

1978  
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT  
OF  
ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SUBMITTED BY

GEORGE M. NAHABEDIAN

CHAIRMAN

Dear Parishioners:

As in the past, it is again my pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council. As you are aware, the year of 1978 was a blessing, in that we were blessed in having the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian as our priest. The year brought about many changes. It was a year of learning and adjusting for all of us. It has been quite an experience. Through Hayr Jirayr's guidance, the church has grown in membership, programs and service to the Armenian and non-Armenian community.

Election of Executive Body

A joint meeting of outgoing and incoming members of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, February 23, 1978 under the presidency of the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian to conduct the formal transfer of duties and blessings of the newly constituted Parish Council. The following were elected to serve as officers for 1978:

Chairman.....	George Nahabedian
Vice Chairman.....	Mark Nhabedian
Secretary.....	Arnold Koresian
Treasurer.....	Armen Zakarian
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mathew Klujian, Jr.
Advisor.....	Peter Bedorsian
Advisor.....	Peter Klujian

Committees

In an attempt to organize the church and its organizations, the following Parish Council members were appointed to work as liasons between the organizations and the Parish Council:

George Nahabedian.....	Woman's Auxiliary
Mark Nahabedian.....	A.C.Y.O.A.
Peter Klujian.....	Women's Guild
Arnold Koresian.....	Armenian-Sunday School
Armen Zakarian.....	Membership

### Regular and Special Meetings

A total of 17 regular meetings were held during the year 1978. A number of special meetings were held with various organizations, executive bodies and diocesan delegates to discuss matters of interest and importance during the year.

As Chairman, I would like to recommend some type of program be developed to create a committee in acquiring additional help to assist in running a church who has a budget in excess of \$45,000.00. The Parish needs more involvement, it is a very difficult task for the same people over and over again. The Parish Council needs your help and support.

### Church Membership

Thanks to Hayr Jirayr's active roll in home visitations, the Parish membership has increased to approximately 107. The greatest number of paid members in the last 10 years. An increase of approximately 25%.

### Pledge System

In an attempt to secure more revenue, the Parish Council distributed to each family a box of weekly envelopes. This system of voluntary giving should be the main source of income for our church. Though the number of donors has increased, the program deserves universal (everyone) support. In 1968, my first opportunity to serve as chairman, I recommended that each member pledge a minimum of two dollars (\$2.00). As of this day, we are still counting change. The Parish Council cannot run a church on change, when it costs approximately \$900.00 a week to maintain a church. As Chairman, I recommend a more concrete program be developed and instituted. A program that includes both membership dues and pledge would be ideal.

### Church Picnic

On Sunday, August 20, 1978, the Parish held its 4th Annual Street Picnic on the church grounds under the Co-Chairmen of Mark Nahabedian and Peter Klujian. The Co-Chairmen and Parish Council would like to thank each member of all church organizations and all others who volunteered their time, talent and service to make this affair a most gratifying success. The Parish Council especially commends Mark Nahabedian for the fine organization of the picnic and the efficient manner in which it was conducted. Each year it becomes more and more successful. In 1978, the picnic had a gross income of \$9,528.73 and netted \$6,616.25.

### Education

The Parish Council is continuing financially to assist its parishioners who have volunteered their service to the church by encouraging them to attend summer study programs, choir seminars, Sunday School seminars and Armenian school teacher institutes. The Parish is now beginning to benefit by the knowledge that these fine people have received. The Parish Council would like to thank every one who has assisted the church in accomplishing their goals.

Through Hayr Jirayr's guidance, an Armenian-Sunday School Committee has been formed and is being chaired by Mr. Arnold Koresian. The other members of the committee are Mr. Gumushian, Mr. Torian and Mr. Kalenjian. The Armenian-Sunday School committee is responsible for recommending our current program and curriculum. A program which enables our children to receive knowledge of the Armenian language, religion, culture and history. The committee should be complimented along with Ms. Michelle Babikian, Superintendent and all members of the volunteer teaching staff.

### Cultural Events

Probably the major shortcoming of the year 1978 is the lack of cultural and educational events. We have continually celebrated Vartanantz and Martyrs Days with our sister churches of St. James Armenian Church of Evanston and Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church of Palos Heights. But again, this is one area in the church that should be expanded. Hopefully, Hayr Jirayr and the next Parish Council will do so.

### Other Accomplishments in 1978

1. Diocesan dues and debts to the Diocese have been paid. In fact, we are two months ahead. We again, are the only church in the midwest to accomplish this.
2. A Savings account of approximately \$16,650.00.
3. A checking account of approximately \$2,207.00.
4. Participation in the Midwest Regional Council of Armenian Churches.
5. Increased dues paying members approximately 25%, from 83 to 107.
6. Increase in church attendance.
7. Increase in Armenian-Sunday School membership.
8. Established an Armenian-Sunday School Committee.
9. Established an English speaking language class for non-English speaking Armenians.
10. Hosted a joint fund raising dinner for His Beatitude Archbishop Shmork Kaloustian of Turkey. Special thanks to members of Cultural Association of Istanbul Armenians for making the affair the success that it was.
11. Television program featuring His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Alderman George Hagopian and George Nahabedian on "Weekend Edition" featuring the Armenians.

12. Repaired the public address system - thanks to Mr. Walter Baronian.

Recommendations

The Parish Council Chairman recommends:

1. Organize and develop a list of objectives and make sure everyone follows them.
2. Expand the Educational Program.
3. Develop a more thorough stewardship program (envelope system).
4. Continue efforts to increase church attendance and membership.
5. Continue efforts to improve the church choir.
6. Establish a ways and means committee to assist the Parish Council in raising funds.
7. Establish a Senior Citizens Program.
8. Establish a Cultural-Education Committee to assist Parish Council in the organization of Cultural Events.

Pastor's Annual Report

- |                     |   |    |                               |
|---------------------|---|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. Baptisms*        | - | 7  |                               |
| 2. Weddings         | - | 5  |                               |
| 3. Funerals         | - | 15 | ) 5 conducted in Funeral Home |
| 4. Requiem Services | - | 20 |                               |
| 5. Divine Liturgy   | - | 54 |                               |

6. Guest Celebrants:

His Beatitude Archbishop Shnorhik Kalousdian on 11/12/78

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on 7/2/78

Very Reverend Varoujan Dz. V. Kabaradjian on 4/23/78

7. Guest Clergymen:

Very Reverend Fr. Anania Arabadjian from Etchmiadzin and  
Reverend Father Hovsep Hagopian from Etchmiadzin on 5/11 & 12/78

Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian of New York

Guest Clergymen (Cont.)

Very Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Gizirian of Worcester, Mass.

Very Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian of St. Catharines, Canada

Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian of Istanbul.

8. Home Blessings - 56

9. Calls on Shut-Ins - 11

10. Parish Visitations - 122

11. Hospital Calls - 44

12. Pastoral Hours - 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except on Mondays)

\* Anyone who has not received certificate for the sacraments, please inform the Parish Council of Hayr Jirayr as soon as possible.

Appreciation

The Parish Council extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian, Diocesan Delegate Mr. Nishan Babikian, members of the Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee, all church organizations, volunteer workers and to the countless faithful parishioners for their unselfish service and tireless efforts of time and energy.

It is only appropriate that I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of the Parish Council and all others who have contributed to the health of our parish over the past year.

Respectfully submitted

George M. Nahabedian  
Chairman, Parish Council