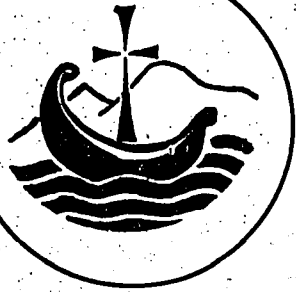


ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1983 ANNUAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 5, 1984

SUPPLEMENT

AGENDA

Call to order
Verification of eligible voters
Election of Assembly officers
Reading of 1983 Assembly Minutes
Pastor's Report
Parish Council and Organization Reports
Elections: Parish Council (5)
 Diocesan Delegates (3)
 Auditing Committee (3)
 Nominating Committee (3)
Auditing Committee Report
Approval of 1984 Budget
New Business
Adjournment and Benediction



ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
Տէր Բարի Բհնյ. Մէթճեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Rev. Paree Metjian, Pastor

ՀՈՎԻՒՆԻՆ ՏԱՐԵԿԱՆ ՏԵՂԵԿԱԳԻՐԸ

Մեր եկեղեցւոյ պատմութեան մէջ, 1983 տարին եւս պիտի նկատուի արդիւնաւոր տարի մը: Ես Փառք կուտամ Աստուծոյ որ մենք բոլորս միատեղ, կարողացանք միասնաբար աշխատելով նորանոր յաջողութիւններ արձանագրել, մեր եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան եւ Աստուծոյ փառքին համար:

Որպէս ձեր Հովիւը, նախ շնորհակալութիւններս կուզեմ յայտնել բոլորիդ որ այնքան նուիրումով գործեցիք եւ ձեր բարոյական ու նիւթական բոլորանունէր աշակցութիւնը բերիք: Արդարեւ նախ Աստուծոյ եւ ապա միաբան գործակցութեան շնորհիւ կարելի եղաւ լաւագոյնս իրագործել մեր ծուխին հոգեւոր, կրթական, մշակութային եւ ընկերային ծրագիրներն ու գործունէութիւնները:

Բացի կիրակնօրեայ Ս. Պատարագի պաշտամունքներէ, հովուական այցելութիւններէ եւ ընթացիկ համայնքային գործերէ, եկեղեցին ունեցաւ 15 Մկրտութիւն, 7 Պսակադրութիւն եւ 14 Թաղում ըստ տոմարին: Կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցը, Տնօրէնութեամբ՝ Օր. Պերճուհի Ֆէրէճեանի, իրեն օգնական Սուզըն Տատիբեանի, օժանդակութեամբ նուիրեալ ուսուցչական կազմին, պարտաճանաչօրէն կատարեցին իրենց պարտականութիւնները: Ինչպէս նաեւ Հայ Դպրոցը կը շարունակէ ներշնչել, սէր մեր մշակոյթի հանդէպ, ներկայ չափահաս սերունդին: Շնորհակալութեան խօսք ունինք Տիկին Հերմինէ Մնաքեանին, Հայ Դպրոցի տնօրէնուհիին եւ Տիկին Լուսինա Մարտեանին եւ իր խմանակալ Յանձնախումբի անդամներուն ծրագրան աշխատութեան համար:

Եկեղեցւոյ հովանաւորութիւնը վայելող բոլոր կազմակերպութիւնները բոլորեցին արդիւնաւոր տարի մը: Անոնք իրենց ձեռնարկներով աւելի եւս փայլ տուին մեր համայնքի կեանքին: Աւագ կազմակերպութեան ատենապետ՝ Տիրացու Մանուկ Զաքարիան Նոյեմբերէն ի վեր օգտաշատ ծառայութիւն կը մատուցանէ, իր վարչական կազմին հետ: Պարտ կզգանք մեր շնորհակալութիւնը յայտնել կազմակերպութեանց բոլոր ատենապետներուն, գործադիր անդամներուն եւ իւրաքանչիւր անդամին իրենց անխոնջ ջանասիրութեան համար:

Տարուան ընթացքին մասնակցած եմ ծուխիս մէջ զուամարուած բոլոր ժողովներուն ըլլան անոնք կազմակերպութեանց ժողովներ եւ կամ՝ մասնաւոր Յանձնախումբերու: Նաեւ ամբողջ տարին, ջանացած եմ կանոնաւոր կերպով այցելել բոլոր հիւանդները եւ տալ հովուական այցելութիւն Ս. ծննդեան եւ Զատիկուայ առթիւ բոլոր ծիականներուն:

Այս տարի եւս եկեղեցւոյ Վեն-ինքնաշարժը օգտակար հանդիսացաւ համայնքիս փոխադրութեան կարիքներուն: Ան ծառայեց տարեցներու եկեղեցի յաճախելուն, երիտասարդաց պտոյտներուն եւ համայնքիս զանազան կարիքներուն: Մեր շնորհակալութիւնը կը յայտնենք Պր. Վահան Տէմիրճեանի որ մեզի երբեմն օգնեց Տարեցներու փոխադրութեան: Կ'աղօթենք որ անոր երթ ու դարձը միշտ ապահով ըլլայ:

Հաւանաբար բոլորս ալ ականատես ենք մեր եկեղեցւոյ բեղուն գործու-
նէութեանց եւ տարուէ տարի աւելի եւս բազմացող կարիքներուն: Չէք գիտէր
ինչ պիտի ըլլայ անոր ապագան եւ եթէ անցեալը չափանիշ է, 1984 տարին ալ
կը յայտնաբերէ որ գործօն տարի մը ըլլայ: Յիշենք մի քանի ձեռնարկներ
որոնք կը նախատեսուին:

Առաջին անգամ ըլլալով, մեր համայնքը պիտի հովանաւորէ, տարեկան
թեմական Պատգամաւորական ժողովը: Արդէն աշխատանքները սկսած են այդ
ուղղութեամբ: Այս ձեռնարկը կը պահանջէ մեզմէ ամէն մէկուն մասնակցու-
թիւնը: Չեր իսկ աշակցութեամբ, այս պիտի ըլլայ եզակի ձեռնարկ մը:

Եկեղեցւոյ ապագան կը պատկանի երիտասարդներուն: Անոնց մէջ պէտք է
արծարծել հաւատարմութեան ոգի Աստուծոյ, Եկեղեցին եւ մեր Մշակոյթին
հանդէպ: Երիտասարդ աղջիկներ եւ տղաքներ որոշ դաստիարակութեան վերջ,
Չորս Աստիճանի տուչութեան պիտի արժանանան Սեպտեմբերին, Սրբազան Հօր
կողմէ:

Համայնքային Կեդրոնի Մասնաւոր Յանձնախումբի ջանքերով, կարելի պիտի
ըլլայ մուրհակը այրել հանդիսութեան առջեւ, զոր տեղի պիտի ունենայ
Սոյեմբերի մէջ: Այս նաեւ կը ցուցաբերէ մեր տալու եւ աշխատանքի ոգին:

1984 տարիով մեր համայնքը կը թեւակոխէ իր 50րդ Տարեդարձը: Ծնորհիւ
մեր ժողովուրդի հաւատքին եւ նուիրումին, անցած են դժնդակ օրերը եւ
ահա այսօր կը նկատուի ամենէն գործօն եւ կենսունակ համայնքներէն մէկը:
Այս առիթը պէտք է օգտագործենք աւելի եւս մեր մէջ գորացնելու եկեղեցւոյ
Հոգեւոր, Մշակութային եւ Ազգային կոչումը: Պէտք է ուխտենք Աստուծոյ եւ
ամէն միջոց գործածել որպէսզի անոր ապագան աւելի եւս փառքաւած ըլլայ:

Տեղեկագիրս փակելէ առաջ, շնորհակալութիւն կուզեմ յայտնել ծխական
Խորհուրդի ատենապետին՝ Սարգիս Սրկ. Սուլթանեանին: Ան խոր նուիրումով
եւ մեր հետ գործակցելով, իր լաւագոյնը ըրաւ եկեղեցւոյ յառաջդիմութեան
համար: Ինչպէս նաեւ եկեղեցւոյս պատգամաւորներու եւ մեր բոլոր նուիրեալ
անդամներուն: Ծնորհիւ Աստուծոյ եւ ձեր ջանքերով մեր եկեղեցին շէն ու
պայծառ մնաց տարի մը եւս:

Երէցկին Անժէլը եւ ես սրտանց ուրախ կզգանք որ Ս. Ղեւոնդեանց Համայն-
քի անդամներէն ենք: Շատ լաւ միջավայր մըն է մեր զաւակները կրթելու եւ
անոնց կարիքները հոգալու: Մենք մեզ բախտաւոր կզգանք:

Թող Աստուած բոլորս ալ առողջ պահէ, որպէսզի միատեղ աշխատինք իր
Փառքին եւ հոգիներու փրկութեան համար: Կ'աղօթենք Ս. Հոգւոյ շնորհները
լեցնէ մեզմէ իւրաքանչիւրս, որպէսզի աւելի եւս ծառայենք եկեղեցւոյ
պայծառութեան, ազգիս յառաջդիմութեան եւ Աստուծոյ Փառքին համար:

Վերոյ որոշումիս
Քարտ. Գոյ. Մէթոճան

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1983

"DOING LITTLE THINGS WITH A STRONG DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD
MAKES THEM REALLY GREAT."

ST. FRANCIS DESALES

It has been nine years since I was called upon to be the pastor of St. Leon Armenian Church. In the intervening period, our congregation has experienced growth and recorded many impressive accomplishments. It causes us to rejoice!! This was all possible because we were able to work together in love for the Glory of God.

It is certainly a pleasure for me to address the Annual Assembly about the state of St. Leon Armenian Church. This past year will go down in the annals of our parish as another productive year. It was a year of many accomplishments even though there are still some unrealized needs that confront us.

Every Sunday Divine Liturgy was celebrated, with the choir and deacons participating. We are indeed fortunate in having such dedicated deacons and choir members. The Sunday attendance registered above average.

The Sunday Church School registered 76 students and the Armenian School 55. Our parochial schools are in excellent condition due to dedicated leaders, talented staff members and Committee members.

Two nurture groups - Care and Share, chaired by Mrs. Linda Capizzi and Bible Study Fellowship, led by George Marootian has been functioning very well. Although these nurture groups have limited following, they have filled a vacuum in the lives of all participants.

Another group which seems to have a great potential is the Young Couples Group. They held their first get-together and a series of events is being anticipated. This group was initiated by the Parish Council under the leadership of Arthur Ohnikian.

The St. Leon ACYOA, Jrs. is another organization that has come of age due to its serious approach and good leadership, led by Armen Varjabedian. They have been fortunate in having Jon and Barbara Royland who act as advisors with great zeal.

For the past eight years Yerezgin Angel Metjian has been instrumental in organizing the Vacation Bible School. This project has been an enormous blessing to our youngsters in fermenting the Love of God and appreciation of our church.

A project close to my heart from which our parish has benefited is the St. Vartan Camp. This past year 42 youngsters attended from our parish and the camp provided a record \$600. campership funds to the deserving and needy.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES:

This year, I visited a total of 82 families for home blessings, sick calls and berevements. I made weekly visits to Valley Hospital and St. Joseph's and to others whenever special requests were made.

According to our Parish Registry, I performed 15 Baptisms; 7 Weddings; and 14 Funerals. Six new families have joined our parish

as members. As of January 30, we have 229 dues paying members.

Our parish newsletter "Lradoo" was published regularly and mailed to 580 families. Also the Sunday Bulletin was made available every Sunday except during the summer months.

What will 1984 bring? Truly, only God knows. However, there are signs that this will be another exciting year, each month filled with great possibilities. Let us consider a few:

(1) St. Leon Parish will host the 82nd Annual Diocesan Assembly. This is an enormous responsibility which the parish willingly assumed. It will need the support of every member to make it a success.

(2) We anticipate celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St. Leon on Sunday, November 11th to coincide with the burning of the Community Center mortgage. This too exemplifies our generous spirit of giving and working together to achieve a goal. For us, the members of St. Leon, the 50th Anniversary must be a time of rejoicing and renewal. As a parish we will be called upon to reflect and take bold ventures.

Today, I propose:

- * Church Leadership Retreats
- * 50th Anniversary Renewal Conference
- * Training and the ordination of Acolytes
- * Introduction of a Annual Family Prayer Breakfast
- * Dedication of the Library and promotion of the Parish Bookstore.
- * Initiation of the 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund

One idea I would like to act upon is to gather the Parish Council members, the Diocesan Delegates, and the Chairman of each organization to a Leadership Retreat. Members will spend 24 hours defining who we are and what we want to accomplish not only in 1984 but for the next five years. I am eager to see what ideas we can come up with.

As a parish, I believe, St. Leon is a most energetic parish - we seem to have a sense of purpose, unity, harmony and a fair amount of support for each other. We know too that we are far from being an exemplary Christian parish. What are the challenges that confront us?

Any church is small whose members think of minimums in church attendance, prayer, service, or giving. If the attitude is "How little can I do and still get by?" the church is little. It's a "big" church - regardless of its numbers - that think in terms of giving its best.

Any church is small if it doesn't challenge its young people with fulltime Christian service. It's a small church whose mothers and fathers have to apologize if their children consider the ministry. It's a "big" church - regardless of its numbers - that sends its best in the service of the Lord.

Any church is small where giving is measured in minimums, not maximums. The church budget is not what a church is costing, it is what a church is doing! Small churches give grudgingly. It's a "big" church - regardless of numbers - that gives of its means with great joy.

Any church, regardless of its size, can become small by thinking small. But, I believe, St. Leon is a spirit-filled parish, destined to be an illustrious parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to Sarkis Saultanian, Chairman of the Parish Council, for his able and wise leadership, to members of the Parish Council for their advice and consent. I would be amiss if I didn't thank Alice Yazmajian, our church secretary, who continued devotedly carrying out clerical and administrative duties of our parish. The last, but not the least, to the Management Committee, who did an outstanding job overseeing the Community Center functions. Our deepest appreciation to Rex Kachigian along with Ann Kachigian and Grace Pinajian.

Let me conclude the way I began:

We can take pride in our accomplishments.

We have turned hope into reality, a dream into a beauty, prospered when many thought we could not survive.

But much remains to be done. And we cannot do it alone.

Working together we need God's continual guidance and empowerment by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Together, I know we will live up to that challenge.

Yours in Christ's Service,


(Rev.) P. Metjian



ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
Տէր Բարի Բհնյ. Մէթճեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Rev. Paree Metjian, Pastor

January 20, 1984

Dear Parishioners:

An examination of all financial reports for the Parish Council and various church organizations was conducted for the fiscal year of 1983. Where necessary, corrections were made and brought to the attention of the Parish Council and/or the organizations.

The Auditing Committee consisting of myself, Vahram Varjabedian and Jacques Tossounian certify that all the financial reports as shown in 1983 Annual Report reflect accurately the financial status of the church organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Kachigian

Steven Kachigian
Chairman
Auditing Committee

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS
ON HAND
AS OF DECEMBER 1983

PARISH COUNCIL (CHECKING ACCOUNT).....	\$10,974.80
PARISH COUNCIL (SAVINGS ACCOUNT).....	20,457.47
ST. LEON SPECIAL COMMITTEE.....	13,649.27
WOMEN'S GUILD.....	3,610.66
ST. LEON CHOIR.....	232.24
SENIOR CENTER.....	1,974.72
ST. LEON ARMENIAN SCHOOL.....	3,961.64
ST. LEON SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	396.85
MEN'S CLUB.....	2,599.39
ACYOA, JRS.....	2,539.03
ST. LEON ENDOWMENT FUND.....	2,489.18

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 12/1/83

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION WOMEN'S GUILD

NAMES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman.....Florence Grunstra
Vice-ChairmanEdna Tungrian
Treasurer.....Lucy Chagachbanian
Ass't. Treasurer.....Katherine Ohnikian
Recording Sec'y.....Marge Semonian
Corresp. Sec'y.....Ruth Bedevian
Dorothy Karamian
Advisors:.....Olga Chongoushian
Anne Marootian
Florence Gulkasian

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 95

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Barn Dance, Retreats, St. Leon Name Day, Lenten Dinner, Coffee hospitality, Fish n' Chips, Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Conference, Senior Luncheon, One World Festival, Bazaar.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES: French Toast Breakfast, St. Leon Name Day, Fish n' Chips, Lenten Luncheon, Diocesan Assembly Hospitality, Strawberry Festival, Women's Guild Observance Day, 50th Anniversary Banquet.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking Account Balance	12/1/82	\$990.97
Savings Account Balance	12/1/82	692.48
Special Savings Account Balance	12/1/82	1,004.41
Receipts for 1983		<u>1,970.24</u>
Total		<u>\$4,658.10</u>
Disbursements		<u>1,047.44</u>
Balance		<u><u>\$3,610.66</u></u>
80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council		\$ 738.24
20% remains with organization		184.56

Report submitted by: Lucy Chagachbanian

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 12/1/83

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION - ST. LEON CHOIR

NAMES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Charles Pinajian
Vice Chairman.....Hagop Demerci
Corresp. Secretary...Blanda Yilanjian
Recording Sec'y.....Helen Mazoujian
Treasurer.....Rose Kirian

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Special Savings Account Balance		\$186.70
Receipts for 1983		580.23
	Total	<u>766.93</u>
Disbursements for 1983		<u>534.69</u>
	Balance	232.24
80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council		182.15
20% remains with organization		45.54
Report submitted by:	Rose Kirian	

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION SENIOR CENTER

Paying members 70

Bank Balance 12/1/83 \$1,974.72

ACTIVITIES:

Asbury Park Dinner Party
8 Dinner Parties at Community Center

Donation made to Parish Council \$250.00

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 12/1/83

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ARMENIAN SCHOOL

NAMES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President.....Rev: Patee Metjian
Chairperson.....Rose Najarian
Co-Chairperson.....Evelyn Kalpagian
Treasurer.....Marie Dellakian
Recording Sec'y.....Marion Bandazian
Corresp. Sec'y.....Mary Ann Mozian
Publicity.....Barbara Boghosian
Hospitality.....Gloria Zoraian
Costume & Properties....Zabel Kaprelian
Varsen Torosian

TOTAL STUDENTS: 55

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Language Study, Armenian Grammer, Armenian History, Armenian Writers, Song and Dance

FUTURE ACTIVITIES: Christmas Party, Valentine Dance, St. Vartanantz Program, Martyrs' Day, Hantes, Outing, Halloween Party.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Organization Account Balance 12/1/82	\$ 2.48
Savings Account Balance 12/1/82	<u>4,851.70</u>
	\$4,853.18
Receipts for 1983	<u>7,511.18</u>
	12,365.36
Disbursements for 1983	<u>8,403.72</u>
Total	<u><u>3,961.64</u></u>

80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council
(does not include Special account)
20% remains with organization

Report submitted by: Marie Dellakian

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ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 12/1/83

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUPERINTENDENT: Berjouhi Feredjian

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT: Susan Dadekian

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 76

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance 12/1/82	\$ 264.33
Savings Account Balance 12/1/82	260.85
Receipts for 1983	<u>2,631.09</u>
TOTAL	\$3,157.27
Disbursements for 1983	<u>2,760.42</u>
BALANCE	\$ 396.85
80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council	-0-

Report submitted by: Virginia A. Hachadourian, Treasurer

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION MEN'S CLUB

NAMES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Arthur Ohnikian
Sebouh Jessourian
Richard Tomasian
John Voskian
Gabe Kaprelian
John Loughead

MAIN ACTIVITIES: Church Fellowship, Support Sports Activities of the church.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES: Survival...Meetings every other month with ultimate goals of increasing membership. This organization with proper leadership could be an asset to the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking Account Balance	\$5,473.84
Receipts for 1983	<u>7,346.00</u>
TOTAL	12,819.84
Disbursements	<u>10,220.45</u>
Balance	\$ <u>2,599.39</u>
80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council	-0-

Report submitted by: John M. Loughead

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 12/1/83

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ST. LEON'S JUNIOR ACYOA

NAMES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman.....Armen Varjabedian
Vice-Chairman.....Steven Chagachbanian
Treasurer.....Gregg Najarian
Secretary.....Debbie Bedevian
Publicity.....Peggy Bedevian

ADVISORS:

John and Barbara Royland

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 25

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Horseback Riding, Great Adventure, St. Nersess Dance,
Sports Weekend, Retreats, Tennis Tournament, ACYOA Day,
Bazaar, Hayride.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance		\$1,292.83
Savings Account Balance		<u>1,542.66</u>
		\$2,835.49
Receipts for 1983		<u>3,505.45</u>
	Total	\$6,340.94
Disbursements for 1983		<u>3,801.91</u>
	Balance	<u><u>\$2,539.03</u></u>
80% of 1983 NET to Parish Council		-0-

Report submitted by: Gregg Najarian

RESOLUTION #1

PROPOSAL:

That the St. Leon Church Bazaar for 1984 be eliminated from our parish's activities and seek other methods of supplementing our budget in its place.

INTERPRETATION:

Acceptance of this proposal would mean that there would be no Bazaar in our parish this year.

RATIONALE:

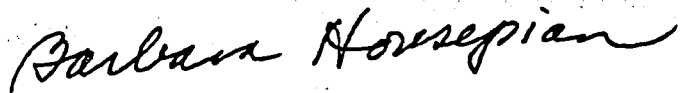
Whereas our church is hosting the Diocesan Assembly in May of 1984, our membership is being asked to give all their support to making this a successful assembly. Asking those same people to put out another enormous effort a few months later to run a successful Bazaar would be unreasonable.

Alternate methods of fund raising would be able to provide as much financial support for our budget with less effort on our parishioners.

Our Bazaars in the past few years have been lacking in merchandise and enthusiastic participation by the general membership of our parish. The task of running the Bazaar and providing its necessary food and merchandise has fallen on a number of devoted, hard-working parishioners each year. These same people will be the ones working hardest to provide for the needs of the Assembly. It is not fair to ask them to do "double duty" in one year.

We can resume having an annual Bazaar in 1985. We might consider having only an Armenian Food Fest in 1984 at our usual Bazaar time so that the outside public not be disappointed or discouraged from supporting our church. This food fest could be done on a smaller and simpler scale than our Bazaar and we might be able to call on members of the church who have not participated in the activities of the Assembly to bear the brunt of the work for the food fest.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Hovsepian

PARISH COUNCIL OPPOSES THIS RESOLUTION

For a number of reasons especially in view of the fact that the Annual Bazaar involves participation of all church organizations and Budgetary requirements. Should the Assembly see fit to approve the proposal then it should also approve alternate method of raising comparable funds (approximately \$10,000.)

RESOLUTION #2

PROPOSAL:

That girls as well as boys be allowed and encouraged to train to be acolytes.

INTERPRETATION:

Acceptance of this proposal would mean that any child, boy or girl, who requested training to be "tbir" would be allowed to train and serve in our church under the guidance of Der Paree. Upon successful completion of training, a formal request to receive the Four Minor Orders would be submitted to the Diocese, to be an acolyte with official standing.

RATIONALE:

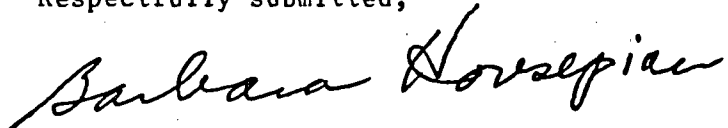
The Church has always, although slowly, made changes to keep up with the needs of each generation of worshipers. In the Early Church, both men and women served as Deacons. (See St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans 16:1-2.) The Armenian Church has had women serving in the Church in its past history, and even at present has at least one woman Deacon. It is only in recent centuries that this tradition has faded. It is time now to reinstate the tradition of women serving in the Church starting with the Four Minor Orders, Acolyte.

We have many interested girls and boys who wish to take a more active and important part in the Badarak. They feel serving as an Acolyte is exciting, interesting, fulfilling, and fun. They also feel a spiritual commitment to their Church in seeking this office. These children should be allowed to develop a greater knowledge of their faith and deeper desire to serve their Church through Acolyte service. There is no Church doctrine prohibiting women (girls) from serving in this capacity.

Our parish is small and we rely on a small number of interested boys to serve as Acolytes. The number of available servers would be increased to our benefit by allowing girls to become Acolytes.

In other Armenian Churches in our area where girls have trained to serve as Acolytes and are currently doing so, their record of devoted, reliable service has matched if not surpassed the record of the boys serving in their parishes.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Hovsepian

PARISH COUNCIL WOULD ENDORSE A MODIFIED PROPOSAL AS FOLLOWS:

That girls as well as boys be allowed and encouraged to train and eventually ordained as Acolytes (receive the Four Minor orders) provided the Primate gives prior expression of his approval.

