |
| June | Summer Birthday Fellowship Holy Communion Church School Closing Activity - (Annual Picnic) |

Louise Demirjian a.k.
 Louise Demirjian
 Superintendent (January - June, 1996)

Church School Year 1996 - 1997

Church School Staff: (September - December, 1996)

Administration

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Head | Deacon Norman Odabashian - Before Sacrament of Holy Orders Hayr Soorp Simeon Odabashian - After Ordination, December 1, 1996 |
| Superintendent | Anna Karayan |

Note: Louise Demirjian will be returning from "Maternity Leave" as Church School Superintendent on January 19, 1997.

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Treasurer | Leslie Bagdasarian |
|-----------|--------------------|

Teaching Staff

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Teachers - Preschool | Leslie Bagdasarian and Beth Davidian |
| Teachers - Elementary | Cheryl Arslanian and Nina Setrakian |
| Teacher - Upper Elementary | Anna Karayan (Until January 19, 1997) |
| Assembly Leader | Anna Karayan |
| Junior Group | Responsibility assumed by Deacon Norman (Hayr Soorp Simeon). Students serve in the choir, on the altar or other assigned church service responsibility. |


CHURCH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT
1996

Church School Year 1996 - 1997

In the 1996-1997 Church School Year, thirty (30) children were enrolled. On Sunday mornings, Church school begins with the classroom session at 10:45 A.M. At 11:30 A.M., there is an Assembly after which the children go to church in a group where Hayr Soorp Simeon gives the children special instruction. Holy Communion is received by the children and staff monthly. Listed below are the activities in which the children and staff participated:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| September | Birthday Fellowship Church School Registration Church School Opening Holy Communion |
| October | Birthday Fellowship Halloween Party for Children hosted by ACYOA Juniors Holy Communion |
| November | Birthday Fellowship Holy Communion |
| December | Entire Church School attended Ordination of Hayr Soorp Simeon Holy Communion received from Archbishop Khajag Barsamian Christmas Tree Trimming Party Christmas Pageant Presentation Christmas Party - Visit by Santa Claus (Jay Bagdasarian) |

The Assembly period for the children is a fun, fellowship and learning session. Each child is given a turn to serve as an Acolyte in the Assembly. When the Acolyte lights the Church School altar candles, the children reverently stand. The Assembly Leader begins by leading the children in prayer with the recitation of Hayr Mer (The Lord's Prayer) in Armenian and in English. The service continues with the children singing the Sharagans (hymns) "Soorp Asdvadz" and "Mian Soorp". "Aseh Asdvadz" is sung just prior to the Bible Reading (and explanation). The Sharagan "Park Kez Der" is sung after the reading. The Armenian Church Calendar feast of the day is discussed. The Sharagan, "Amen Yeghitzi," newly learned, is sung towards the end of the morning Assembly service, closing with the singing of "Ornetzek Uz der." Other Church School songs and sharagans are being learned and sung.


Anna Karayan,
Superintendent (September - December, 1996)

Church School Objectives

The goal of Church School is to teach the children about God's Love through the life and teachings of Jesus as written in the Scriptures. The children are also taught about the Saints, Feast Days and traditions of the Armenian Church. The children will be able to better participate in the Divine Liturgy service with knowledge received in Church School instruction and family church attendance, under the direction and encouragement of Hayr Soorp Simeon. The giving of an offering by the children, "...giving back to God a little bit of what He has given to us..." is encouraged to gradually teach them church stewardship (contribution) responsibility. On occasion, enjoyable seasonal school-wide church service or lesson related craft projects were undertaken by the staff and children.

The authorized classroom curriculum is entitled. "We Believe" (Havadampk). It is published by the Department of Religious Education, of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

**WOMEN'S GUILD
1996 ANNUAL REPORT**

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Deacon Norman Odabashian | President |
| Sandra Aurslanian | Co-Chairman |
| Alice Hacherian | Co-Chairman |
| Eileen Hacherian | Vice Chairman |
| Mae Hatchadorian | Recording Secretary |
| Florence Straka | Corresponding Secretary |
| Almira Wagley | Treasurer |
| Grace Arslanian | Advisor |
| Mary Arslanian | Advisor |
| Thelma Bagdasarian | Sunshine |
| Lucine Mirakian | Church Women United Rep. |
| Florence Straka | Church Women United Rep. |

- January**
- Executive Body Meeting
 - Fireside Business Meeting at home of Eileen Hacherian - Guest Dn. Michael Findikyan and our own Diratzoo
- February**
- Business Meeting
- March**
- Business Meeting and Program highlighting three of our young women from the community as guest speakers profiling their professions - Anita Arpajian, Lucine Arslanian-King, and Kimberly Zadnik
 - Lenten Dinner and Observance of Women Saints Day
 - Donated Easter Lilies for Church
 - Executive Body Meeting
 - Donation to Tekeyan Cultural Foundation
- April**
- Business Meeting
 - Hosted Easter Sunday Luncheon/Fellowship
- May**
- Dinner/Theatre Party at Dobama Theatre
 - Members donated cookies for Church Women United USO Project
- June**
- Luncheon Meeting at Mozzarella's Cafe at LaPlace
 - Annual contribution for sponsorship of child in Armenia
- August**
- 12th Annual Rummage Sale - proceeds of over \$1,200.00
 - Executive Body Meeting
- September**
- Luncheon Meeting at the home of Thelma Bagdasarian
- October**
- Business Meeting and program: Barbara Hall, Clinical Nurse Specialist in

women's health at Meridia Hillcrest Hospital in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- Cultural Day Celebration - Roast Beef Dinner with Special Guest Speaker, Mariam Attarian from New York, watercolorist/artist who exhibited several of her paintings which were offered for sale, a portion of proceeds donated to our church
- Executive Body Meeting

- November
- Business Meeting with Program - our own Diratzoo taught us how to make Mahs in preparation for Sunday services
 - Unable to have election of officers due to lack of interest and willingness of members to assume responsibility to serve on Executive Committee
 - Microwave oven presented to Diratzoo as ordination gift from Guild
 - Responsible for reception at Parish House in commemoration of the Service the Calling to the Priesthood

- December
- Executive Body Meeting
 - Annual Christmas Dinner with gift exchange at Eddie's Place on Chagrin - Zabel Odabashian as our guest
 - Hosted Christmas Luncheon/Fellowship
 - Poinsettia plants were donated for church
 - Donation of \$200.00 to the needy of Armenia as our Christmas gift

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Aurslanian and Alice Hacherian

SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR 1996

| | |
|-----------|---|
| JANUARY | General Business Meeting |
| FEBRUARY | Dankorona Winery Tour and Dinner |
| MARCH | Pharaoh's Exhibit at Cleveland Art Museum followed by dinner at a local restaurant |
| APRIL | General Business Meeting |
| MAY | Tour of Jacobs Field followed by lunch at a local restaurant |
| JUNE | General Business Meeting |
| SEPTEMBER | General business meeting at the home of Jack and Eileen Hacherian with a pizza dinner |
| OCTOBER | "Shear Madness" comedy at the Allen Theatre followed by dinner at Otto Moser's restaurant |
| NOVEMBER | "Night at the Races" at Northfield Race Track |
| DECEMBER | Christmas party at Quinn's Restaurant |

The Social Club continues to enjoy good fellowship and at the same time serve our church in a limited capacity. Increasing membership is a prime objective. We welcome all persons who wish to come together socially in support of the Armenian community. For the past year our membership was 39.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1996

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Russell Arslanian |
| Vice Chairman | Thelma Bagdasarian |
| Recording Secretary | Robert Bagdasarian |
| Corresponding Secretary | Alice Bagdasarian |
| Treasurer | Steve Nigolian |

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK FINANCIAL STATEMENT (for the year ending 12/31/96)

| <u>INCOME</u> | 1995 <u>Actual</u> | 1996 <u>Proposed</u> | 1996 <u>Actual</u> | 1997 <u>Proposed</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1997 Diocesan Convention | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Auto Sale | 0 | 0 | 550 | 0 |
| Baptism, Wedding & Funerals | 3,553 | 3,800 | 1,900 | 2,500 |
| Candle Sales | 1,728 | 1,900 | 1,659 | 1,700 |
| Christmas Offering | 1,815 | 2,500 | 1,025 | 1,000 |
| Church Donation | 1,977 | 4,500 | 1,038 | 1,000 |
| Cultural day | 0 | 0 | 75 | 0 |
| Easter Donation | 1,125 | 1,500 | 1,670 | 1,700 |
| Endowment Fund Earnings * | 2,768 | 2,800 | 2,729 | 3,000 |
| Fund Raising Events: | | | | |
| - Lahmajoun Sale | 0 | 0 | 104 | 500 |
| - Picnic ** | 3,181 | 4,800 | 3,289 | 3,500 |
| - Projects | 0 | 45,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Hall Donations | 350 | 400 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Hall Income | 30,798 | 35,000 | 36,465 | 45,300 |
| Hye Camp Fees | 1,655 | 1,300 | 0 | 0 |
| In Lieu of Flowers | 9,015 | 9,500 | 4,485 | 5,000 |
| Interest, Bank | 0 | 0 | 77 | 400 |
| Land Sale | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Martyr's Day | 400 | 500 | 170 | 200 |
| Membership Dues | 15,865 | 18,000 | 12,677 | 13,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income + F.A.R. Donation | 1297 | 1875 | 9,007 | 1,000 |
| Ordination | 0 | 0 | 15,130 | 0 |
| Organization Assessments | 361 | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| Paros Donation | 510 | 1,500 | 965 | 1,000 |
| Plant, Pumpkin & X-Mas Tree Sale | 1,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Plate Collection | 1,768 | 2,000 | 2,552 | 3,000 |
| Requiem Service | 1,715 | 1,850 | 1,570 | 2,000 |
| Rug Sales | 0 | 0 | 300 | 0 |
| Memorial Fund | 1,000 | 2,500 | | |
| Total Income | \$ 83,881 | \$ <u>147,225</u> | \$ 101,438 | \$ <u>121,800</u> |
| Misappropriated Funds | \$ (3,323) | | \$ 23,508 | |
| Gross Operating Cashflow Income | \$ 80,558 | | \$ 124,946 | |
| Transfer of Charter One -- CD into Operating Acc | \$ 10,000 | | \$ 51,556 | |
| Transfer from Memorial Fund into Operating Acct. | | | \$ 10,719 | |
| Gross Cashflow Income | <u>\$ 90,558</u> | | <u>\$ 187,221</u> | |

* Interests as follows: Mrs. Osky Balderian Acct: \$1,791.93; M/M Kevork Arslanian Acct: \$937.50

** 1996 Annual Picnic Income was \$ 4,595. Expenses were \$1,306.12 for a Net Profit of \$3,288.88. (\$900 in income figure was from picnic sponsors)

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK FINANCIAL STATEMENT (for the year ending 12/31/96)

Expenditures

| | 1995 | 1996 | 1996 | 1997 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual | Proposed | Actual | Proposed |
| 1997 Diocesan Convention | 0 | 0 | 5,000 | 0 |
| Auto & Property Insurance | 2,795 | 2,800 | 2,987 | 3,000 |
| Automobile Expense | 563 | 650 | 6,855 | 700 |
| Bank Service Charges | 155 | 0 | 153 | 400 |
| Candles | 0 | 0 | 492 | 500 |
| Capital Improvements | 0 | 5,000 | 0 | 7,000 |
| Choir workshop | 136 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Church Expense | 949 | 1,400 | 452 | 1,000 |
| Church School | 414 | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| Clergy Benefits | 2,623 | 3,000 | 3,701 | 4,000 |
| Clergy Travel/Expenses | 1,363 | 1,400 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Cultural Day | 324 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Diocesan Dues | 7,780 | 8,000 | 10,587 | 11,000 |
| Donations | 250 | 300 | 554 | 200 |
| F.A.R. Donations | 439 | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| Fees & Permits | 230 | 250 | 0 | 200 |
| Flowers, Altar/Funeral | 266 | 300 | 402 | 400 |
| General Assembly Expense | 841 | 900 | 727 | 700 |
| General Maintenance | 4,527 | 4,000 | 265 | 14,000 |
| Hall Furnishings | 0 | 400 | 0 | 400 |
| Hall Repairs | 1,333 | 1,000 | 1,901 | 2,000 |
| Hye Camp Expense | 2,070 | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| Land Appraisal | 750 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Landscaping & Snow Removal | 4,205 | 4,500 | 3,123 | 3,500 |
| Louma Assessment, Etchmiadzin | 0 | 0 | 294 | 300 |
| Maintenance Cleaning (Hall, House, Church) | 7,130 | 7,500 | 9,740 | 11,000 |
| Maintenance Contracts | 325 | 400 | 803 | 1,000 |
| Membership Program | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 |
| Miscellaneous | 310 | 275 | 618 | 500 |
| Office Expenses | 1,334 | 1,900 | 642 | 3,000 |
| Ordination Expense | 0 | 0 | 14,044 | 0 |
| Organist | 1,263 | 1,300 | 1,175 | 1300 |
| Organization expense & travel | 0 | 500 | 256 | 1,000 |
| Parking lot Maintenance | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Paros | 2,929 | 3,000 | 2,953 | 3,200 |
| Pest Control | 396 | 450 | 363 | 400 |
| Net Piano Training Expense | 420 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Postage and delivery | 1,205 | 1,300 | 1,140 | 1,300 |
| Pastor's Stipend | 20,337 | 23,500 | 14,676 | 26,000 |
| Payroll Taxes & Penalties | 5,351 | 1,500 | 7,417 | 2,000 |
| Rug Sale Disbursement for 1994 Sale | 6,062 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Septic Tank - Grease Trap | 942 | 1,000 | 729 | 500 |
| Sewer Tie | 0 | 45,000 | 48,465 | 0 |
| Supplies - Hall | 1,145 | 1,300 | 488 | 500 |
| Trash Removal | 1,636 | 1,700 | 1,669 | 1,800 |
| Utilities (see next Page for detail) | 15,579 | 16,000 | 11,938 | 16,000 |
| Visiting Clergy | 2,100 | 2,500 | 2,558 | 0 |
| Martyrs Day | 550 | 900 | | |
| Picnic | (see income) | 1,300 | | |
| Misappropriated expenditures determined thru 2/22/96 | 6,503 | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ 107,530 | \$ 147,225 | \$ 159,166 | \$ 121,800 |
| Capital Improvements from memorial fund | | | \$ 10,719 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL ACCOUNTS | | | \$ 169,885 | |

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK FINANCIAL STATEMENT (for the year ending 12/31/96)

Breakdown of Utility Disbursements by Building

| | <u>Hall</u> | <u>House</u> | <u>Church</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Electric | \$ 2,957.80 | \$ 794.79 | \$ 467.61 | \$ 4,220.20 |
| Gas | \$ 1,503.61 | \$1,096.22 | \$1,417.89 | \$ 4,017.72 |
| Telephone & Ads | \$ 347.52 | \$2,682.03 | | \$ 3,029.55 |
| Water | \$ 205.20 | \$ 465.42 | | \$ 670.62 |
| TOTALS | | | | \$ 11,938.09 |

St. Gregory of Narek Treasurer Report

| | <u>1995</u> <u>Interest</u> | <u>12/31/95</u> <u>Balance</u> | <u>1996</u> <u>Interest</u> | <u>12/31/96</u> <u>Balance</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Star Bank - CD (Memorial Fund) | 1,600.00 | 48,459 | | 0 |
| Star Bank - CD | 352 | 10,936 | | 0 |
| Star Bank - CD | 2,623 | 81,430 | | 0 |
| Charter One Bank - CD | 1,249 | 26,334 | | 0 |
| Third Federal Bank - CD (Memorial Fund) | | | 1,993.52 | 38,769.13 |
| National City Bank - CD | | | 1,290.13 | 31,290.13 |
| Third Federal Bank - CD | | | 2,691.04 | 52,691.04 |
| TOTALS | \$ 5,824 | \$ 167,159 | \$3,283.65 | \$122,750.30 |
| Checking Accounts | | \$ 9,038 | | \$ 19,373.84 |
| TOTALS - All Accounts | | <u>\$176,197.00</u> | | <u>\$142,124.14</u> |

R. Antarian 2/10/97
M. [Signature] 2/9/97
Gene [Signature] 2/9/97

St. Gregory of Narek ACYOA Jrs.
1996 Treasurer's Report

ACYOA Jrs were very active in 1996. Considering our size and our short past, we accomplished a lot and had fun at the same time. Our organization is very dynamic because it evolves continuously. Young members join when they are in middle school and they move away when they graduate from high school. As the older members, like me, get ready to go to college we are leaving the responsibilities to a very capable group of younger members. This change is quite healthy and brings some new faces to the group of officers and the organization itself. With some guidance and training new members become completely ready to carry the responsibilities and serve our Church. The following report lists our income, disbursements and balance:

Balance as of January 1, 1996.....\$412.47

INCOME:

2/18 - Poon Paregentan.....\$274
Interest.....11.49

Total income and starting balance.....\$697.96

DISBURSEMENTS:

10/23 - Halloween party.....\$45

Balance as of December 31, 1996.....\$652.96

Respectfully Submitted.

Treasurer Greg G. Andonian
Greg Andonian

Handwritten signatures and dates:
2/17/97
2/17/97
2/9/97
B. Andonian

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
ACYOA SENIORS 1996 TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 1995 Ending Balance \$426.04

INCOME:

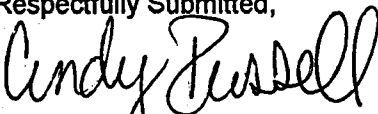
| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Lenten Spaghetti Dinner | 171.00 | |
| Dues | 30.00 | |
| Palm Sunday Brunch | <u>694.00</u> | |
| | | \$895.00 |

EXPENSES:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Lenten Spaghetti Dinner | 87.49 | |
| Palm Sunday Brunch | 379.75 | |
| Postage | 15.08 | |
| Summer Picnic | 76.38 | |
| Summer Retreat | 77.64 | |
| Ordination Gift | <u>100.00</u> | |
| | | <u>\$736.34</u> |

Balance per Bank on December 31, 1996 \$584.70

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy Russell, Treasurer

Audited 1/19/97 Russ Aslanian
1/18/97 Murad [Signature]
2/9/97 [Signature]

**ST. GREGORY OF NAREK CHURCH CHOIR
TREASURER'S REPORT**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Opening balance - January 1, 1996 | | \$740.43 |
| Income (Donation) | \$ 50.00 | |
| Expenses (Bank Fees) | \$ 90.00 | |
| Closing Balance | | \$700.43 |

Respectfully,



Dn. Serop Demirjian, Treasurer

Bank of Armenia 2/17/97
M. [Signature] 2/9/97
R. Arslanian 2/9/97

**ST. GREGORY OF NAREK CHURCH SCHOOL
1996 Treasurer's Report**

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|---------------|------------------|
| Balance as of December 31, 1995 | | \$ | 513.28 |
| Receipts: | | | |
| Gifts | \$ | <u>557.51</u> | \$ <u>557.51</u> |
| | | | \$ 1070.79 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| Supplies | \$ | 140.12 | |
| Commencement & Christmas Gifts | \$ | 152.87 | |
| Books / Curriculum | \$ | 45.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | \$ | <u>106.47</u> | |
| | | | \$ <u>444.46</u> |
| Balance as of December 31, 1996 | | \$ | <u>626.33</u> |

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Bagdasarian
Treasurer

Russ Aslarian 1/19/97
M. Aslarian 1/19/97
Lowell Aslarian 2/9/97

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK SOCIAL CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT

STARTING BALANCE - JANUARY, 1996----- \$ 812.86

INCOME:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Cleveland Indians Ticket Sales (Profit)--- | \$ 20.00 |
| Theater Party Profit ----- | 156.00 |
| Dues-1996 (39 members + 2 form 1995)----- | 493.00 |
| Total Income ----- | \$ 669.00 |

Total Income and Starting Balance-----\$1481.86

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1995 Year-End Donation----- | \$ 187.72 |
| Postage/Flyers ----- | 116.76 |
| Dinner Meeting ----- | 109.28 |
| Member Overpayment-Dues ----- | 1.00 |
| Total Disbursements ----- | \$ 414.76 |

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1996-----\$1067.10

Steve Nigolian
Treasurer

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Audited 1/18/97</i> | <i>Russ Arakelian</i> |
| <i>1/25/97</i> | <i>Harold Arakelian</i> |
| <i>2/2/97</i> | <i>Armen Arakelian</i> |

2

$$\begin{array}{r} 39 \\ 12 \\ \hline 39 \\ 468 \\ \hline 24 \\ 498 \end{array}$$

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK 1996 DUES PAID MEMBERS

1. Mr. Robert Abdalian
2. Mrs. Anahid Aghajanian
3. Mrs. Alice Ahlegian
4. Dr. Archie Andonian
5. Mrs. Sylva Andonian
6. Mrs. Anita Arpajian
7. Mr. Charles Arpajian
8. Mr. Haig Arpajian
9. Mr. Armen Arslanian
10. Mrs. Carol Arslanian
11. Mrs. Cheryl Arslanian
12. Mrs. Grace Arslanian
13. Mr. Henry Arslanian
14. Mrs. Jeanne Arslanian
15. Mrs. Kathie Arslanian
16. Mr. Kevork Arslanian
17. Mrs. Mary Arslanian
18. Mr. Paul Arslanian
19. Mr. Russell Arslanian
20. Mrs. Sharon Arslanian
21. Mr. Ted Arslanian
22. Mrs. Vergin Arslanian
23. Mr. Vladimir Arutyunov
24. Ms. Dina Aurslianian
25. Mrs. Jeanette Aurslianian
26. Ms. Lisa Aurslianian
27. Mr. Meshac Aurslianian
28. Mr. Richard Aurslianian
29. Mrs. Sandra Aurslianian
30. Mr. Alex Bagdasarian
31. Mrs. Alice Bagdasarian
32. Mr. Ara Bagdasarian
33. Mr. Jay Bagdasarian
34. Mrs. Leslie Bagdasarian
35. Mr. Robert Bagdasarian
36. Mrs. Thelma Bagdasarian
37. Mrs. Osky Balderian
38. Mrs. Helen Baltayan
39. Mr. Alan Borazanian
40. Mr. John Borazanian
41. Mrs. Zevart Borazanian
42. Mrs. Marie Bosnoian*
43. Mrs. Ogin Chakamian
44. Mr. Ralph Chakerian
45. Mr. Steve Davidian
46. Mrs. Louise Demirjian
47. Mr. Murad Demirjian
48. Deacon Serop Demirjian
49. Mrs. Sonia Elloian
50. Mr. Tom Elloian
51. Mrs. Carol Ghazarian
52. Dr. Krikor Ghazarian
53. Mrs. Nouritza Ghazarian
54. Mr. Jim Gideon
55. Mrs. Florence Goekjian
56. Ms. Alice Hacherian
57. Mrs. Eileen Hacherian
58. Mr. Jack Hacherian
59. Mrs. Sona Hacherian-Hofstede
60. Mr. Jack Hatchadorian
61. Mrs. Mae Hatchadorian
62. Mr. Matthew Hatchadorian
63. Dr. Ara Kallibjian
64. Mr. Harry Kananian
65. Dr. Helen Kanian
66. Dr. Vahag Kanian
67. Mrs. Jennie Kapoudjian
68. Mrs. Anna Karayan
69. Ms. Mona Karoghlanian
70. Mrs. Lucine Mirakian
71. Mr. Sam Mirakian
72. Mrs. Sue Mirakian
73. Mrs. Cartha Ohanessian
74. Dr. Simon Ohanessian
75. Mr. Alex Oganian
76. Mr. Eric Ohanian
77. Mrs. Lisa Richardson
78. Mrs. Cindy Russell
79. Dr. Todd Russell
80. Dr. Edgar Ryan
81. Mrs. Wanda Ryan
82. Mr. George Sakian
83. Mrs. Jeanne Sakian
84. Mrs. Nina Setrakian
85. Dr. Sebouh Setrakian
86. Mr. Arek Torosian
87. Ms. Debra Venditti
88. Mrs. Mary Vosgerichian
89. Mr. Andon Yeranossian
90. Mr. Naz Yessayan
91. Mrs. Janet Yoel
92. Mrs. Elizabeth Zadnik
93. *Mr. Amerino Calandra*

* Deceased