

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - 1987

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

It is with less than complete satisfaction that I report to you of our accomplishments during this past year. We have made satisfactory progress in some areas, but have not been able to achieve all our goals.

St. Leon was fortunate this year to discover we had an untapped source of new leadership. Three members became first-time chairmen: Antoine Moomdjian for our Annual Picnic; Leon Hovsepian for the Food/Festival Bazaar; and David Saultanian for our New Year's Eve Dance. As usually occurs, new people provide new direction and their novel concepts were much in evidence and greatly appreciated.

Approval was given at our last Parish Assembly for the establishing of a Membership Committee. Unfortunately, due to overwork of its members this very important project did not reach fruition. I am hopeful that we will have actual progress this spring. If there was more active participation by our parishioners, St. Leon would already be benefitting from increased membership instead of anticipating progress.

During 1987, we formed a committee to determine the feasibility of expanding and improving our physical facilities - a new church entry with handicap facilities and an enlarged narthex and Parish Council office; enlarging the Church proper and providing additional office space and conference room. The members of this committee were also those who fostered our Community Center which now provides about one-third of our annual budget. As one who was not completely in favor of that project at the time, I now wonder how we would be operating if our membership did not have the foresight to approve the plans of these same members.

We expanded participation as ushers for Church Service by seeking out ACYOA, Jrs. and the Senior Citizens who both accepted our proposal. This is open to others willing to participate.

There were three noteworthy community-wide events that warrant citing. In what became one of the most widely attended events in our history, we sponsored a slide presentation by Gregory Parseghian of his climb of Mt. Ararat. In addition, there were two unity-oriented events. The first was a panel discussion on Church Unity, the second was a Unity Prayer Breakfast sponsored by ACYOA, Jrs. Both were well attended.

I would like to thank Der Hayr for his availability, dedication and guidance in enabling me to serve in this capacity, and for all of you who answered our call for assistance. Particular thanks to the Women's Guild who always labors

so hard for the good of St. Leon, and extremely vital to all, the Management Committee which supervises the use of the Community Center and does such an effective job in providing us with a very substantial amount of needed revenue.

The Spirit of St. Leon, as in other churches, is still in its parishioners. We are indeed fortunate to have so many diligent members who give of themselves to work for the Church. Some overextend themselves. Others limit themselves to a favorite organization. There is, however, a need to work for the entire church through more than just one of its auxiliaries. I urge you to become more involved... St. Leon needs your help!

Arthur Ohnikian  
Parish Council Chairman

*Arthur Ohnikian*