

Report of the Parish Council for 1990

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

The present members of the Parish Council took their positions in June. The Parish Council had regular meetings twice monthly during 1990. We had two additional special meetings that we invited all of the parish organizations to attend. These meetings were July 10 and December 11.

On May 12 the past Parish Council and the current members met with the newly elected Primate at his request. In July the Primate visited the Midwest Regional Council at a meeting in Waukegan. Our Parish was represented by me, Mr. Nishan Babikian, Mr. George Nahabedian, and Fr. Vahram Hazarian. We were fortunate to have the Primate visit us briefly August 18, the day of our picnic, and again for services on Sunday September 16. On November 28 our parish was host to a meeting of the midwest churches and Mr. Milton Woll. Mr. Woll is a member of the National Executive Service Corp. He was hired by the Diocese to study the structure and operations of the Diocese and review the administrative organization. Mr. George Nahabedian and I represented our church.

At the direction of last years Parish Assembly and in conjunction with the discussions with the Primate, we terminated our relationship with Fr. Varaham Hazarian as our acting Parish Priest effective December 31, 1990. In our discussions with the Primate we expressed our need and desire to have another permanent priest for this church.

Knowing we would likely be without a priest beginning in 1991, in October we sent letters to twelve priests in our Diocese inviting them to visit us and conduct services. To date we have had responses from two and only one will be able to visit us.

We are fortunate to have Fr. Haik Donikian in the area now to serve us on odd Sundays each month and now at the direction of the Primate, we will have additional services performed by Very Rev. Varoujan Kabarajian and Fr. Diran Papazian during the year. We will publish the schedule for these services and continue to pursue a permanent full time Clergyman.

Our major activities this past year as usual included our annual street picnic. For the first time in the history of our street picnic, it rained the entire day Sunday. In spite of the weather, 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 \$14,000.

In November, we celebrated the 26th anniversary of the present location of our church. The Women's Guild prepared an excellent dinner and we were entertained by a very talented Armenian singer, Miss Ruth Ann Terekian. I know that those that attended that day were pleased and the generosity in their donations again made it a financial success.

A major addition to our church this year was an automatic carillon system which is programmed to play bells outside. We are working with the supplier of the bells to add optional speakers in this hall and inside the church. The carillon system is a completely funded donation from the Esther Altoonian memorial fund. If you have not heard the bells they are currently programmed to strike twelve times at noon each day except Sunday, they peal at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM on Sunday and Friday nights at 7:30 PM announcing services. They sound beautiful and can be enjoyed by everyone.

The Parish Council had many goals this past year. Some were reached, while others fell short and still others didn't begin to develop. Those that were reached were accomplished because people in the parish responded to the call for help by the Parish Council and not because the Parish Council single-handedly did the work.

We had a goal to improve communications to our Parish and community. Thanks to Dolores Tootooian, Mary Dadian, and help from Violet Koresian, we now have a bulletin published regularly for the first time in five years. I might add that it is not just a bulletin, but the best bulletin. Thank you.

Other goals especially in the area of our young people and children are not being met. Just as Dolores and Mary accepted the challenge of the bulletin, we need volunteers to help organize youth groups and young adult organizations. The Parish Council is here to support all of the activities and organizations but it is not our place to do all of the work. Those of us that remain on the Parish Council and those who are elected today will continue to serve you, but there is far more work here than seven people can handle. During the past year many people did help us and we are indebted to them and we thank them. The Parish Council and your church needs everyone's support. Please help.



Armen Zakarian
Parish Council Chairman