

1979

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
OF
ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR
ARMENIAN CHURCH
6700 W. DIVERSEY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SUBMITTED BY:

PETER KLUJIAN

CHAIRMAN

Dear Parishioners:

It has been an honor, pleasure and the greatest experience so far in my life to have served you and the St. Gregory Armenian Church as Parish Council Chairman this past year. This has been a year of some wonderful achievements and a few set backs. All in all, it has been unforgettable and has give me the opportunity to love and understand more, the many people, young and old, that I was brought up with, in our small but blessed community.

My unending appreciation to a group of dedicated and hard working officers who served under me and not once declined any request asked of them.

The Executive body consisted of:

Chairman	Peter Klujian
Vice Chairman	Mark Nahabedian
Secretary	Walter Baronian
Corresponding Secretary	John Mrofcza
Treasurer	Armen Zakarian
Assistant Treasurer	Mathew Klujian, Jr.
Advisor, Caretaker, Hall rental supervisor and trouble shooter	Peter Bedrosian

I would also like to express a special thanks to our wives who would put up with our many late hours.

A special appreciation to Misak Paloyan, even though he was not on the parish council, for his help every Sunday and to Kegham Parsegian who has helped Hayr Jiryan on the altar as Deacon; and to Nishan Babikian our Diocesan Delegate.

Number of Meetings:

- 16 regular Parish council meetings
- 1 special meeting with the church organizations
- 4 midwest regional conferences in Waukegan
- 1 midwest regional conference with The Most Reverend
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

Pastor's Annual Report:

1. Morning Services	41
2. Divine Liturgy	40
3. Arevakal	3
4. Requiem Services	22
5. Lenten and Evening Services	13
6. Baptism	6
7. Confirmation	1
8. Marriages	3
9. Funerals	13

Visiting Clergy:

- 1. Very Reverend Father Varoogian Kabarajian
- 2. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan
- 3. Bishop Papken Varjabedian

Special events:

Some of the special events that took place in 1979 and the persons that were in charge are:

1. Spring concert with Elise Tashjian Jevardian at Steinmetz High School Auditorium and reception at the Church Hall - Father Jirayr. and George Nahabedian
2. Charles Aznavor concert at the Mill Run Theater with a personal meeting and cocktail party following. Persons in charge - Mark, Helen and May Nahabedian.
3. St. Gregory Golf outing - by Peter Bedrosian
4. 15th Anniversary Celebration of our church on October 13, 1979. Co-chaired by George Nahabedian and Arnold Koresian. George Also did an excellent job as the master of ceremonies. With their efforts the affair netted the church a profit of \$7000.
5. Also on the same day the 50th Celebration of Sourpazan Hayr Tiran Nersoyans dedicated service to the Armenian Church. He was presented with a number of gifts of appreciation from the Chicago and Palos Heights Churches.
6. From India, His Holiness Baselus Mar Thorma Mathews I, Catholics of the East, celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration at our church. His Holiness was given the keys to the city and was very impressed by the speech given by Alderman George Hagopian. Overseeing by Father Jirayr Tashjian.
7. Two plays given by the drama group headed by Hagop Dirilan.
8. New Years Eve party headed by Garo Sazian had a net profit of \$915.
9. 5th Annual Street Picnic, co-chaired by Bill and Steve Tootooian, with a net profit of about \$11,900, the largest profit in the history of our picnics. A special appreciation to everyone who

lent a helping hand in this united function.

10. A series of seminars on the singing of the Badarak given by Lena Tashjian twice a week for 3 weeks - Father Jirayr

Building improvements:

Next I would like to mention some of our capital expenditures for physical improvement and income received other than normal church receipts.

1. Aluminum siding to cover the wood at a cost of \$3700.00
2. New shingle roof on the church - \$2450.00
3. Painted the wood window frames outside - \$750.00
4. Painting of the church and hall inside - \$2360.00
5. Corrected the heating problem, cost about \$750.00
6. Sold the brown wool carpet that was donated to the church for \$2000.00
- 7.. Purchase of a Certificate of Deposit for \$10,000.00 @ 11.716%
8. Received an insurance settlement for the structural damage and repairs needed to the roof above the large hall caused by snow and ice last winter. The settlement was for about \$33,635.00. To date we have received \$24,135.00. The Insurance company is holding \$9,500.00 until the work that was recommended by the structural engineers is completed. We will discuss this problem later during this meeting.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Shawn Termirian for his insurance and adjusting experiences and the time he spent negotiating for this final and fair settlement.

Areas where we need help:

1. Armenian School
2. Sunday School

(I commend Michelle and Chuck Babikian for the job they have done. What we need are teachers as well as students to make an Armenian School and Sunday School a success. I recommend a meeting with the teachers, parents, Hayr Jirayr and myself plus any other persons interested in this important stepping stone for our children. We can also get help from the Diocese on the recommended programs they have.)

3. Choir:

In great appreciation I would like to thank Violet Koresian and Sarkis Gircik for their combined efforts to keep the choir together. We need people to come to choir practice to have a choir. We need you! This is not only the responsibility of the parish priest, but you the people. Whether they have a singing voice or not they should not be discouraged from participating. Through practice and patience they can improve. We all have faults and for most of us it is to sing on key. Of course it would be great if we could find people who knew how to sing.

4. Organists:

I would like to thank Georgett Mrofcza for her many years of unselfish and devoted service as our organist. I think it is time we had a training program for some back-up organists and if necessary pay for lessons for those who might be willing to learn. The responsibility is a very big one and it is hard for one person to carry the load.

5. Secretary:

We are in desperate need for a full time secretary. If we cannot find some volunteers, we should hire someone for the job.

6. Altar flowers:

Parish council started a program to have fresh flowers every sunday. It was turned over to the young women's guild but the donations are not coming in to cover the costs.

7. Caretaker or custodian:

Possibility of a few retired persons or if none are available we must hire someone responsible for the job.

8. A hall rental committee is a must, we are loosing a large amount of revenue.

9. Bulletin:

We have an obligation to our members to keep them informed of what is happening in the church. That is why it is necessary to send a monthly bulletin or news letter to everyone on our mailing list. I don't care if it is 1 page or 10 pages. I will not except the theory if they want to know what is happening let them come every sunday.

I would like to see this as one of Hayr Jirayr and the parish councils priorities for this coming year. This years parish council failed to get this off the ground after one edition.

General analysis:

We are now experiencing a growth of the Armenian community, not only from our offspring, but from the many fleeing Armenians from overseas who are seeking a new home here as some of you, or our parents and grandparents have done before us. Some of us were driven from Turkey in 1915 and were fortunate enough to survive. Some Armenians have left Jerusalem, Jordan, Egypt, Beirut and now Iran to come here to be free and make a better home; and how else can you make a better home, church and Armenian community then having to work together to better understand each other and at the same time support the many functions and affairs given by the church and its organizations?

We must encourage help, and praise people for their efforts, what little it may be, for they are trying. If a person makes an effort to come through our doors to try and help we must acknowledge this effort and not discourage it as we might have in the past.

I urge you people to open your arms as well as your hearts, to welcome these newcomers, as well as the older members who have for some reason stayed away as the futures of our church and our heritage are at stake. It is you the people that make this church - not just the elected parish council or the parish priest. If you ever turn your back on this church and walk away from it because of some misunderstanding you are walking away from yourself, as each and everyone of us are supporting bricks that are needed to keep this church up.

It has been brought up by the former parish council chairman, George Nahabedian, and by Father Jirayr that the parish council needs more help in running the church.

I wholeheartedly agree! It is difficult for the same people to keep doing the same job over and over again. At this time I would like to recommend:

1. The formation of a steering committee represented by one member from each church organization whose function it would be to let the parish council know of important and up-coming business that has to be taken care of. The committee can also act as a liaison between the organizations and the parish council.
2. The formation of a renovation or building committee with 5 to 7 members who will serve for a 3 year term.
3. This past year we have limited the number of keys for access to the church. In my opinion this has failed. I feel everyone who has some job or function in the church should have access to the church as necessary, so it won't be a burden to anyone or himself. Especially a burden on the parish priest. (I feel those requests should be reviewed by the parish council and a careful record kept for future reference. We have many people in the area who can help out for deliveries and other emergencies, as well as being able to use our sports and hall facilities.)
4. That the number of the parish council members be increased from 7 to 9 or possibly 11.

I urge you people to look the names over of the new volunteers for the Parish Council, and let's get some new blood involved. The nominating committee has spent a lot of time to seek out qualified persons to serve. You will still have the old standbys to do whatever is necessary around the church.

In closing, I would like to extend a very warm thank you to Father Jirayr for his services performed, his guidance and willingness to help and understand. Without him it would have been very hard to get through the year. And to each and everyone who has done their part in helping our church and Armenian Community to grow.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the
Parish Council.

Peter Klujian

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Parish Council Chairman