

Report of the Parish Council for 1991

Rev. Fr. Donikian, Members of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church.

The Parish Council had thirteen regular meetings during 1991. The present members of the Parish Council took their positions at the the May 7, meeting. We had two additional special meetings (one with the Choir on August 20 and the other with the Women's Guild on September 13.

1991 was a full year which saw our Parish without a permanent Priest. Divine Liturgy was still celebrated on twenty-three Sundays. We were fortunate to have Fr. Haik Donikian every other Sunday from January to June and again in November and December. In addition, Very Rev. Fr. Varoujan Kabaradjian performed Divine Liturgy here on February 24th, July 28th, and October 20; Very Rev. Haigazoun Najarian visited on March 24 (Palm Sunday); Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian on October 6; Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian on August 18; and Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian on September 15.

In addition to the Sunday services, Fr. Haik Donikian celebrated services for Armenian Christmas Eve, Friday nights during Lent, throughout Holy Week, and December 24 Christmas Eve.

The Parish Council Chairman and the Diocesan Delegate Mr. George Nahabedian both attended the Diocesan Assembly in Tenafly, NJ. In our discussions with the Primate at the Diocesan Assembly and on other occasions we expressed our need and desire to have a permanent priest for this church.

Our major activities this past year as usual included our annual street picnic. The efforts of everyone involved that weekend and the cooking and baking done for weeks before by the Ladies Auxiliary and the Womens Guild helped us realize a profit of over \$17,000. In addition to the Picnic, the Parish Council sponsored an annual Golf Outing, and Race Night.

In November, we celebrated the 27th anniversary of the present location of our church. The Women's Guild prepared an excellent dinner and we honored our faithful servant Deacon Kegham Parseghian. Kegham served unselfishly for over twenty-seven years helping to keep the doors of this Church open. As I look out here today I wonder who will step forward to try to fill the void. I don't know who the person is, but someone must.

There were significant improvements made in and around our property such as automatic lights in the parking lot, and permanent outside lighting for the picnic.

Thanks to Dolores Tootooian, Mary Dadian, and help from Violet Koresian, the bulletin was published regularly for the second year. I believe that people read it, find it informative, and appreciate the work that goes into it. I don't understand, nor will I accept any reason, however, why not one request for help by the Parish Council in any bulletin this past year was answered.

This past year John Pakalian has continued to be responsible for

renting of the hall for income and has been quick to respond to needs here at church when we asked for his help. I thank him for his continuing support.

I also want to thank Mr. Barkev Hitik and Mr. Nishan Babikian who continued to serve as ushers in church after their previous Parish Council terms expired.

The Parish Council had many goals this past year. Some were reached, while others fell short and still others didn't begin to develop. There are even bigger goals for 1992 and 1993. Our Church building is over twenty-seven years old. The heating system is unreliable, inefficient and must be replaced. The air-conditioning system is just as old and we believe no longer worth repairing. The electrical power to the building is inadequate to serve the additional equipment added over the years and for equipment which we want to add. It must be upgraded.

In addition to those items just mentioned which must be addressed, we are hosting the 1993 Diocesan Annual Assembly. Significant improvements to this hall should be made this year in preparation for the assembly and for our continued future use. This issue should not be debated here today. Instead a committee should be formed to define what is needed, what it will cost, and for them to begin fund raising to accomplish the goal.

Financially some will look at this past year and consider it a success, especially in these difficult times. I don't measure the success of this Parish in dollars and I feel we are falling short.

The present Parish Council is a very capable group that can be proud of it's accomplishments. It, however, could not effectively complete more of it's agenda without a full time priest or support from more of the people in this Parish. Our Treasurer Mr. Arnold Koresian did an outstanding job with his position. In addition to implementing the change of the checking account system directed by the 1990 Parish Assembly, he consolidated various accounts to simplify the work of the Treasurer. Our Secretary Ms. Violet Koresian didn't stop at taking minutes at Parish Council meetings. She has done everything from singing in the Choir to relighting the pilot on our notorious boiler. Violet has served for six consecutive years on the Parish Council and cannot run again this year.

The individual efforts and time contributed by the members of this Parish Council go far beyond attending a meeting or two each month. This Parish Council and the new Parish Council which you will elect later today will need the support of more people, not the same handful to sustain this Parish.

Respectfully submitted,



Armen Zakarian
Parish Council Chairman