

## DIOCESAN DELEGATES REPORT

The 90th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America convened in Boca Raton, Florida, from April 30 to May 3, 1992. Delegates from 50 organized and mission parishes, which comprise the Eastern Diocese of North America, gathered for the Assembly which was hosted by St. David Armenian Church. Two new churches were added to the Diocese; (ground breaking) in Ocala, Florida and St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dallas, Texas.

The general discussion of the sessions focused upon the need to look forward and secure the future well-being and prosperity of the Diocese. A major portion of this year's discussion centered around the topic of ministry to the youth. The Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Director of the Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry, outlined their goals and progress. He stressed that they are our present, not our future. A Youth Ministry Advisory Committee has met several times during the year. These 25 individuals, ages 24 - 35 years old, will be the "Think Tank." Their outline of goals

---

Education, Fellowship, Service to others, Witness and Worship/Prayer.

1. The A.C.Y.O.A.'s membership needs building as well as improving quality of activity.
2. Develop staff at the Diocese and have National Coordinators.
3. Develop a network of parish coordinators.

Three separate panels were presented, each with a different viewpoint on the youth question. Despite the diversity of the speakers, several themes emerged.

1. The importance of personal outreach to the youth by clergy and parish.
2. The need to integrate young people into the total life of the parish.
3. The crucial effect of roll-models and adult examples in the formation of young minds.
4. The primacy of the Church's religious mission to the youth.

We strongly recommend the need for a youth director, even if it is shared with a sister parish.

The Report of the Unity Committee was given by Zaven Kasparian, from Worcester, MA. Not one committee meeting has been held this year. Scheduling conflicts have frustrated all involved. A recent communication by the Prelacy Unity Committee stated that cooperative action should be implemented with the Armenian and Sunday Schools prior to the completion of the by-laws. This cooperative action was part of the 1982 guidelines which were intended to be put into effect concurrent with Unity. A Cooperative Committee was formed by the Diocesan Council and four churches were selected to participate in these efforts. They are -

St. James	Watertown, MA
St. Mark	Springfield, MA
St. Mary	Washington, DC
St. Mesrop	Racine, WI

No time frame for these cooperative efforts were set. The Assembly resolved to reaffirm the original mandate of the Diocesan Unity Committee.

#### Report of Endowment Fund

A gain of \$9 1/2 million was realized this year, bringing the total of funds to \$25,000,000.00.

St. Leon will receive \$14,105.87 from our total donations of \$204,800.00, a 7% return.

#### The Diocesan Fund for Armenia's Recovery

There has been a great deal of "bad" press regarding this fund. It was stressed that the funds were primarily earmarked for housing. Ninety-six apartments were built in Stepanavan. Because of conditions in Armenia, fuel sources, power and transportation were interrupted. DFAR is suspending activities for further housing since the need for food, energy and medical needs has risen above housing. Balance in account as of December 31, 1991 - \$5,569,826.00.

St. Nersess Seminary is actively implementing a recruitment and outreach program. Deacon Hratch Tchilingirian has been appointed Director of the Seminary.

Budget reviews and elections of Auditing and Nominating Committee. Proposed a budget for 1993 - \$2,200,650, of which 42 Parishes are assessed.

Next year's Assembly will be hosted by St. Gregory the Illuminator, in Chicago Illinois.