

NAIRI CHOIR REPORT - 1984

The year ending December 31, 1984 found the Nairi Choir, not without some problems, but still very strong in spirit and determined to continue its work and service to the church. We opened our year with a bank balance of \$778.19. Our choir membership began with 29 members. We ended the year with 24 active members. Although it would appear as though our membership is failing, it should be recognized that several members have been effected by personal illness and that they will more than likely be returning to the active roll. On the more encouraging side, Choir has been working with the Sunday School every Sunday since December to establish a Children's Choir. Ms. Cynthia Paklaian goes to the children during Badarak and works with them on the sharagans and songs of the Badarak. This year, the children sang at the Christmas Program and everyone was quite moved.

With the exception of maybe 10 practices, rehearsals were held every Tuesday. The Executive Body for 1984 was as follows:

Georgette L. Mrofcza, Chairman
Garo Dadian, Vice-Chairman
Silva Karachorlu, Secretary
Michelle Babikian, Treasurer
Sona Yazijian & Violet Koresian, Advisors

In addition to serving at all Badaraks and all feast-day celebrations, the Nairi Choir partook and/or sponsored the following activities.

In January, the choir served the luncheon at the Annual Parish Assembly. This lunch is traditionally donated by the members of the choir. In March, the choir hosted a Mid-West Regional Seminar on the Holy Week in the Armenian Tradition. This workshop was conducted by Fr. Vahram Hazarian and Fr. Garabed Kochakian of Racine, WI. Those who attended the workshop were very much impressed with the contents. It was disheartening that the attendance was low, but we attributed this to the lack of planning time and possibly bad weather.

On March 25, 1984, our Parish was visited by His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian who officiated Badarak. The choir gave a short performance in his honor following a dinner.

Again, the choir sang for the Martyr's Day Commemoration Program and in August for the Blessing of the Grapes. This year marked a first for choir as we sang our first wedding for 2 of our own choir members. We were also very sadden to have sung for 2 funerals for mothers of 2 of our members.

On September 28, 29, & 30, 1984, Michelle Babikian, Violet Koresian and Georgette Mrofcza attended the 38th Annual Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America held in Washington, D.C., hosted by the St. Mary's Church. Attached to this report is a copy of the chairperson's report from this week-end. One thing should be mentioned here, however, that our choir placed a bid at this assembly to host the 40th assembly in 1986 and that the assembly unanimously voted in our favor. (We were bidding against St. John's of Detroit.)

The 3rd Anniversary of the Choir was celebrated on November 11, 1984-Archangels' Sunday. The choir served a luncheon and gave a musical program. The choir hosted a Canglelight Bowl which was attended by 63 people. The Choir was in charge of Christmas Caroling at a Tree-Trimming party held at the church on December 14th and served egg-nog and Christmas sweets following Badarak on December 23, 1984.

Last, but certainly, not least, the Choir's Organ Fund which was begun in early summer realized \$8,988.40 at the close of December 31, 1984. The choir has purchased a Hammond 820 Church Organ which made its debut on December 23, 1984. We wish to extend our warmest thanks to the Hagopian Family whose efforts helped us realize this dream and to all those

individuals who supported this worthwhile effort. Plans are underway to have an organ dedication service in 1985.

The choir closes out its year with \$206.61 in its treasury, and although it would appear financially it was not a good year, the choir did many good things so we feel it was indeed a profitable year. We financially supported the choir association with our annual choir plate collection and special project fund, and also supported the Ethiopian Relief Fund.

*First to Der Vahran
for his pastoral guidance*

There are many people to be thanked for all their support to the choir: The parishoners who faithfully attend church services and give us the encouragement to go on with our service; to Dr. Hampar Yazijian, who with an extremely busy schedule still made time for choir on a regular basis; to those individuals--Dorothy Koresian, Asst. Choirmaster, and Gary Rejebian who take over in Doctor's absence; to Ms. Cynthia Paklaian for keeping up with the choir's library of music and for assuming the responsibility of teaching the Jr. Choir; to the Executive Body of the Choir for their service and dedication; to the Parish Council who always supported our efforts and stood behind the workings of the choir unfliningly; and last, but not least, to our family members who pitch-in whenever choir is having an affair and needs our family's support in the kitchen and elsewhere. A very special thanks to my husband and my parents who know how important church and choir is to me and for their constant loving support.

In closing, I implore each of you to continue your support of the church and choir and ask you to consider taking an active part in choir.

Sincerely,

Ms. Georgette L. Mrofcza

Georgette L. Mrofcza
Nairi Choir Chairperson

January 27, 1985

Attachments