

STS. JOACHIM AND ANNE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, January 26, 1997

Please bring this booklet with you to the assembly.

A Prayer Before Meetings

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyu Srpo.

Eemasdooyoon Hor Heesoos/ door eendz eemasdooyoon/ uzparees khorhel yev khosel yev kordzel arrachee ko hamenayn jham/ ee char khorhurtotz/ ee paneetz yev ee kordzotz prgya zees/ yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eendz pazmameghees.

Park Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyu Srpo/ Ay-jhum yev meeshd yev haveed-yans haveedeneetz/ amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Յանուհ Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ.

Իմաստութիւն Հօր Յիսուս, առբ ինձ իմաստութիւն զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ զործել առաջի քո յամենայն ժամ. ի շար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի զործոց փրկեա զիս. եւ ողորմեա քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս:

Փառք Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ. այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից. ամէն:

A Prayer After Meetings

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyu Srpo.

Bahaban Amenaynee Kreesdos adj ko hovanee leetzee ee verah eem/ ee dveh yev ee keesheree/ ee nsdeel ee dahn/ ee knal ee djanabahr/ ee nundjel yev ee harnel/ zee mee yerpek sasanetzaytz/ yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eendz pazmameghees.

Park Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyu Srpo/ Ay-jhum yev meeshd yev haveed-yans haveedeneetz/ amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

O Christ, Guardian of all/ may Your 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.

Յանուհ Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ.

Պահապան ամենայնի Բրիստոս, աջ քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի դիշխի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի դնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի կրբեք սասանեցայց. եւ ողորմեա քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս:

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Annual Parish Assembly Meeting Invitation

Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church
12600 South Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor and Parish Council of Sts. Joachim and Anne would like to invite the general membership to its' annual Parish Assembly Meeting which will take place at the church on the following date:

January 26, 1997 at 12:00 noon

The meeting will be preceded by a light lunch at 11:45 am.

1996 dues must be paid in full in order to vote at this Parish Assembly.

Agenda

The following is the meeting agenda:

- 1. Opening Prayer.
- 2. General Role Call and establishment of a quorum.
(1/3 of dues paid members constitutes a quorum - article 17)
- 3. Election of Chairman and Secretary for meeting.
- 4. Review of organizational reports.
- 5. Presentation of Survey Results
- 6. Review of 1997 Budget.
- 7. Elections:
 - new trustees - elect 4 (two year term - articles 14g and 25)
 - nominating committee members - elect 3 (one year term - article 14b)
 - auditing committee - elect 1 (three year term - article 14f)
- 8. Discussion of Dues (Our dues have remained \$150 for the past 15 years)
- 9. Items from the floor (majority vote needed to add item to agenda - article 16)
- 10. Final Prayer

Pastor and Parish Council 1/8/97

1996 Pastor's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the close of 1996 I have completed my second year of service to the Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church community. I assumed this pastorate upon the appointment of His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian effective January 1, 1995.

Following is my second pastoral report to you covering the period of January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996. I will endeavor in the following pages to present a synopsis of my work during this last year.

Worship and Liturgy

Among the special blessing the Lord has showered upon us this year, we have been privileged to receive into the Lord's service four additional stole bearers to serve before the Holy Altar. On November 24th of this year His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian granted the right to bear ourars to Arakel Arakelian, Onnig Madanyan, Shunt Madanyan and Kevork Sultanian. In addition, three of our Sunday School students participated in a preparatory class I taught to the candidates for to the order of Tbir. My congratulations to Brian Mekjian, Sarkis Sultanian and Sevan Sultanian for studying hard and earning the right to serve before the Lord's Holy table as tbirs. Also Alina Rubenian, en exchange student with us this year from Armenia received the right to read the old testament and epistle readings.

The Lord directed the celebration of the Lord's Supper during the Thursday night dinner prior to His crucifixion. From the formative early Christian church until today the Badarak has been the central defining liturgical gathering of the Armenian Church. It is through the Badark that we receive God's sacramental gift of spiritual nourishment and healing. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the Holy Tradition of the Armenian Church it has been my pleasure to preside over regular Sunday Badarak services.

In addition to Badarak, other liturgical services were performed. These include special festal blessing services, hokeehankeests, the Holy Week services and Lenten Services.

At each liturgical gathering I have endeavored to present a message to our faithful explaining the meaning of the day's gospel reading and how it applies in our daily lives. During the past year I prepared and presented approximately ninety sermons. In addition, at the request of our Parish Council, I have continued to present instructional Badaraks approximately every 2 months.

My deep thanks to those altar servers who served regularly this year.

- Arakel Arakelian
- Nazar Halajian
- Dr. Norayr Madanyan
- Kevork Sultanian

Also my thanks to choir director Susan Mardoian, organist Martha Auer, and to all our choir members for their dedicated service. On those occasions when I was unavailable to perform Badarak, I arranged for a visiting clergyman to preside over the liturgical services of the day.

4

Baptisms, Wedding, Funerals

In 1996, in addition to Sunday Morning Service, Badarak, Hokeehankeesd and special festal services, I presided over, participated in, or arranged for the following sacraments/rites as pastor of Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church:

Baptism and Chrismation

2/10/96 Lauren Michelle Esposito
4/20/96 Zachary Soghomonian
7/23/96 Georgiy Michael Muradyan
 Naily Gayana Muradyan
 Arthur Haroutyoun Muradyan
 Arfenya Hripsime Muradyan
8/18/96 Peter Haig Boyajian
10/6/96 Vincent Haroutyoun Volpe IV
10/20/96 Rouben Khachadur Manukian
11/17/96 Luke Sarkis Michaels

Chrismation Only

7/23/96 Boris Muradyan
 Arina Muradyan
 Armen Muradyan
 Elena Muradyan

Weddings

4/20/96 Jack Hamady and Janet Brandt
7/23/96 Georgiy Michael and Naily Gayana Muradyan

Funerals

10/17/96 Mary Chalikian
12/26/96 Araxie Suciyan

By pastoral invitation I also performed a baptism on 5/5/96 for Raquel Fereshetian at St. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Wynnewood, PA.

Additional Pastoral Ministries

In addition to church services, the priestly functions include ongoing visitations of members and potential members, sick calls at hospitals or homes, visitations of shut-ins and those in nursing homes, grave blessings at cemeteries, and home blessings. To date I have visited or scheduled visitations with 101 of our 121 dues paid members. Many members have had repeated visitations. I have also visited or scheduled visitations with 35 of our 44 young couples. Members and young couple potential members receive periodic contact from myself in an attempt to schedule a visitation. All those who have not yet been visited have been, and continue to be, contacted regarding scheduling a visitation.

The sick have been visited as requested, and many house blessings have been performed. I thank all those who contacted me with news of someone in need of a visitation. Please feel

free to contact me to in order to schedule a house blessing/visitation, or to inform me of someone sick or in need of a visit.

This year I offered three pre-cana (pre-marital) counseling sessions. I have also responded to requests for personal/family counseling as needed.

Office hours have been kept four days and one evening a week. During which time I see to the many responsibilities of the office operation which include but are not limited to: Maintaining existing, and developing specified church mailing lists: reading, sorting, filing and responding to mail; visiting post office as needed; maintaining/acquiring office equipment and supplies; preparing Sunday Bulletins and flyers, running off copies, collating and stapling, advertising for and typesetting the Parish Greeting Card, and Ani preparation (including data entry, article writing, page layout, and coordination with mailer and printer). My thanks to Sona Diorio, Gladys Avakian, Sue Semerdjian, and Ann Raptzian for their help with mailings this year.

I attended the 1996 Diocesan Clergy Conference, Diocesan Assembly, area clergy meetings with Armenian and non-Armenian clergy, Midwest Regional Council Meetings, as well as a Midwest Women's Guild meeting and a Midwest Scripture Seminar. I enjoyed teaching classes at Hye Camp as well. Upon the Primate's request, I served as his proxy to the National Council of Churches Annual Assembly held in Chicago.

1996 also saw the formation of a regularly meeting Armenian Diocesan Clergy group for the Midwest. The group met seven times in 1996 to discuss regional planning. I serve as recording secretary for the meetings. A highlight of the year included our collective planning an ACYOA Junior retreat in Waukegan. We have plans for another such retreat in Racine in 1997 as well as other joint Midwest youth programs.

As Pastor and ex-officio president of the Parish Council I attended all Parish Council meetings during the course of 1995. I enjoyed working with each member of this Parish Council and wish to extend my appreciation to all those who dedicated their time for the maintenance and building up of God's holy church. As anyone knows who has served on Parish Council, the service required of Parish Council members is demanding as the needs of the church are on-going. Let us continue to encourage and pray for God to guide the decisions of the Parish Council in 1997.

Church Auxiliary Organizations

The Ani Newsletter

The church newsletter was published six times in 1996. My thanks to Sona Diorio, Virginia Bogosian, Maria Sawaye, and Lorene Skinner for all their help this year. The Ani takes a great deal of preparation and their hours of dedication are greatly appreciated. My position was that of editor/columnist/page layout for the Ani. The Ani staff would like to remind everyone that submissions to the Ani are always welcome and encouraged.

Bible Study

We had a number of Topical Bible Studies offered during the year, the subjects of which included: Astrology, Homosexuality; The Role of Women in the Church; Borrowing, Lending, and the use of Credit; Buddhism and the Bible; Angels; and A Christian Look at the Psychology of Advertising. During the coming year Bible Studies will become more

6

scripturally oriented. I welcome and encourage suggestions for Bible Study Topics from all parishioners.

Choir/Altar Servers

During the year I participated in the training of altar servers in preparing them for their receiving minor orders and to become stole bearers. In addition I assisted the Choir director at a number of choir rehearsals.

Sunday School

The Sunday School had another active year. I enjoyed working with director Alice Boyajian as well as all the Sunday School teachers in the many yearly Sunday School projects. We have had four staff meetings this year and I serve as recording secretary for the group. Two additional activities were planned for the Sunday School in 1996. One a bowling outing, and the other a return to Christmas Caroling, both programs were well attended. Attendance for the classes in general, however, is lower than desired. During visitations to the parents of the Sunday School children, I make it a point to discuss the issue of their children's attendance. I commend all those involved in the Sunday School for playing such a vital role in the spiritual education of our children. Their work is vital to our youth and they need our continued support.

Vacation Bible School

July 25-27 were the dates of this year's Vacation Bible School. A good response in 1995 prompts us to increase Vacation Bible School from two to three days. My thanks to the many teachers who donated their valuable time to making this program the success it was. The thirty children participating enjoyed themselves and we are looking forward to continuing this program in 97'.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild continues to work hard to support our church. Their dedicated service is offered to the Lord as their participation in the on-going mission of His church. I enjoyed attending women's guild meetings and events throughout the year. Let us keep the Women's Guild in our prayers and as we continue to seek out potential new members for this vital organization. My special thanks to Elizabeth Sahagian for her help throughout this year in acquainting me with the various Women's Guild activities, and to Alice Boyajian for her dedicated service in organizing so much of the cooking.

Young Couple Group

In an attempt to establish a young couple group, three events were held in 1996. The first was a social, and the latter two were both social and religious. Religious discussion addressed the importance of family life and making Christmas special for the kids. While not yet an official church organization I believe this group displays a dedication to the church which will eventually result in its formalization into a cohesive group actively involved in the mission of Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church. My thanks to Gary Mazian for his support in organizing activities during 96'.

Membership

During 1996 Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church welcomed 11 people as new dues-paid members of our community:

Zareh Avedoumian
 Linda Esposito
 Greg and Cari Mekjian
 Brian and Patricia Nigohosian
 Stuart Nigohosian
 Linda Slee
 Jill Soghomonian
 Cheryl Tindall
 Serab Vartanian

Conclusion

Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church is a vital presence in the Midwest. Through your continued dedication we persevere in our sacred responsibility to together spread the good news of our Lord throughout Northern Illinois and Indiana. I have been particularly impressed with the growing interest parishioners express in Jesus Christ. There is a growing desire to know our Lord and understand how to apply our faith in our daily lives. The growth of our community is wholly tied to our faith. Membership in our community is steadily rising because people are responding to the call to participate in the Lord's sacred mission. As the coming year approaches let us welcome into our community our new members as gifts from the Lord; receiving them into our hearts and homes, and most importantly, sharing our faith with them. Through our collective continued support of the church we will see the Lord's overflowing blessings pour down upon this community, so ...

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 (Phil 2:10-11)

In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian

Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian

REFLECTIONS OF 1996

AS WE GATHER TO CHART OUR COURSE FOR 1997, IT IS ONLY PROPER FOR US TO LOOK BACK AT 1996 TO REFLECT ON THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT CONTINUE TO SERVE AS PILLARS FOR THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CHURCH! I SAY PILLARS BECAUSE, TRULY THEY HAVE SERVED OUR CHURCH AS THE FOUNDATION FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF INSPIRATION, DEVOTION, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY SPIRIT OF COOPERATION!

AS A SMALL PARISH, WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A BUSY CALENDAR OF EVENTS. THESE EVENTS KEEP US BUSY EACH MONTH AND PROVIDE A MEANS FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION BY ALL AGE GROUPS, YOUNG AND OLDER. THEY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF OUR INDIVIDUAL PEOPLES ENERGY AND TIME!

HOW ABOUT THAT NEW PARKING LOT? IS IT BEAUTIFUL OR WHAT! PAUL SIMONIAN, THANKS FOR OVERSEEING THE PROJECT. IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT. EVERYONE, THANKS FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

OUR ORGANIZATIONS, WOMEN'S GUILD, SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHOIR, SENIOR CITIZENS, NEWSLETTER STAFF, PICNIC COMMITTEE, ALL PERFORMED THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES FLAWLESSLY AND CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH. THEIR UNSELFISH DEDICATION TO OUR CHURCH CONTINUE TO BE THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE HAVE MAINTAINED OUR CHURCH YEAR AFTER YEAR. WE CAN NEVER FULLY EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR THE WORK THIS SMALL DEDICATED GROUP OF WORKERS ACCOMPLISH EACH YEAR!

WHILE WE ALWAYS REJOICE IN THE ARRIVAL OF SEVERAL NEW CHERUBS TO OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY, WE DID PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS TO SEVERAL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. TO THOSE SONS AND DAUGHTERS WE ONCE AGAIN PAY OUR DEEPEST RESPECTS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. THEIR STRENGTH, DEVOTION AND STANDARDS HAVE LEFT US WITH A LEGACY THAT WILL FOREVER REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS.

TO THE YOUNG MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF OUR CHURCH, WE ARE EVER MINDFUL OF THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES THAT LIE AHEAD FOR YOU AND

ARE WILLING TO HELP YOU MEET THOSE CHALLENGES. THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT WE STARTED THE YOUNG COUPLES' MEETINGS THIS YEAR. WE FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT WE (AS A CHURCH) ARE HERE TO HELP YOU! BUT, WE CAN ONLY DO THAT IF YOU COME AND BECOME A PART OF "US".

TO THE NEWLYWEDS OF OUR CHURCH, THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR! WE ARE THRILLED YOU HAVE STARTED YOUR LIVES TOGETHER WITH US. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE BEING PART OF OUR CHURCH. IF YOU ARE NOT HERE YOU WILL NEVER HEAR THE MESSAGE. WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

SPECIAL EVENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN AREA WHERE WE EXCELLED! OUR REGULAR LIST OF EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED: SLIDE SHOWS AND ARMENIAN LECTURES, SPECIAL TRAINING FOR OUR CHOIR, SUNDAY SCHOOL FATHERS BREAKFAST AT EASTER, LENTEN DINNERS, ASPETS (KNIGHTS OF VARTAN) BREAKFAST, BAZAAR, RUMMAGE SALE, TWELVE MONTH DINNER, PRAYER RETREATS, PROMISE KEEPERS, DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLUS OTHER PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY OUR SISTER CHURCHES. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE SHOWN OUR ABILITY TO KEEP MANY BALLS IN THE AIR AT ONCE. ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PREPARED AND SUPPORTED BY OUR CHURCH FAMILY.

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SEVERAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE REALLY INDICATIVE OF THE GREAT WARMTH AND HEART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY . THESE ARE MY TOP THREE AND ORDER DOES NOT RELEGATE IMPORTANCE OF ONE OVER THE OTHER.

1. ANNIVERSARY DINNER--WE RAISED \$7,000.00 FOR OUR CHURCH AND WE'RE ABLE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR BELOVED ARCHBISHOP ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION! A MAN WHO HAS SUPPORTED OUR CHURCH AND GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A FULL TIME PRIEST. THIS IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS CONFIDENCE IN US AS A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY! THANK YOU TO THOSE MEMBERS THAT SUPPORTED US WITH THEIR PRESENCE AT THE DINNER AND THOSE WHO REMEMBERED US WITH A DONATION EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD NOT BE PRESENT THAT DAY.

2. CHURCH BAZAAR. ONCE AGAIN OUR COMMUNITY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THEIR GREAT ABILITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM THAT APPEARS TO BE TOUGH FOR OTHERS YET, SO EASY FOR US.

THAT'S NOT TO SAY IT IS SIMPLE. IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF WORK. BUT WITH OUR WOMAN'S GUILD (ALL 10 MEMBERS) AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR CHURCH, WE PRESENTED A PROGRAM THAT RAISED MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH WHILE PROVIDING OUR MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOND CLOSER!! ALTHOUGH, THERE ARE THOSE WHO FEEL THEY WERE ALREADY CLOSE ENOUGH! THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD AND THE MEN WHO HELPED WITH TABLE SET UP AND CLEAN UP WE WERE ABLE TO ONCE AGAIN RAISE \$10,000.00 FOR OUR CHURCH.

3. CHURCH PICNIC. THIS PROGRAM, IS ONE OF WARMEST AND FUN-FILLED DAYS OF OUR CHURCH'S ACTIVITIES. PREPARED BY MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH, WE ARE ALLOWED ANOTHER GLIMPSE INTO THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR OWN CHURCH. WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF OUR COMMUNITY BUT, ON THIS DAY WE SAVOR THE FOODS AND TRADITIONS THAT MAKE US THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT WE ARE. THE SMELLS, THE SOUNDS, THE LAUGHTER, THE SPIRIT OF "COOPERATION" AMONG EVERYONE IS A SIGHT TO SEE. TO A GREAT COMMITTEE WE SAY THANK YOU! TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS WITH A RETURN OF \$10,000.00 FOR OUR CHURCH WE SAY THANNNNK YOOOOOU!!!

AS A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER, I HAVE SEEN OUR GROUP GROW IN MANY WAYS. MOST COMFORTING AND ENCOURAGING HAS BEEN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND RESPECT THAT EVERYONE HAS DEVELOPED FOR EACH MEMBER. EVEN WITH NEW MEMBERS COMING ON BOARD, THE SPIRIT CONTINUED WITH ONE PURPOSE, WHAT WAS BEST FOR OUR CHURCH AS A WHOLE. AS PARISH MEMBERS, BE SECURE IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE THAT WE AS COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE UNDERTAKEN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH A GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY AND OBLIGATION TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL OF OUR PARISH MEMBERS. OUR CHALLENGE HAS BEEN TO DO IT IN THE MOST FINANCIALLY SOUND AND EXPEDITIOUS MANNER . WE ARE EVER MINDFUL OF THE GREAT CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE ENTRUSTED UNTO US . IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE AS A PARISH COUNCIL COME TO YOU VIA SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS TO PRESENT INFORMATION, DISCUSS ISSUES, AND ASK YOUR GUIDANCE IN OUR DECISION PROCESS.

IF YOU MISSED THE MEETINGS, YOU MISSED A LOT. THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL, MEMBERSHIP, OTHER CHURCHES, AND THE DIOCESE ARE VERY STRONG. IF YOU HAVE FAILED TO USE THEM DURING 1996 WE CAN ONLY ASK THAT YOU RECONSIDER YOUR

11

INVOLVEMENT IN 1997. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY TO ALL AS WE MOVE INTO 1997.

I ASK THAT WE AS A CHURCH REMEMBER OUR SICK, OUR SHUT-INS, OUR MEMBERS THAT HAVE LOST LOVED ONES, AND THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT LABOR AS SINGLE PARENTS. IN OUR DAILY PURSUIT OF LIFE WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT OTHERS MAY BE CARRYING A "GREATER BURDEN" THAN WE REALIZE. LET US "EACH" REACH OUT AND HELP THEM!

OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE, IS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM. WHAT MEMBER COULD NOT COME INTO OUR CHURCH ON SUNDAY AND BE OVERJOYED AT THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM. ALICE BOYAJIAN , ALONG WITH HER EAGER STAFF HAVE BROUGHT A LIGHT INTO EACH AND EVERYONE OF OUR FAMILIES. YOUR GREAT EFFORTS WITH THESE, OUR MOST FRAGILE AND IMPORTANT MEMBERS, ALWAYS CAUSE US TO STOP AND BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS DEDICATION TO "OUR" CHILDREN.

AS A PARISH, FATHER TAVIT BOYAJIAN , HIS WIFE, TIROUHIE ,SON GREGORY, AND NEW SON PETER, CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY WITH US. WE AGAIN, EXTEND TO THEM OUR WARM WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR AND THANK THEM FOR ALL OF THEIR HELP OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THEM WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. I KNOW THAT FR. TAVIT HAS MANY PLANS FOR US IN THE YEARS TO COME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE OF GOD AND STEP OF FAITH INTO OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION SOME MATTERS THAT WEIGH HEAVY UPON MY HEART. THEY ARE THINGS THAT WE ALL TALK AROUND BUT NEVER WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT. WE WAIT FOR THE OTHER PERSON TO DO SOMETHING RATHER THEN ASKING WHAT YOU COULD DO.

1. OUR WOMEN'S GUILD IS SUCH A SMALL GROUP! WE NEED TO BRING OUR YOUNGER WOMEN INTO THE CHURCH. MOTHERS AND FATHERS YOU NEED TO ENCOURAGE YOUR GROWN-UP CHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN OUR CHURCH. WE MUST FIND A WAY. IF NOT WITH ONE OF OUR EXISTING GROUPS THEN WITH A NEW ONE. WE NEED TO BE MORE EFFICIENT WITH OUR RESOURCES!

2. OVERALL, AS A COMMUNITY, WE MUST CONTINUE TO COME CLOSER TOGETHER WITH THE FEELING THAT THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE IS BETTER THEN THE GOOD OF ONE. WE NEED TO MOVE ON. WE CANNOT DWELL ON THE

PAST. WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR FUTURE FOR WE STILL HAVE CONTROL OVER THE OUTCOME. THOSE ARE THE THINGS I WAS TOLD WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS CHURCH. LETS DO IT!

3. WE NEED FUNDS ON AN ON-GOING BASIS TO KEEP OUR CHURCH STRONG. WHY DO WE NEED TO BEG FOR FUNDS TO GROW "OUR" CHURCH? AS A PARISH COUNCIL, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROW OUR FUNDS TO A LARGER AMOUNT BUT THAT HAS COME FROM VERY STRICT BUDGET SAVINGS. IN 1997 PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER SHARING OF YOUR FINANCIAL BLESSINGS WITH THE CHURCH.

I CAME TO THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP WITH THREE (3) GOALS IN MIND (IT'S A HOLY NUMBER) FOR US AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY. THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS: INCREASE THE FINANCIAL BASE OF OUR CHURCH, PROMOTE A FEELING OF GREATER HARMONY BETWEEN OUR MEMBERS, AND BRING INTO THE COUNCIL A YOUNGER GENERATION OF LEADERS FOR OUR FUTURE! I FEEL I HAVE FULFILLED THOSE REQUIREMENTS OF MYSELF. WITH THAT, I WILL STEP DOWN FROM THE CHAIRMANSHIP IN MY FINAL YEAR. IN THIS WAY I CAN WORK WITH A NEW YOUNGER CHAIRMAN (AS A MENTOR) WHO WILL TAKE US TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS AS A CHURCH. MY DEEPEST THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AND ESPECIALLY EVERYONE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WITH WHOM I HAVE WORKED. IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU ALL.

MY THOUGHTS ARE FROM MY HEART. I AM SO PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY. I APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING I MAY HAVE MISSED. 1997 WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR OUR CHURCH. I THANK YOU ALL FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP AND INSPIRATION DURING THE PAST YEAR.

MY BEST TO EVERYONE IN "1997". GOD DOES "GREAT THINGS WITH LITTLE CHURCHES". AS WE LOOK BACK AT 1996 I AM SURE YOU ALL ARE SMILING JUST LIKE ME!

RESPECTFULLY,

M. DENNIS VANDER MEER
PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL REPORT
1996**

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN	CHAIRMAN
ISABEL GEDERIAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
LOTTIE MIKAELIAN	RECORDING SECRETARY
ANNA GIRAGOSIAN	TREASURER
ELISABETH ARAKELIAN	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
ALICE BOYAJIAN	ADVISOR

MEMBERSHIP

WE HAD 27 PAID MEMBERS AT THE END OF 1996.

MAJOR FUND RAISERS

BAZAAR	GLADYS AVAKIAN, CHAIRMAN
RUMMAGE SALE	SONA DIORIO, CHAIRMAN
LAHMAJOON	ALICE BOYAJIAN, CHAIRMAN
12 MONTH DINNER	ISABEL GEDERIAN, CHAIRMAN
PICNIC BAKE TABLE	BEVERLY MILLER & VIOLET BARGAMIAN, CO-CHAIRMEN
ALTAR FLOWERS	SONA DIORIO
EASTER LILY	LORENE SKINNER

CONFERENCES

WE PARTICIPATED THIS YEAR DURING THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY THE ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH IN WYNNEWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA. OUR DELEGATE WAS VIRGINIA BOGOSIAN, WHO ALONG WITH ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN, WERE ELECTED TO THE AUDITING COMMITTEE.

1996 MARKED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD CENTRAL COUNCIL. ALL CHARTER MEMBERS, INCLUDING ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN, WHO SERVED ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS WELL AS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WGCC WERE ACKNOWLEDGED IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY.

RELIGIOUS

WE THANK ALICE BOYAJIAN FOR MAKING SURE MAHS IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO SONA DIORIO FOR MAKING SURE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE ALWAYS IN PLACE.

IN MARCH WE HAD THE HONOR OF HOSTING THE JOINT COMMEMORATION OF THE WOMEN'S SAINT DAY CELEBRATION WHICH INCLUDED SEVEN PARISHES FROM ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN. OUR PRIMATE, ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN, WHO WAS IN TOWN FOR MEETINGS, WAS IN ATTENDANCE TO THE DELIGHT OF US ALL. THE WGCC GUEST SPEAKER WAS YERESGIN VIOLET KASPARIAN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMENIA SCHOOL PROJECT. THERE WAS A VERY GENEROUS MONETARY RESPONSE TO HER PROJECT. THIS MAJOR EVENT

COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING GUILD MEMBERS: VIRGINIAN BOGOSIAN & ANNA GIRAGOSIAN, SPECIAL GREETERS; MARTHA AUER, ORGANIST; ALICE MADANYAN, SOLOIST; SONIA HARLAN, PHOTOGRAPHER AND REPORTER TO ARMENIAN PUBLICATIONS; ALICE BOYAJIAN, LUNCHEON COORDINATOR; ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN, EVENT COORDINATOR. NEARLY ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING ALL MIDWEST CLERGY.

SOCIAL SERVICES

WE SPONSOR ONE CHILD UNDER THE CASP PROGRAM (CHILDREN OF ARMENIA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM). WE DONATE A MEAL TO THE MIDWEST HYE CAMP. UNSOLD ITEMS FROM OUR RUMMAGE SALE ARE DONATED TO A BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER.

FELLOWSHIP

WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARISHIONERS (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS) TO HOST THE COFFEE HOUR AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR. THE GUILD WILL HOST SPECIAL HOLIDAYS OR OCCASIONS WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR INDIVIDUALS TO HOST.

SOCIAL

ON SEPTEMBER 20TH OUR GUILD HAD THE PLEASURE OF HOSTING A BABY PARTY TO WELCOME PETER HAIG BOYAJIAN INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILY. INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO ALL WOMEN IN THE PARISH. THANKS TO GLADYS AVAKIAN FOR COORDINATING THE HOSTESS TABLE, LAURA LYNN VANDER MEER FOR DECORATIONS, SONIA HARLAN FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, AND ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN , EVENT COORDINATOR.

GUILD MEMBERS, ALONG WITH DER TAVIT, SHARED A CHRISTMAS DINNER AND GIFT EXCHANGE. THIS PARTY WAS CHAIRED BY LOTTIE MIKAEIAN.

PARISH SERVICES

THE ARMENIAN GIFT AND BOOKSTORE IS PROVIDED BY THE GUILD TO SERVE OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS. ITS PURPOSE IS TO PRESENT GIFTS AND IDEAS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. THE MERCHANDISE IS PURCHASED FROM THE DIOCESAN BOOKSTORE AND IS CHAIRED BY ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN.

SPECIAL THANKS

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS. TO KATHY HAJARED FOR LAY OUT ARTWORK ON EVENT FLYERS. TO JANNA SIMONIAN FOR HER LONGTIME DEDICATION OF DONATING HAND-MADE ORNAMENTS TO BE SOLD AT THE BAZAAR. AND THANKS FOR MY EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR BEING A "THINK TANK."

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ELIZABETH SAHAGIAN

JANUARY, 1997

1996 Women's Guild Financial Report

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>NET</u>
Altar Flowers	\$465.00	\$205.00	\$260.00
Bake	3,116.00	956.78	2,159.22
Bazaar	13,932.31	3,583.66	10,348.65
Easter Lilies	609.00	286.00	323.00
** Gift Shop	872.28	456.59	415.69
Lenten Dinner	165.00	65.00	100.00
12 Month Dinner	975.00	330.00	645.00
Rummage	712.25	-	712.25
Interest Ck. Acct. (11 months)	128.22	-	128.22
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>			
(Dues, WGCC 95/96	290.00	58.00)	
(Delegate		197.00)	35.00
(Women;s St. Day	989.50	506.60	
(WGCC sent		482.90	00.00
Hye Camp meal		224.82	-224.82-
Welcome party		78.73	-78.63-
Sec'y, supplies, etc.	-	151.04	-151.04-
Kitchen, Donation, etc.	250.00	160.25	89.75
<u>Transfer:</u>			
Christmas party	216.75	216.75	00.00
Palm Sunday Bake (Sunday School)	668.00	176.00	
		492.00	00.00
Gift to Church	-	14,000.00	- 14,000.00-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$23,389.31	22,627.02	\$762.29
Balance 1/7/96			\$13,974.54
Balance 12/31/96			\$14,736.83

** (Inventory not included)

SAINTS JOACHIM and ANNE ARMENIAN
CHURCH SCHOOL
1996 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance forward from 1995 \$3,992.49

INCOME

Sunday School Collections
plate, birthday cake, candles 817.91

Interest Earned 40.24

Lenten Collection Boxes 142.93

Senior Citizen Birthday Cake 148.60

1996 Christmas Dinner 1,520.00
less expenses 453.08
1,066.92

Lenten Dinner 111.00

Palm Sunday Bake Sale 492.00

Palm Sunday Brunch 1,616.00
less expenses 37.77
1,578.23

End of Year Cookout 433.00

Vacation Bible School 312.00
less expenses 212.36
99.64

Opening Day Cookout 433.00
less expenses 52.00
381.00

Registration 230.00

Halloween Party 294.00
less expenses 271.46
22.54

TOTAL INCOME 5,564.01

SAINTS JOACHIM and ANNE ARMENIAN
CHURCH SCHOOL
1996 TREASURER'S REPORT

EXPENSES

Administrative Supplies	-0-
Mailings	113.66
Classroom Supplies	46.83
Mother's Day/Father's Day Gifts	69.80
Student Gifts - Birthday Box	34.20
Santa Treat Bags	30.00
Staff Gifts	36.63
Happy Room Furniture	34.09
Cooler (5 gal)	29.08
DRE - Lenten Collection	145.00
C.A.S.P.	200.00
Couples Dinner	<u>202.40</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 941.69

1996 PROCEEDS 8,614.81

Monies turned over to Parish Council 7,653.00

Balance at December 31, 1996 \$ 961.81

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Nalbandian, Treasurer

1996 CHOIR REPORT

Choir Plate Collection 1996: \$100.00
\$ 50.00 - Sent to AACCA
\$ 50.00- 50th Anniversary Booklet Donation

The highlight this year was experienced by three fortunate choir delegates: Martha Auer-organist, Robert Auer-delegate, and Susan Mardoian -choir director. Choir member Pearl Gopioian attended much of the Assembly weekend also. They attended the 50th Anniversary Assembly of the Association of the Armenian Church Choirs of America in New York City. It was hosted by the Central Council and located at the Diocese. The weekend was very instructional and active. It consisted of:

- 1) Meetings
- 2) Workshops: -Badarak Basics
-Matins and Vespers
-Awakening the Child's Voice

Most of the time was spent rehearsing for special services and Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Throughout the Assembly we were privileged to hear the uplifting Patriarch's and Primate's messages. Also, we celebrated Der Garabed Kochakian's 20th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. It was a wonderful and moving event shared by all.

Our sincere gratitude to our Parish Council for underwriting the majority of the organist's and director's expenses to New York. We appreciate their support and encouragement toward our desire to share and grow in the knowledge of our church hymns with other Diocesan choirs.

As choir director, I thank our committed "4-part" choir and organist for their attendance and love of our Badarak and sharagans.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan B. Mardoian

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANN
Income and Expenses - Actual vs. Budget

	01/01/96- 12/31/96 ACTUAL	01/01/96- 12/31/96 BUDGET	DOLLAR VARIANCE
INCOME			
Income			
Anniversary Candlelite	\$ 5270.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5270.00
Anniversary Dinner	2180.00	8000.00	-5820.00
Baptism	300.00	300.00	0.00
Candles	1028.00	1000.00	28.00
Choir assembly	2495.15	2500.00	-4.85
Dividend - Monthly	2000.80	2000.80	0.00
Dues	14760.00	15000.00	-240.00
Easter	2105.00	2000.00	105.00
Funeral	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Golf Outing	1030.00	1030.00	0.00
Hall rental	3225.00	400.00	2825.00
In Lieu Of Flowers	975.00	4000.00	-3025.00
Interest Income	277.88	400.00	-122.12
Other Donations	7700.00	7000.00	700.00
Other Income	3615.60	3000.00	615.60
Park lot rental	5000.00	5000.00	0.00
Parking - Repair	3270.00	3600.00	-330.00
Picnic	10338.60	11000.00	-661.40
Plate & Envelopes	1867.00	2000.00	-133.00
Requiem	2037.00	850.00	1187.00
Sr. Citizen	6106.01	1500.00	4606.01
Stewardship	15610.00	15000.00	610.00
Sunday school	7663.00	2500.00	5163.00
Transfer of Funds - Inc	7554.00	7554.00	0.00
Wedding	300.00	150.00	150.00
Women's Guild	14000.00	15000.00	-1000.00
X-Mas Offering	1415.00	2200.00	-785.00
Xmas Cards	1115.00	1100.00	15.00
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Total Income	123238.04	114284.80	8953.24
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TOTAL INCOME	\$ 123238.04	\$ 114284.80	\$ 8953.24

EXPENSE 96

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Expense			
Car	\$ 4200.00	\$ 4200.00	\$ 0.00
Choir	1075.00	1075.00	0.00
Clergy Stipend	23609.82	21793.68	-1816.14
Delegate Expense	1203.40	2000.00	796.60
Diocesan dues	11171.00	11000.00	-171.00
Golfing	798.00	798.00	0.00
Honorarium	850.00	600.00	-250.00
House	10752.00	10752.00	0.00
Insurance - Church Mutual	1370.00	1800.00	430.00
Insurance - Family	8551.20	9000.00	448.80
Insurance - Life	500.00	500.00	0.00
IRA	2000.00	2000.00	0.00
Maintenance - Cleaning	3085.00	2700.00	-385.00
Maintenance - Landscape	2890.00	2210.00	-680.00
Maintenance - Other	977.71	4223.00	3245.29
Maintenance - Repairs	2033.42	959.00	-1074.42
Maintenance - Refuse	715.98	666.00	-49.98
Miscellaneous - Dinners	700.61	850.00	149.39
Office Equipment	0.00	500.00	500.00
Operating - Church	1157.71	1206.00	48.29
Operating - News/Flyers	2974.41	2500.00	-474.41
Operating - Office expens	2899.63	2900.00	0.37
Operating - Sunday School	21.78	0.00	-21.78
Operating Kitchen	3771.10	2820.00	-951.10
Other - Clergy	69.00	500.00	431.00
Other - Expense	1598.54	1250.00	-348.54
Other Capital Improvement	0.00	1500.00	1500.00
Other contribution	175.00	200.00	25.00
Parking Lot Repair	35597.78	31000.00	-4597.78
Recreation	1200.00	1200.00	0.00
Secretarial Help	0.00	5000.00	5000.00
Transfer of Fund - Exp	7554.00	7554.00	0.00
Travel - Clergy	0.00	500.00	500.00
Utilities - Electricity	7320.38	7500.00	179.62
Utilities - Gas	1782.46	2000.00	217.54
Utilities - Phone	868.75	1000.00	131.25
Utilities Water & Sew	1006.00	600.00	-406.00
Total Expense	144479.68	146856.68	2377.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 144479.68	\$ 146856.68	\$ 2377.00
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ -21241.64	\$ -32571.88	\$ 11330.24

REVENUES: 1996 and Projected 1997

	BUDGET 96	ACTUAL 96	BUDGET 97
Dues	15000	14760	16800
Plate	2000	1867	2000
Sacraments and Rituals	1500	2637	3000
Christmas Offering	2200	1415	2000
Easter Offering	2000	2105	2000
Candles	1000	1028	1000
Auxiliary Organizations			
Sunday School	2500	7663	6500
Women's Guild	15000	14000	20700
Sr. Citizens	1500	6106	2500
Choir	2500	2495	195
Church Affairs			
Picnic	11000	10339	10000
Anniversary Dinner	8000	7450	7000
Other (Lenten, Coffee hour etc.)	3000	3615	3000
Golf Outing		1030	0
Donations			
Stewardship	15000	15610	15000
In Lieu of Flowers	4000	975	1000
In Lieu of Christmas Cards	1100	1115	1400
Other Donations	7000	7700	7000
Other Income			
Interest/Dividend	400	2279	2000
Hall Rental	400	3225	1000
Parking Lot Repair	3600	3270	
Parking Lot Rental	5000	5000	
Sum Total	103700	115684	104095
Transfer of funds		7554	
		123238	

Expenses 1996 and Projected 1997

	PROJECTED 96	ACTUAL 96	PROJECTED 97
Clergy Stipend and Expenses (stipend = 24333.00 exp.=26229.57)	49180	49676	50562
Clergy Conference/Diocesan Assmb.	500	69	1000
Secretarial Help	5000	0	0
Diocesan Dues	11000	11171	12200
Operating Expenses			
Telephone	1000	868	1000
Office Supplies	2900	2800	2900
Sanctuary Supplies	1206	1157	1200
Newsletter/Flyer	2500	2974	3200
Furniture/Comp. Equip.	200	0	500
Contributions	200	175	1000
Honorariums	600	850	1700
Miscellaneous (Kitchen+papergoods etc.)	3744	3832	500
Kitchen	0		3500
Expenses of Delegates			
Diocesan Delegates	2000	1203	1300
Choir Delegates		1075	500
Building and Grounds			
Utilities			
Gas	2000	1782	2000
Electricity	7500	7320	7500
Water and Sewage	600	1006	1200
Maintenance	13000	11301	13000
(refuse-587, cleaning-2700, landsc.-2210 other-4223 includes 2600 painting, timbers, 425 floor, tiling , alarm detect etc.. repairs-959)			
Equipment	500	0	500
Parking Lot Repair	31000	35598	2500
Other Capital Improvement	1500		1500
Building Insurance	1800	1370	1400
Church Affairs			
Golf and Recreation		1998	1000
Anniversary Dinner	850	701	850
Sum Total	138780	136926	112512
Transfer of Funds		7554	
Total		144480	