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ST. LEON ANNUAL REPORT 1978

REV. PAREE METJIAN, PASTOR

CHARLES PINAJIAN, CHAIRMAN



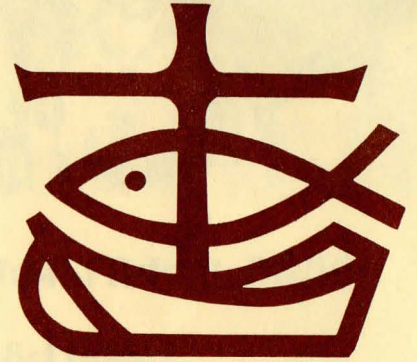
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Տէր Բարի Քինյ. Մէթնեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
12-61 Saddle River Road Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410

Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor

Telephones: (Code 201)
Church: 791 - 2862
Rectory: 791 - 1583



Fair Lawn, January 26, 1979

To: The Family of St. Leon

From: Charles Pinajian, Chairman

SUBJECTS: Parish Assembly, Church Reports and Budget for 1979

By action of the Parish Council, the Annual Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church will be held in the church nave on Sunday, February 18th, at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to review our progress for 1978, hear the annual reports, take action on the proposed budget and elect future lay leaders of our parish, for Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees.

In order to provide you with as much advance information as possible about the assembly proceedings, the Parish Council has prepared a brochure which is enclosed for the use of you and your family. You are encouraged to read this brochure carefully before the Annual Assembly in order to familiarize yourself with its contents. It is requested that you bring this brochure with you to the meeting for the purpose of aiding you in the discussions.

Knowing that many of our parishioners have not pledged for 1979, you'll have the opportunity to consider our proposed program for 1979, and we hope you'll make a definite financial commitment. In order to maintain our momentum and keep ahead of inflation, we request that you join with other members in making a definite financial commitment. Enclosed please find a self-addressed envelope. You may turn it in on the 18th of February or mail it at your convenience.

Please consider your membership in St. Leon to be important enough to participate responsibly in shaping its future.

ՀՈՎԻԻՆ ՏԵՂԵԿԱԳԻՐԸ

Աստուծոյ ողորմութեամբ տարի մը եւս կարողացանք հովուելու Սր. Ղեւոնդեանց Հայց. Եկեղեցոյ պատուական համայնքը: Մեր հաստատ համոզումն է թէ 1978-ը եղաւ նշանակալից եւ արդիւնաւէտ տարի մը: Եկէք միասին անդրադառնանք մեր գործունէութեանց:

Հայց. Եկեղեցին մեր հոգիին ծննդավայրն ըլլալով՝ ամէն Կիրակի Ս. Պատարագ մատուցուցաւ օրուայ պատշաճ Կեանց Խօսքը քարոզուցաւ ըստ մեր տօնացոյցին: Տարիներով Եկեղեցոյ ծառայելէ վերջ, Տիկին Լուսին Տապաղեան հրաժարեցաւ իր պաշտօնէն եւ Լուսիլ Վարժեան ստանձնեց երգեհոնահարի պաշտօնը: Իսկ Եկեղեցոյս դպրասպետի պաշտօնը ստանձնեց Պր. Ծօրն Բարունակեան: Սարկաւագաց եւ Դպրաց Դասը կը բերեն իրենց Աստուածահաճոյ ծառայութիւնը Աստուծոյ եւ Իր Եկեղեցիին: Անոնք արժանի են մեր բոլորին գնահատանքին:

Ապրիլ 15-ի շաբաթավերջին, Թեմիս Բարեխնամ Առաջնորդ Թորգոմ Արք. Մանուկեան, այցելեց մեր համայնքը: Այս առթիւ 20 տղաք ստացան Չորս Աստիճանի տուչութիւն Սրբազան Հօրմէն ծառայելու Ս. Խորանին: Տեղի ունեցաւ նաեւ ճաշ եւ յայտագիր ի յարգանս Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հօր եւ նորընծայ երիտասարդներուն: Ուրախութիւն է տեսնել երիտասարդ տղոց ծառայութիւնը Ս. Խորանին վրայ:

1978 տարուան ընթացքին մեր Եկեղեցիէն ներս կատարուեցան հետեւեալ ծէսերը.- Մկրտութիւն՝ 9, Պսակ՝ 8, եւ Թաղում՝ 7: Եկեղեցոյս թերթիկը՝ Լրատուն կը դրկուի 496 ընտանիքներու: Մինչեւ այսօր մեր տարեկան անդամներու թիւն է 198: 1978 տարուայ ընթացքին 3 ընտանիքներ ուրիշ նահանգներ փոխադրուեցան, իսկ 12 ընտանիքներ ալ նոր անդամ արձանագրուեցան:

Եկեղեցոյս հովանաւորութիւնը վայելող բոլոր կազմակերպութիւնները բոլորեցին արդիւնատր տարի մը եւս: Անոնք իրենց ձեռնարկներով աւելի եւս փայլ կու տան մեր համայնքի կեանքին: (Պարտք կը զգանք շնորհակալութիւն յայտնել ձեր եւ մեր կողմէ՝ կազմակերպութեանց ատենապետներուն, եւ գործադիր անդամներուն եւ ամէն մի անդամի իրենց անխոնջ ջանասիրութեան համար):

Մեր համայնքը կը պատրաստուի տօնակատարելու Եկեղեցաւեր Տիկնանց Միութեան 50-րդ Տարեդարձը այս տարի: Մեր Եկեղեցոյ հիմնուած օրէն ի վեր, մեր պատուական Տիկիները իրենց ժրջան օժանդակութիւնը բերած են անոր բարգաւաճման եւ յառաջդիմութեան: Իրապէս անոնք արժանի են ամէն գովասանքի եւ յարգանքի:

Կիրակնօրեայ եւ Հայ Դպրոցները, հաւատարիմ իրենց կոչումին, կը կատարեն ազգանուէր պարտականութիւնները: Անոնք կը ջանան դժուարին պայմաններու տակ, ներշնչել մեր պատանի սերունդին՝ սէր եւ յարգանք Աստուծոյ եւ մեր մշակոյթին հանդէպ: Հոս նաեւ կ'ուզենք մեր գնահատանքը յայտնել զոյգ տնօրէններու, ուսուցչական կազմերու եւ խնամակալ մարմիններու: Թող Աստուած օրհնէ եւ աւելի եւս արդիւնատրէ անոնց աշխատանքը:

Անցեալ տարուայ անդամական ժողովին յայտնեցինք մի քանի նպատակներ, զանոնք իրագործելու համար: Ուրախ եմ ըսելու թէ այդ նպատակները իրագործուած են: Թունեք զանոնք:

Առաջին, կազմել յանձնախումբ մը որ ուսումնասիրէ մեր համայնքի հոգեւոր, կրթական եւ այլ մարզերու ապագայի կարիքները եւ պատրաստէ որոշ ուղեցոյց մը այդ նպատակներու գործադրութեան համար: Անգլերէնի բաժնին մէջ կը գտնէք աւելի տեղեկութիւններ այս մասին:

Երկրորդ, հաստատել կտակներու հիմնադրամ մը որպէսզի մեր ծխականները յիշեն մեր Եկեղեցին եւ անոր կարիքները իրենց կտակներուն մէջ: Պատրաստեցինք գրկոյք մը տալով մանրամասն տեղեկութիւններ հիմնադրամի մասին — հիմնադրամի հասոյթով մեր երիտասարդաց պիտի տրուի նուէրներ՝

PASTORAL REPORT

Greetings to all:

In gratitude for the privilege of serving as pastor, I am happy to submit this report to the annual assembly. "Momentous" is the adjective which best describes the life and the activities of St. Leon's during 1978. I would like to share with you some of the major highlights:

(a) ACOLYTE TRAINING PROGRAM: Prior to their ordination to the order of acolyte, 17 boys and 4 girls participated in Advance Acolyte Training program. They were taught about church history, sacraments, Divine Liturgy and the duties of acolytes.

On April 15 and 16, His Eminence, Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, paid a pontifical visit to St. Leon. These boys after completing and passing an exam, were ordained acolytes. This project was the first in its kind in our Diocese.

Following their ordination, tennis instruction was held for 12 weeks thanks to tennis pro Hydook Mantashian. This proved to be a very rewarding and successful project. We hope to do it again.

(b) BIBLE STUDY: Special Lenten Bible Study was initiated by Yeretzgin Angel Metjian. Although beginning with a few participants, there is the need for such an effort. This year, a "Year with the Bible" has been initiated, whereby the members read the assigned readings for each day. They plan to meet three times a year for an evening of fellowship. We pray for its success.

(c) YOUTH ACTIVITIES: A major concern of our members one year ago was our youth. It needed to be stronger. How things have changed in just few months!

They have had one successful activity after another: the Camp Nubar outing, exchange visits with Watervliet ACYOA chapter, the Camp Bernie Conference and many others.

The key of success in any church endeavor is lay involvement, and this is a perfect example. Rex and Ann Kachigian, ACYOA Jr. advisors, have taken personal interest and they did everything to make it go. We expect more great things to happen yet!

In March, the St. Leon ACYOA Sr. chapter was organized. They held monthly meetings and various activities. They sponsored a successful tennis party in May and also participated in ACYOA Sports week-end held in Providence, Rhode Island.

Although limited in numbers and time, their spirits are high. They need our support and encouragement.

WORSHIP: Every Sunday morning, the family of God, gathered to celebrate Divine Liturgy. Our attendance and participation has somewhat improved and many attend regularly.

Lucy Dabagian, who has served St. Leon with great distinction and devotion for many years, for personal reasons tendered her resignation in September. Since then, Lucille Varjian has filled the position of organist with great care and ability. George Paroonagian is the choir director.

We are proud to have faithful Deacons, altar servers, acolytes and dedicated choir members. They hope others from the parish will join the choir as active members.

SUNDAY AND ARMENIAN SCHOOLS: This year close to 90 students have been enrolled in our Sunday Church School. Leon and Rosalie Hojegan are the new superintendents, along with a staff of 12 teachers, imparting Christian Education to our youngsters. Throughout the years we have made some progress but it still seems we have some inherent problems: Personnel, curriculum, physical surroundings and parental apathy. It seems we have short-changed the teaching ministry of the church for so long. It behooves us to make a concerted effort.

The St. Leon Armenian School enrolled 60 students. Mrs. Hermine Menakian is the school principal, and Rose Najarian, is Chairperson of the Armenian School Committee. In cooperation with the teachers, and school committee, they are trying to instill knowledge and pride of the unique Armenian heritage in our children.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS: 1978 for our church organizations has been a successful year with various social and cultural fund raising activities in support of our church. We are proud of the Senior Citizens for their participation in all the church functions and for their help whenever asked, and also our praises to the Women's Guild who sponsor so many functions throughout the year.

This year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Guild. Since its inception, the women of our parish have played a major role in the progress of our church. They deserve our praise and admiration.

STATISTICS

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Baptized members	6	9
Weddings	4	8
Funerals	13	7
Members transferred	(families) 5	(families) 3
Pledging members	210	198
Inactive members	120	130
Mailing list	470	496
New Members joined	(families) 8	(families) 12

As part of my personal duties, whenever possible I visited Valley, Hackensack and St. Joseph Hospitals on a weekly basis. When informed of emergency cases, I have made special visits. Year round home-blessings; and pastoral visits were made. The preparation of the Sunday Bulletin, the Lradoo and other administrative chores were shared by Alice Yazmajian, our church secretary.

The van that our parish acquired two years ago, continues to meet overall transportation needs of our parish. Our Senior Citizens were able to come to church; our youth took a few extended overnight trips, and it has been useful to parish activities. To date, the van has registered 13,200 happy miles.

At the last Annual Parish Assembly, we stated a few objectives. I am pleased to report that some of the objectives have been met.

First, Establishment of an Endowment Fund; two members of our parish did underwrite special projects in memory of their loved ones. Charles Takvorian Sunday School Scholar of the Year Award was already presented to the first recipients, Marge Kachigian, Albert and Jack Jibilian. St. Mesrob Armenian School Award will be presented this year in memory of Elizabeth Beshlian. Two paintings will be commissioned soon from the Merguerian Family in memory of their loved ones. It is our hope that our parishioners will see its merits and contribute through wills and bequests, creating a living legacy.

Second, the "Committee of the 80's" appointed by the Parish Assembly, met four times in order to consider the future needs of our parish. The committee reviewed and evaluated basic ministries: worship, education, sacraments, membership and youth. A detailed report is expected to be presented at the Assembly. We sincerely recommend that their proposals be implemented.

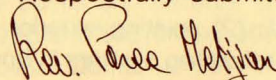
Third, to convert the church library into a office facility for the pastor and the secretary. On Tuesday, February 20th, church offices will be dedicated by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian in memory of Esther Tashjian. The office furnishing are donated by Joseph Tashjian and sons in memory of their mother.

A careful study of the annual report will truly elicit admiration for the dedicated men and women whose loyalty to the church has made it possible to have a successful year. Yet one must take into account our failure to serve more effectively. There are still uncounted hundreds who are not full-pledged members, whom we have not reached. The Order of Divine Liturgy, Christian Education for adults and children, Evangelism and youth demand our attention. Times are changing. Apathy is rampant. Let's get at it!

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Charles Pinajian, the Parish Council chairman, for his assistance and cooperation. His love and devotion to our parish is steadfast. Thanks to the members of the Parish Council for encouraging me in every endeavor, each parish organization chairmen and their executive committees, for helping me to carry out my responsibilities. Last but not least, to all members of our parish who have encouraged me with their prayers and silent help when most needed. Truly, I thank you all.

I am thankful for the confidence placed in me, and for the good fellowship I enjoy with every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,


Rev. Poree Metjian
Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

I am happy to state that we have had another year of continued progress in the spiritual, cultural, educational, and social life of St. Leon's in 1978.

Our envelope pledge system continues to add regularly to the Parish budget. However, as in the past, our expenses, by far, exceed the income from pledges. We have again depended on social functions to make up the required differences. We are recommending a concerted visitation program during the Lenten period as a means to increase church membership which in turn will show an increase in pledges.

As usual, our annual picnic was successful, thanks to Al Ferraro and his committee. Although a low keyed affair, it was an outing enjoyed by many friends and members.

Our annual Bazaar was a resounding success, especially with the "200 Club" raffle, undertaken by Young Adults of our parish with Richard Dabagian as chairman. The total net profit exceeded \$18,000.00.

We were proud to present the St. Vartan Award to Lucy Dabagian for her many years of untiring devotion and service as Choir Director and Organist. Her testimonial reception was attended by many parishioners, relatives and friends.

In accordance with the Assembly decision, we were able to provide the offices for our Pastor, secretary, and conference room. Furniture for the offices have been ordered and will soon be delivered. This is an important step forward in the growth of our Parish.

Our secretary, Mrs. Alice Yazmajian, a member for many years, has been very helpful with the administrative and clerical needs of our parish. She has been gradually assuming more of the duties and chores previously performed by our Pastor and Parish Council.

This year, the small cottage had the following repairs:

(1) New roof; (2) New windows were installed; (3) Outside paint job was done.

The Parish House had the following improvements:

(1) Converted hot water heater to new gas heater; (2) converted oil burner furnace to gas furnace; (3) new air conditioner was installed ; (4) closets were installed on second floor.

We recommend for the church building, the following improvements:

(1) Panelling church hall; (2) painting exterior doors and windows; (3) painting interior of church; (4) possibly tearing down and rebuilding planters in front.

As to our various church organizations, Women's Guild, ACYOA Jrs. and Srs., Choir, St. Leon Senior Center and Athletic teams, in every area progress has been made. They have truly cooperated with the Parish Council. This has made our work much less difficult.

1979 brings us greater challenges:

The Committee of the 80's, authorized by the 1978 Parish Assembly, met four times and submitted their report to the Parish Council. We expect certain proposals to emerge from their study for the improvement of our parish.

Our parish is in dire need of Sunday School classrooms and the construction of a new Fellowship Hall. This must become and remain a top priority in our minds in the next decade.

The past year we have averaged close to 100 worshipers in church every Sunday which is equivalent to approximately 60 per cent of our dues paying members. We know we can and should show an improvement in church attendance, but we need your concerted effort.

The time has come that every member be involved in on-going projects of our church. We recommend that standing committees be formed by the Assembly: (1) Membership, (2) Sports, (3) Building and Grounds. Team work is the main ingredient of any successful administrative body. I believe St. Leon has the potential to be a model parish in our Diocese. And we need your help!

It is only appropriate that I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to Der Patee and to the Parish Council members for their close knit cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Charles Pinajian

Fair Lawn, January 23, 1979

Report from the Auditing Committee

To: All Parish Members

An examination of all financial records of the Parish Council and various church organizations was conducted for the period of December 15, 1977 through December 15, 1978. In addition, in accordance with the recommendations of the 1977 Parish Assembly, the books and records of the Parish Council were audited during the year, for the periods ending June 30, 1978 and September 30, 1978. Where necessary, corrections were made and brought to the attention of the parish Council and the organizations.

The Auditing Committee certifies that all financial reports as shown in the Annual Report reflect accurately the financial status of these organizations.

It is the recommendation of the Auditing Committee that in the future all organizations submit their bank books and statements with their financial reports to facilitate the audit of their accounting books and statements.

THE AUDITING COMMITTEE
Vahram Varjabedian, Chairman
Sarkis Bedevian
Sarkis Rex Kachigian

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS — 1978
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1979

RECEIPTS

	Proposed 1978	Actual 1978	Percent of Total	Proposed 1979	Percent of Total
Weekly envelopes, dues and Plate Collection	\$19,500	\$15,204	22.68%	\$19,500	28.40%
Special Donations: Sacraments, in lieu of flower, etc.	9,000	9,687	14.45%	10,000	14.56%
Net profit from affairs	16,000	21,676	32.34%	23,000	33.50%
Sale of Books — Lradoo	700	306	.45%	650	.94%
Holiday Donations	6,500	5,643	8.42%	6,500	9.46%
Income from Auxiliary Organizations	1,500	2,896	4.32%	4,000	5.87%
Van Net Proceeds		84	.12%		
Cottage House	3,000	3,025	4.51%	3,000	4.36%
Endowment Fund		1,650	2.46%		
Advance Giving		900	1.39%		
Donations: Hall and Grounds		720	1.07%		
Misc. Income	2,500	(a) 5,245	7.82%	2,000	2.91%
Total Receipts	<u>\$58,700</u>	<u>\$67,036</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$68,650</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

(a) Includes \$3,491.00 Insurance refund on building re-rating.

DISBURSEMENTS

	Proposed 1978	Actual 1978	Percent of Total	Proposed 1979	Percent of Total
Pastor's stipend, auto allowance, visiting clergy	\$12,000	\$10,750	16.04%	\$13,400	19.51%
Clergy Insurance and Pension	2,000	2,478	3.69%	3,000	4.36%
Church & Parish House Repairs, Maintenance	5,000	4,227	6.30%	7,000	10.19%
Diocese Expenses and Dues	8,000	7,892	11.77%	9,000	13.10%
Publications and Mailing	1,500	2,147	3.20%	2,000	2.91%
Administrative and General	5,000	4,176	6.23%	3,750	5.46%
Organist Stipend				1,250	1.82%
Armenian School	2,200	819	1.29%	2,000	2.99%
Sunday School	1,500	975	1.45%	1,750	2.54%
Sports Association		324	.48%	500	.72%
Van Operating Expenses	1,500	911	1.35%	1,500	2.18%
Church Operating Expenses, Insurance and Utilities	17,500	(a) 9,885	14.74%	17,500	25.49%
Equipment Purchase, etc.	1,500			1,500	2.18%
Part Time Secretary	3,000	983	1.46%	3,000	4.36%
Pastor's and Secretary Office Partitions and Furniture	6,000	4,459	6.65%	1,500	2.18%
Extra-ordinary Equipment					
Replacement for Parish House and Cottage		2,976	4.44%		
Joint St. Leon's—AGBU		130			
Total Disbursements	<u>\$66,700</u>	<u>\$53,132</u>		<u>\$68,650</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Transfer to Endowment Fund		1,000	1.49%		
Budget Surplus (includes \$650 for endowment)		12,904	19.42%		
		<u>\$67,036</u>	<u>100.00%</u>		

(a) Package Insurance policy due September 1978—unpaid; statement received year-end \$2,949.15

SUMMARY OF OPERATING FUNDS ON HAND
AS AT DECEMBER 15, 1978

WOMEN'S GUILD.....	\$ 5,354.06
ARMENIAN SCHOOL.....	843.97
CHOIR.....	167.34
ACYOA — SENIORS.....	232.66
ACYOA—JUNIORS.....	1,928.95
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	535.83
SENIOR CENTER.....	1,618.25
PARISH COUNCIL.....	5,468.01
	\$ 16,149.07
	\$ 16,149.07

1979 SLATE OF CANDIDATES
SAMPLE BALLOT

Candidates for Parish Council

Vote by checking (X). *6 persons only*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hagop Afarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Walter Bandazian
<input type="checkbox"/> Ara Dedeian
<input type="checkbox"/> John Hamalian
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Jesraly, Sr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Dorothy Karamian | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Loughead
<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Najarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Charles Pinajian
<input type="checkbox"/> John Yilanjian
<input type="checkbox"/> Harry Zoraian
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|---|---|

Candidates for Auditing Committee

Vote by checking (X). *3 persons only*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarkis Bedevian
<input type="checkbox"/> Sebouh Jessourian
<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Kachigian | <input type="checkbox"/> Ted Takvorian
<input type="checkbox"/> Vahram Varjabedian
<input type="checkbox"/> John Voskian |
|---|--|

Candidates for Nominating Committee

Vote by checking (X). *3 persons only*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarkis Gabrellian
<input type="checkbox"/> Florence Gulkasian
<input type="checkbox"/> Mirjan Kirian | <input type="checkbox"/> James Noorigian
<input type="checkbox"/> James Soojian
<input type="checkbox"/> Agnes Voskian |
|---|--|



ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, N. J. 07410

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