



Saints Joachim & Anne
Armenian Apostolic Church

RE: Open Letter to Parish:

January 22, 1985

Dear Parish Family:

Once again it is time to pause and reflect back on the activities of 1984. As in the past, this year has been filled with many memorable moments and in some cases, unprecedented in our church's short history. It always amazes me when I look back through the notes and agendas for one year, the number of activities we as a small family of members promote. 1984 was no exception. Two items are paramount in my mind.

First and most important were the number of weddings our community experienced in 1984. For those who lost count, there were five plus one in early January, 1985. It is our hope that these new families will return to our community and help us expand our membership and help us spread the load to a few more shoulders that are young and strong. To all the lucky parents, a hearty congratulations from all of us here at S.S. Joachim and Anne.

Secondly, the Senior ACYOA from our Palos church hosted the 1984 Sports Weekend. As always, the efforts were awe-inspiring and the task, monumental. Nevertheless, our youth rose to the occasion and we still see sparks from, "As the Fever Blazes". Kevin Giragosian, Sue Boyajian and the whole Senior ACYOA received special recognition for their outstanding contributions at the awards night. The efforts of "Taking the Hye Road to Palos" has once again shown how a small community can have a lasting impact on the rest of the country. Nice job everyone!

Our annual church Picnic and annual church Bazaar were again the best ever. We thank all of those individuals whose efforts have made these annual events so successful.

The Junior ACYOA had their second Square Dance in February and it looks like it may become an annual affair. It is a great time for the whole family. We can all come and "horse" around without looking like a "beast of burden".

We celebrated our first consecration of the new church with a "Madagh" dinner that was a first-time event for our church. Needless to say, it would not have been as successful if it was not for the efforts of the Womens Guild. Our thought as a Parish Council was to give something back to the community for all of it's support during the building of the church.

As many of you can see, the exterior of the church has been completed as far as the landscaping is concerned. Exterior lights and signage are in the works and will be completed in the near future. The weather right now is the only real obstacle. It is nice to know and hear people still comment on the attractiveness of our little church. God has been good to us.

Our parish had a special Parish Assembly meeting in December to discuss the issue of procuring a full-time clergy. It was the feeling of that assembly that we should actively pursue a full-time clergy. To do this, we as a body, must respond to that directive with the funds that are necessary to support a full-time clergy. You cannot vote as a body and expect others to support that decision individually. We must all rise to the challenge that has been promoted by us.

There are other activities that have been held or sponsored by, for, or with our church and the other churches within our Chicagoland area. These activities will be reviewed by the individual organizations reporting at the annual assembly.

One particular individual I would like to acknowledge this year is Lorene Skinner. It is because of her that we have a church bulletin, newsletter, altar flowers, Christmas Card, public relations information with the local newspapers as well as with the Diocese. Would you all join with me at this time and extend to Lorene our warmest "thank you" for all of her efforts and continued support with all of these activities. I know how much I look forward to receiving the monthly bulletin and seeing how many things I've committed myself to that I didn't know about in the first place! Great job, Lorene!!

My sincere best wishes to everyone for 1985. May we continue on with a spirit of oneness and singleness of purpose. May God continue to bless us in all that we do, for through Him all things are possible. Thank you all for your support during this past year as well as that of the two previous terms in which I have served as your Parish Council Chairman.

Sincerely,



M. Dennis Vander Meer