

1977

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Chicago - Ill

Submitted by

George M. Nahabedian

Chairman

Dear Parishioners:

It was again a great pleasure for me to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council of our church. As you are aware, this past year was again without the leadership of a full time priest. The challenge of running a church is a great one and a difficult task at that. But even without the guidance of a priest, the church grew in membership and it is continuing to grow in programs and service to the Armenian community of Chicago. The main task of the Parish Council and diocesan delegates was to secure the services of a full time clergy. Through hard work, long hours, phone calls, letters and interviews, the Parish Council fulfilled this task by securing the services of the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian.

Election of Executive Body

A joint meeting with the outgoing and incoming members of the Parish Council was held under acting president, the Very Reverend Varoujan Dz. V. Kabaradjian. The purpose was to conduct the formal transfer of duties and the blessing of the newly constituted Parish Council. The following were elected to serve as officers for 1977:

Chairman	George Nahabedian
Vice Chairman	Mark Nahabedian
Secretary	Arnold Koresian
Treasurer	Mathew Klujian, Jr.
Advisors	Jack Cholakian
	Dr. William Martin *
	Armen Zakarian

*Note. Peter Bedrosian filled the vacancy created by Dr. William Martin when he returned to Teheran, Iran.

Committees

Armen Zakarian was appointed by the Parish Council to serve as liason officer. The purpose of this position is to oversee and coordinate the activities of the organizations.

Regular and Special Meetings

A total of 16 regular meetings were held during the year 1977. A number of special meetings were held with various organizations, executive bodies and

diocesan delegates to discuss matters of interest during the year. At this time, I would like to recommend quarterly meetings with the executive bodies of the church auxiliaries to discuss and solve problems that may arise during the year.

Church Membership and Pledge System

Since its introduction, the pledge (envelope) system has not been fully accepted by the parish. This system of voluntary giving should be the main source of income for our church and it deserves universal (everyone) support. The Parish Council recommends that a more concrete program be developed. A program that will establish a minimum pledge per family. I suggest two dollars per person.

It was recommended at the 1976 Parish Assembly Meeting that a membership committee be formed. The Parish Council attempted to secure the services of individuals from each of the organizations, but this was to no avail.

As Parish Council Chairman, in accordance to the by-laws of the Armenian Church of America, I recommend that every person, 18 years of age or older, be a paid member of the church and that every member of each of the organizations be required to become a paid church member.

Church Picnic

The Annual Church Street Picnic took place on Sunday, August 14, 1977 on the church grounds under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Klujian. The picnic chairman and Parish Council are grateful to all who volunteered their time and talents to make this affair the most gratifying success that it was. The Parish Council especially commends Mr. Klujian for the fine organization of the picnic and the efficient manner in which it was conducted to make it the most successful church picnic in the church's history (\$5,602.52).

Midwest Regional Council

After being dormant for a number of years, the Midwest Regional Council of Armenian Churches was reorganized. Arnold Koresian represented our parish at these meetings.

Scholarship

The Parish Council was helpful in assisting the following students to attend the summer study program of St. Nersess Seminary in Elkhorn, Wisconsin - Scott Paklaian, Parris George, Alan Dadian, Michael Kazarian and Arden Karachorlu. The parish is now beginning to benefit by the knowledge that these fine young men have received.

The Parish Council was also helpful in assisting Miss Violet Koresian and Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza to attend the choir seminar in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Cultural Educational Events

Though the cultural and educational events in our church are limited, some of the affairs such as Vartanantz and Martyrs Day were celebrated in cooperation with the St. James Armenian Church of Evanston and St. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church in Palos Heights. Here again is an area in the church that should be expanded and the Parish should take advantage of the talent we have in our area.

Cultural Hall

The hall, under the direction of Mr. Arnold Koresian, was again supervised with a limited amount of financial success. The hall was rented 8 times and it netted the church the sum of approximately \$750.00.

Since securing the services of the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian, I would recommend that we form a committee to contract a caterer to help alleviate the cost of running the church.

Maintenance of Church Complex

The Parish Council has secured the services of Bryant Janitorial Services for a fee of \$175.00 per month. Mr. Bryant cleans and maintains the church complex three times per week and 12 times per month. Though the building is being cared for, it is still not in the condition that the Parish Council would like to see it in. The condition of the building has deteriorated due to the lack of concern

of the organizations and parishioners. The Council chairman recommends that each organization do their share in keeping the building clean. We did not hire Mr. Bryant to pick up after us.

Other Accomplishments in 1977

The Parish Council is quite pleased over the following results:

- a. Securing the services of the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian as parish priest.
- b. Diocesan dues and debts to the Diocese have been paid - the only church in the Midwest to accomplish this.
- c. A bank account of approximately \$16,600.00.
- d. A checking account of approximately \$5,500.00.
- e. The host church for the Regional Meeting of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.
- f. Participation in the Midwest Regional Council of Armenian Churches.
- g. Increase in church membership.

Recommendations

The Parish Council Chairman recommends:

1. Organize and develop a list of objectives and make sure everyone follows them.
2. Develop a good educational system - educate and re-educate everyone.
3. Develop a more thorough stewardship program (envelope system).
4. A concerted drive to increase church attendance and membership.
5. Armenian school and Sunday school programs should be developed further.
6. Increase the responsibility of the liaison officer to assist in the control of all organizations.

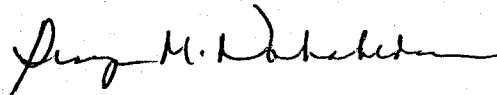
Appreciation

The Parish Council extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Very Reverend Varoujan Dz. V. Kabaradjian, Diocese Delegates, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, all church organizations, volunteer workers and to the countless faithful parishioners for their unselfish services 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.

Please allow me to wish each and everyone of you a new year of happiness, good health and personal fulfillment.

Respectfully Submitted



George M. Nahabedian
Chairman, Parish Council