

# Report of the Parish Council of St. Gregory Armenian Church of Chicago for 1993

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

The elected Parish Council for 1993 consisted of Mrs. Mary Dadian, Mr. Armen Zakarian, Mr. Garo Dadian, Mr. George Nahabedian, Mrs. Agnes Pedian, Mr. Jack Cholakian, and Mr. Mat Klujian Jr.

The Parish Council had twelve regular meetings during 1993.

1993 was the third full year which saw our Parish without a permanent Priest. Divine Liturgy was still celebrated on twenty-four Sundays. We were fortunate to have Fr. Haik Donikian every other Sunday from January to June and again from mid-October through November and December. Our Primate Apb. Khajag Barsamian celebrated Divine Liturgy on January 10, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian celebrated Divine Liturgy on Easter Sunday, Very Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian celebrated Divine Liturgy on May 2. Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian, Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian and Rev Fr. Mardiros Chevian celebrated Divine Liturgy during the summer months.

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

In March the Parish sponsored a workshop for Parish Council members from all of the parishes in the Mid-West. The program was presented by the Dept. of Religious Education at the Diocese.

During February, March, and April we renovated our cultural hall and stage, replaced all of the fixtures in all of the wash rooms and prepared our facility for the Diocesan Assembly.

The Diocesan Assembly as hosted by our Parish was a tremendous accomplishment by any standards. For a Parish of our size, however, it demonstrated how hard working, talented, and dedicated the people of this parish can be. The people from this parish that were involved in any phase of the Assembly will always be proud of their effort.

Needless to say the Parish Council Chairman and the Diocesan Delegate Mr. George Nahabedian both attended the Diocesan Assembly held here in Chicago.

Our major activities this past year as usual included our annual street picnic chaired this year by Mrs. Marge Villareal. 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.

On October 17, we celebrated the 29th anniversary of the present location of our church. The Women's Guild prepared an excellent dinner for the occasion. We used the opportunity to begin our fund raising

for the Winter Heat Armenia Campaign. The campaign ultimately raised nearly \$8000.00 which was matched and doubled again through the generosity of others.

Thanks to Mrs. Dolores Tootoian, Mrs. Mary Dadian, and help from Miss. Violet Koresian, the bulletin was published regularly for the fourth consecutive year.

Again this past year Mr. John Pakalian continued to be responsible for renting of the hall for income and has responded to other needs at church when we asked for his help. We thank him for his continuing support.

The most critical needs for the survival of our Parish are the need for a permanent full time clergyman and addressing the needs of the youth and young people of this parish and community. Nothing anywhere can be a higher priority.

The Parish Council pursued every lead of available clergy. We interviewed potential candidates and made a significant offer to one candidate. The offer was turned down in lieu of an offer from another parish. We must continue to pursue a permanent clergyman and be prepared to accept the financial responsibility involved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Armen Zakarian". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chairman, Parish Council