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Կիրակի, 26 Յունուար, 1997

ANNUAL REPORT
of
St. Leon Armenian Church

Sunday, January 26, 1997

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Հ. Վահան Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեան, Հոգեւոր Հովիւ
Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian, Pastor
St. Leon Armenian Church
12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

**MINUTES OF THE 1996 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Joseph Basralian following an opening prayer by Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian. There were 103 members out of 284 in attendance. A motion was made to waive the reading of the 1995 Parish Assembly minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for Parish Council--

Gregory Ashbahian	Ara Hourdajian
Lynda Chagachbanian	Gabriel Kaprelian
Richard Dabagian	Kevork Ohannessian
Harry Harutunian	Nancy Scicchitano

Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for the Auditing Committee--

Vahe Kiljian	Amy Vartoukian
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Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee--

Andrea Halejian	Barbara Hovsepian
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Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for Diocesan Delegates--

Thomas Ashbahian	Rose Najarian
Leon Hovsepian	Katherine Ohnikian
Sarkis Gabrellian	Sarkis Soutanian

Election of officers for the Assembly followed with Council Chairman Kachigian presenting the candidates, Thomas Ashbahian and Glenn Ajamian, for the position of Chairman of the Assembly. Mr. Ajamian withdrew prior to the vote and Mr. Ashbahian was voted in as the Chairman of the Assembly.

Council Chairman Kachigian presented Linda Harutunian and Nancy Scicchitano as candidates for Secretary of the Assembly. Mrs. Scicchitano withdrew prior to the vote and Mrs. Harutunian was voted in as the Secretary.

Instructions were then given regarding voting. If more than five votes were cast for Parish Council the ballot would be declared invalid. The same rule would also apply to the Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates, as far as voting for more than the number requested. There were no additional nominations for the Parish Council Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates. The nominations were closed.

The voting commenced at 12:30 PM.

Hayr Soorp brought up the fact again that according to the by-laws there should be twice as many people nominated for each position. If we cannot get that amount, the Parish Council should be reduced from 11 to 9 members. The problem is that most people are not interested. Many of the members are re-circulated names from year to year. He asked if any one wished to comment. The following responses were given --

Dawn Hourdajian - Even if we have 8 members, as long as they are hard working they will do a good job without compromising quality.

Hayr Soorp - We should pursue new people, especially young people.

Sarkis Soultanian- In order to change the size of the Parish Council we need to vote on a new resolution. We cannot do anything about the number of members for this year at this point.

Rex Kachigian- The Assembly could do this today so that it will be effective next year.

Sarkis Soultanian - This would be under New Business.

Hayr Soorp - Just because we have 284 members, does not mean that we have 284 volunteers. The Parish Council does not have to increase with increased membership.

Regarding the Pastor's Report, pages 8 to 11 of the Annual Report, Father Vahan felt that it was another successful year. Parish membership increased from 245 to 284. There were improved programs with a successful turnout. He felt that the parish should continue paying special attention to educational programs and youth activities. These two aspects should be the priority of our mission as a parish. Father Vahan added that this year's programs included Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Deacon Training, Conversational Armenian, Youth Discussions and a new Computer Program. Our ten Altar Servers attended Deacon Training sessions every Friday and served on the altar every Sunday. They served the Vehapar with amazing success during his recent visit. All organizations are doing very well. Father Vahan was happy to have Deacon George this past year. Deacon George was a great help and he enjoyed this year with him. Thank you. The Parish Council had active members who supported him. They rarely missed a

meeting. This is the Year of the Youth and it is our responsibility to get them involved. Father Vahan thanked the Assembly for making him a part of the Church family. Most importantly for him Fr. Vahan thanked God for the inspiring year he enjoyed with the Parish. Thank you everyone. Thomas Ashbahian, Assembly Chairman, thanked Hayr Soorp for his leadership.

Deacon George commented on his report, pages 12 to 14 of the Annual Report. He spoke of the successful teamwork with Hayr Soorp and the personal training he received. He remarked on how he got to know everyone through Bible Study, Coffee Hour, etc. He would like to enhance his ministry to families and help build Christian character in our youth. Thank you.

Rex Kachigian gave the Parish Council Report. He thanked the various organizations and conveyed good wishes to the Parish Council members who are leaving. Regarding the explosion, he asked if there were any questions. There were none. He explained that there was extensive damage to Jessourian Hall and the kitchen. The repairs are being handled by the Expansion Committee. It was felt that the repairs and the expansion was best handled by a single group. He then mentioned that a form was being passed around to all members for volunteering for Sunday duties such as greeting, the Kiss of Peace, scripture reading, etc.

Assembly Chairman Thomas Ashbahian asked all Parish organizations for their reports:

ACYOA Juniors. Questions were asked about the large amount of money which seemed to pass through the checking account. The answer was that a lot of money is paid into the account and then goes directly out for a special affair. It was mentioned that this was a larger amount than in previous years and that perhaps the Auditing Committee should review the figures. The Auditing Committee stated that they had gone over the books and everything was in order.

ACYOA Seniors. Lynda Chagachbanian stated that it was a good year. Also, figures for the Sports Weekend were not reflected in their books, since that was a separate account.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL. There was nothing additional to report.

CHOIR. There was nothing additional to report.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Araxie Moumdjian reported that no money was lost for the Christmas Day Dinner in spite of the snow.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. There was nothing additional to report.

SENIOR CITIZENS. They are doing well. Regina Ohanyan spoke of the death of Manuk Capan and asked for a special prayer for him.

WOMEN'S GUILD. Barbara Royland spoke of the increase in membership. Bertha Vaniskhian said that the Outreach Program should be mentioned as a function of the Women's Guild. A discussion followed that this is not one of their programs. Linda Harutunian stated that a mistake was made, that the two orphans that are supported are not supported by the Women's Guild, but by individual members.

AUDITING COMMITTEE. Jacques Tossounian stated that all organizations put in their reports in a timely manner and that all books were reviewed and accepted. A question arose about the 80% given by the Senior Citizens. They gave 80% of their income, not 80% of their total funds. The Parish Council felt that this was acceptable. Leo Manuelian spoke about the insurance settlement for the explosion. The settlement was for \$355,000. There was \$25,000 for immediate expenses, \$25,000 until proof of repairs, and \$15,000 for the consultant. \$275,000 was put in a Dreyfus Fund and will be withdrawn as required. This figure is not in the operating account.

A question was asked about the drop in revenues for affairs. This was accounted for by the fact that no Car Raffle was held in 1995. It is planned for 1996. The increase in Employee Salaries, etc., reflects the additional work required of the custodian and the secretaries relating to the explosion and transferring everything from the office to the second floor of the Community Center. The health insurance for the custodian also went up a lot.

Nancy Burdman spoke about how well the Deacon's training is going. She suggested a \$2,500 line disbursement for their expenses. There were no specific expenses for them this year. Hayr Soorp mentioned there are two parishioners who started a fund for the Deacons, which is controlled by him. There are quite a few expenses - trips, books, cassettes, etc. Leon Hovsepien suggested a fund raiser for the program in addition to the private donations. Another suggestion was made to take the funds from the donations we make to St. Nersess. Hayr Soorp said it is important to support the Seminary. After additional consideration a motion was made to increase the budget by \$2,500 which would be offset by receipt money of \$2,500 for the purpose of the Deacon's Training Program at St. Leon. Hayr Soorp spoke about how important it is to acknowledge their service. To begin with, \$2,500 is enough, however other activities may require larger amounts. The motion was made again and seconded. It passed with no dissenting vote. The corrected proposed budget, reflecting this motion, should be changed to read -

Page 31 - \$60,000 - change to \$62,500 (Weekly envelopes, etc.)

Total Proposed Receipts - \$249,700

Page 33 - Add Deacon's Training Program - \$2,500

Total Proposed Disbursements - \$249,700

Lucy Chagachbanian questioned the increased Community Center expenses. Because of the increased rentals, there was additional dry cleaning, garbage disposal, etc. There is a Reserve Fund which is 10% of the gross each year for Capital Improvement. New china was also purchased in 1995, (a one-time expense).

A motion was made to accept the budget. It was seconded and passed with no objections.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Committee. Sarkis Soultanian wants to thank his Co-Chairman, Sarkis Gabrellian, and their committee. He showed a rendering of the proposed expansion and stated it would be completed by Palm Sunday. The proposed budget is now \$538,000, but may increase to \$600,000 or possibly \$700,000. The Fund Raising Committee has received pledges in the amount of \$465,000, and \$156,000 has been paid to date. There will be a light supper to discuss plans on March 3, 1996 and all will be invited. A question was asked if the elevator will meet requirements for the handicapped. It was felt that a ramp would also be welcome for those who do not need the elevator, but feel more comfortable with the ramp rather than the stairs. A loan from the Endowment Fund has been approved. It will be paid back with a 6-1/4% to 6-1/2% rate of interest, the same amount it would earn if it stayed where it is. A portion of the insurance money will cover some of the expenses, however they are hoping not to have to touch those moneys.

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Beylerian at this time brought up the change in the number of Parish Council members. Hayr Soorp brought up the fact that many services in the Church do not have to be done by Parish Council members, such as The Kiss of Peace. The Parish Council is administrative and we do not need more members because of larger membership in the Church. Active members are more important. After much discussion a motion was made to reduce the Parish Council from 11 to 9 members for 1997. Thirty-one (31) votes were cast FOR the change, twenty-nine (29) were cast AGAINST the change. The motion was approved as proposed.

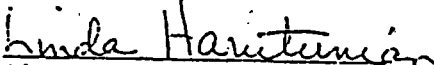
Jan Royland asked if absentee ballots should be allowed. Assembly Chairman Thomas Ashbahian said this was not something that could be addressed at this time for the 1996 General Assembly.

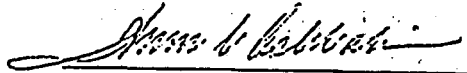
Discussion followed about retaining the services of Deacon George. Rex Kachigian stated that Deacon George was here on an Intern Program and that the Diocese would no longer fund him. If he worked as a Pastoral Assistant we would have to pick up his entire salary and insurance which the church could not afford at this time. Rex Kachigian again thanked Deacon George for the services he gave us this past year, but reiterated that we are not large enough to carry two pastors at this time.

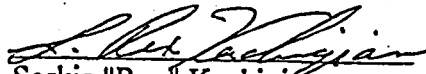
Mary Ann Mozian gave us the results of the election. New Parish Council members are Gregory Ashbahian, Lynda Chagachbanian, Richard Dabagian, Ara Hourdajian and Gabriel Kaprelian, with Kevork Ohannessian as Alternate. The new Auditing Committee member is Vahe Kiljian. The new Nominating Committee member is Andrea Halejian. The new Diocesan Delegates are Thomas Ashbahian, Rose Najarian, Sarkis Soultanian.

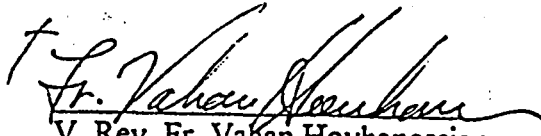
The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Hayr Soorp at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Harutunian
Recording Secretary
1995 Parish Assembly


Thomas Ashbahian
Chairman
1995 Parish Assembly


Sarkis "Rex" Kachigian
Parish Council Chairman


V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian
President, St. Leon Armenian Church

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 1996

"Come to Him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house."

(1 Peter 2:4-5)

The apostle Peter invites all Christians to join each other around the "Foundation" of their faith, Jesus Christ, our Savior. "Come to Him," says the apostle, join fully in the community of the people of God, the Church, by joining yourselves to Christ, who was rejected by the people, but whom God made the cornerstone and foundation of the new and eternal life. The apostle reminds us that individual Christians are "building blocks." We are living stones vivified by the life of Christ Himself through baptism. United to Christ, our cornerstone, Christians form a new unit. They form a spiritual house, a new temple in which the bonding material is the Spirit. This year, once again, our Armenian Christian family in St. Leon continued its determined path of strengthening and beautifying our "spiritual temple."

1996 will go into the pages of the history of St. Leon Church as the year of building and victory. During this year our community successfully completed the various aspects of the building project. The sanctuary area was enlarged to accommodate up to 100 more seats. The chancel area was enlarged to allow our altar servers and choir members to serve and participate in the liturgy in a more efficient and appropriate manner, and a beautiful Armenian style dome was added to crown our sanctuary with twelve stain glass windows and a beautiful cross. The Narthex area was almost tripled. It contains the Parish Council room, an elevator which connects the street level to both the Sunday School and Church levels, a Children's Room was attached to it to accommodate parents with infants. We are also in the process of adding a small gift/book store at the entrance of the Narthex. The doors of the Narthex and of the Sanctuary were changed. Our main entrance now is beautifully decorated with inscriptions of Armenian crosses, figures of the apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew and saints Ghevont and Vartan. The Sunday and Armenian Schools facilities were also renovated. Three new classrooms were added to the school. The library, principal's room and kitchen were rebuilt, and a new air-conditioning unit for the whole school was installed. In addition to all the above, a much needed storage area was added to our community center hall, and our custodian's house was renovated with the addition of one room. Heartfelt thanks to the co-chairmen of the Building Committee, Mr. Sarkis Gabrellian and Mr. Sarkis Soultanian and their committee members for the great job they've done in enlarging and beautifying our house of worship. Thanks also to our architect Mr. Thomas Ashbahian.

Last year we continued our life-long journey striving to follow the path of our Lord. Our determination to continue our journey was translated into our daily life in the parish, liturgical celebrations around the year, educational and spiritual programs, various services rendered to our own and to others outside our community who are less fortunate than us, and also through the various social and cultural programs that we as a community planned, supported, attended, and encouraged. It is with words of thanksgiving to my God and Savior and with great spiritual satisfaction and excitement that I present this report of activities during the past year in the life of St. Leon Armenian Church.

I. Liturgical:

I.1. Church Services: Sunday services continued to be the main focus of our liturgical life in St. Leon. We continued celebrating the night and morning services and the Divine Liturgy according to the tradition of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. The morning services began at 9:15 AM which included the Nocturns and Matins. This was followed by the Divine Liturgy, Badarak. In addition to the regular Sunday services, our liturgical life included other services such as the Great Vespers and

Badarak of the Eve of Theophany and Birth of our Lord, Armenian Christmas Badarak, Blessing of the Water on the feast of the Nativity and Baptism of our Lord, the Rest and Peace services during Great Lent, the services of Holy Week, Blessing of the Field (Antasdan), Blessing of the Grapes on the feast of the Annunciation of Mary, Sunday School Communion, the Vespers of St. Stepanos, and Christmas Eve services.

I.2. Sacraments: Our parish continued offering educational counseling sessions for all those who requested the celebration of Sacraments. A special sheet was prepared to help those who request sacraments understand the meaning of the service and fully participate in them. It also helps them prepare for the sacrament. The total number of Sacraments celebrated in our church this year was 37. This included 16 Weddings and 21 Baptisms. There were also 13 funerals.

I.3. Special Services: This year we witnessed several inspiring services in our Church. On October 17, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian bestowed the order of tubir on 9 of our Choir members, two of our altar servers, and three seminarians. On November 17, His Eminence consecrated the newly renovated and added sections of our Church and ordained four of our Tubirs to the rank of Subdeacon. Members of our community also joined the newly ordained V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian in some of the daily seven services that we celebrated together in our sanctuary while he spend the last week of his forty-day seclusion in our parish rectory.

I would like to thank Rev Fr. Carnig Hallajian and Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian for their continues participation, help and contribution in our liturgical life. Special thanks to our senior deacons Charles Pinajian and Sarkis Soultanian for their devotion to Christ and His Church and also their active involvement in supervising the celebration of our liturgical services. Thanks to the dedicated members of our Choir, their director Mr. George Paroonagian, the organist Ms. Sirvart Galustian. A special thank you to Mrs. Lucy Dabagian for making herself available for Church services whenever needed. My special thanks to our altar servers for their commitment to learning the beautiful Armenian liturgy and to serve the Lord.

II. Pastoral:

This aspect of my ministry focused mainly on hospital visitations. We continued encouraging our congregation to inform me, the parish council members or the office, concerning any Armenian who is hospitalized or sick. The names of these people were published in the weekly bulletin and the community was asked to pray for them regularly and during the celebration of the Badarak. Pastoral ministry included also regular visitations to the Armenian Home in Emerson. Home visitation is another important aspect of the pastoral ministry that our parish offers. It gives me and the family a great opportunity to get to know each other better and to discuss the various aspects of our Church life, ministry, liturgy and spirituality. Visiting the various neighboring Armenian institutions, such as Hovnanian School, remained another essential element in our Pastoral ministry.

III. Education:

Active and real participation in the life of a Christian community is impossible without a true desire to learn the Christian faith and its celebration in the liturgy. To help achieve that goal our parish continued offering the following educational programs:

1. Bible Study: The parish continued offering two Bible Study sessions. The evening session continued meeting on every other Wednesday at 8:00 pm. The morning session continued meeting twice a month

on Tuesdays at 10:00 in morning. Special thanks to Lucy Chagachbanian who continues diligently to prepare the material for, and leads, the morning Bible Study group.

2. Deacons' Training Program: This program entered its fourth year with growing enthusiasm and great achievements. Our altar servers continued participating in all of our liturgical services. Their attendance was almost perfect in the Friday evening training sessions. Sections of our Badarak and daily services were newly introduced and learned this year. The St. Leon altar servers participated actively in the liturgical celebrations during His Holiness Karekin I visit to our Diocese, in January, and during His Beatitude Torkom Manoogian's visit in November. Their active involvement in these services made them worthy of a public recognition and thanks from our beloved primate His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Our altar servers were the guests of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of Canada, during our visit to Montreal, July 12-14. They met with the youth and altar servers of the Canadian Diocese and participated in the Divine Liturgy on July 14. They also participated in the ordination services and Divine Liturgy of the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian in Cleveland on November 30 - December 1. Their presence and service in the church left the Armenian communities in both Montreal and Cleveland impressed and inspired. May the Lord keep them firm in their service and dedication.

3. Conversational Armenian: This year once again we offered a course for adults in conversational Armenian. This class met every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Abajian Hall of our Community Center.

4. Sunday and Armenian School: Both schools continued their vital and essential ministry in teaching our children the faith and tradition of our people. Both school continued experiencing growth in the number of students. Thanks to the principals, members of the boards, faculty members, parents of students of both schools for the great job they continue doing in this field of our ministry. Special thanks to Mrs. Araxi Moumdjian, Principal of the Sunday School, and Mrs. Mary Ann Mozian, Chairperson of the Board of Armenian School.

5. St. Leon Information Center (S.L.I.C.): September 1996 was the date our Internet Services were inaugurated. Our Parish became the first in the Diocese, and around the world, to offer full and unlimited Internet services. We developed our own Website which contains valuable information about our Parish, the Diocese and the Armenian Church in general. Within just a few months we received unbelievably positive feedback from people around the world who visited our site and benefited from the information posted on the page. In order to educate our parishioners in this important field. Special thanks to Alen Kirkorian and Bohdan Dackow for their efforts in configuring the system.

6. College Connection Network (CCN): This year our community witnessed the birth of the first Internet Armenian Church ministry. The CCN was developed by the ACYOA Seniors of our Parish. It was the first youth ministry of our Church via the Internet. It serves as a communication center for Armenian college students on the busy and active roads of the Information Superhighway and offers prayers, reflections, and important calendar events for those who are interested. Thanks to Joy Hovsepian and Ike Kasaryan for their active participation in maintaining the program and its Website. Special thanks also to our ACYOA Seniors Linda Chagachbanian and Lisa Vartabedian for providing us with the materials used on the page.

7. Other educational programs included the retreats for the Parish Council, Women's Guild and ACYOA Juniors. This year we offered a series of Lenten lectures by guest speakers, Armenian and non Armenian, which was scheduled after the evening services on Lenten Fridays.

IV. Publications:

We continued publishing the Lradoo on monthly bases. New sections were added to cover the new programs and activities introduced in our parish. Sunday worshipers continued receiving the Sunday bulletin which offers short reflections, news about the community, and calendar of activities. In addition to the above our parish continued publishing the Deacons' Training Booklets, and the liturgical books necessary for the various church services. Special thanks to our office staff Patricia Tromellen and Mary Ann Mozian for all their effort in editing and reproducing the monthly publication of our Lradoo and other publications. Thanks also to all the volunteers who come and help us collate and mail our publications.

V. Activities:

I continued participating in the Diocesan projects and programs as much as my time allowed me. This included participation in the regular clergy meetings, annual Diocesan Assembly, Choir Assembly, ACYOA assembly/weekend. I continued my active involvement in my Alma Matter, St. Nersess Seminary. I lectured and presented papers at the Diocese, St. Nersess Seminary, different parishes, and the American Bible Society.

The Parish continued having its traditional and successful annual programs, such as the Food Festival, Picnic, Women's Guild's Fish and Chips Dinner, ACYOA Psalm Sunday Dinner, Men's Fellowship Easter Communion Breakfast ... etc. This year our Men's Fellowship organized the first Super Bowl Dinner which was a great success. I would to take this opportunity to thank all the organizations, their executive bodies and chairpersons for their tremendous efforts in developing and executing all these programs for our parishioners. Thank you to Dovie Tilbian and Bertha Veneskian for their efforts in maintaining and supervising our social services to the neighboring communities and organizations. Thanks to Lynda Chagachbanian and her committee for the great job they've done and continue doing in recruiting new members to our St. Leon family. Heartfelt thanks to the members of the Banquet Committee for the Building project and their co-chairpersons Margie Ajamian and Lynn Beylerian, for making our celebration of the building project a outstanding and unforgettable evening. Special thanks to our Parish Council and its Chairman, Mr. S. Rex Kachigian.

I conclude my 1996 annual report with thanksgiving and praise to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for granting me and my spiritual family in St. Leon another year of success, growth and happiness. I bow down in the presence of the Almighty giving thanks to Him for such a Christ-loving community and beseeching Him with the words of the Badarak hymn, now inscribed on our new main entrance gates, "Heavenly King, preserve the worshippers of your name in peace."

Love In Christ,



Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian

January 13 of the year of our Lord 1997

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Dear Fellow Parishioner:

The Parish Council of St. Leon Armenian Church met on the first and third Wednesday of each month in 1996, (excepting for February, July and August), for a total of 21 meetings. A majority of the members were in attendance on a regular basis at the monthly meeting, with a minimum number of absentees. The Council members faithfully carried out their duties and the responsibilities of the office in accordance with the By-laws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese).

Special Notes for 1996

- * The Construction portion of the Church expansion program was completed. Three major items are needed to complete this project: a railing across the Chancel, chandeliers for the Narthex and Sanctuary and the stained glass windows. These items are expected to be completed during the first half year of 1997. The expansion project has provided us with an enlarged Chancel, an enlarged Sanctuary, a children's room and the addition of a new Narthex. Our church, both physically and spiritually is now better prepared to serve all our parishioners. Our thanks to Sarkis Gabrellian and Sarkis Soutanian and the entire Building Committee for an outstanding job.
- * Financial settlement of our insurance claim was made with the insurance company in regards to the boiler explosion on August 9, 1995. Enough moneys were received to renovate the entire lower level of the church building. All the classrooms were modified, the school office was enlarged, four rest rooms were retiled and fixtures replaced, the entire area was retiled and air conditioning was installed.
- * Through the effort of our Pastor, Father Vahan, and his love for computers, our church has become the first Internet Service Provider within the Armenian Church throughout the entire world. St. Leon has its own page on the Internet which is posted and maintained by the St. Leon Information Center, (S.L.I.C.). We want to thank Fr. Vahan and his committee for adding this exciting and educational project to our Parish and for spreading the good word about our Parish and the Armenian Church.
- * After many years of inactivity, we are again holding a membership drive to educate and encourage all who are eligible to join, the purpose for and the benefits of parish membership. We want to thank Lynda Chagachbanian and her committee for undertaking this most important task.
- * On November 17, 1996 those portions of our church which were modified were reconsecrated by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Following the reconsecration a celebration banquet was held in the Abajian Hall, with an attendance of 400 people. Our thanks to Margaret Ajamian and Lynn Beylerian, co-chairpersons, and their committee for an outstanding job in making all the arrangements and publishing a very important historical booklet.

* Throughout the year, the Church receives many donations of goods and services whose donors are not always recognized. We express our thanks for the following:

Community Center
Christmas Decorations
Computer Systems
Cabinet, Conference Table
and Slippers for Altar Servers
Garage Door Openers
Carpeting for Landing
Laying of Carpeting, Carpet Repair
Van Usage
Light Fixtures
Electrical Service
Photography/Processing

Treasure Island -
Lynn Beylerian, Paul Pinajian
David Soutanian
Sarkis Soutanian

Charles Pinajian
Gabriel Kaprelian
Kevork Ohannessian
Kevork Ohannessian
Antoine Moundjian
Sarkis Gabrellian
Quality House of Graphics -
George Paroonagian

We are grateful for their services and generosity. Thank you all!!!

* The Altar Guild, whose volunteers are Anne Kachigian, Rose Kirian and Takouhi Soutanian, continues to keep the Altars neat and in good condition. They have completed new covers for the Altar and draperies for the two side Altars. Thank you, ladies.

* The Mahs Committee continues to supply the needs of the Church. We want to thank Grace Pinajian and her committee for their outstanding work.

Major Activities of 1996

* Our Annual Church Picnic was again successful. Our two qualified and dedicated co-chairmen, Antoine Moundjian and Kevork "Koko" Ohannessian and their committee continues to do a good job and we thank them for that.

* Our Food Festival continues to attract many outside people and again was highly successful. We want to thank Bert Bedrosian and his committee for an outstanding job.

* After an absence of two years, we again had our 50/50 Raffle, which was chaired by Thomas Ashbahian. The raffle was successful and we want to thank him, and Charles Pinajian and Noubar Jessourian, who ably assisted him in bringing needed revenue to the church.

Church Organizations

Our Church organizations were active throughout the year, meeting on a regular schedule, fulfilling the mission of each organization. Their individual reports outline their specific activities for the year. Our thanks to the executive boards and members who gave of their time for the success of their individual organization and of our Church.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the Parish Council members and the Diocesan Delegates, who attended all our meetings, for their dedication and commitment towards performing the responsibilities of their office and contributing to the success of our Church. My best wishes and thank you to our outgoing Parish Council Members, Glenn Ajamian, Barbara Boghosian, Leo Manuelian, Arthur Ohnikian and Allan Tossoonian.

I want to thank Margaret and Glenn Ajamian for the fine work they did as advisors to our ACYOA Juniors and to welcome Leo and Sona Manuelian as the new advisors. Thank you to both couples for taking on this most important task of working with our young people.

A special thank you to Alice Yazmajian, director of the Community Center, for her dedicated effort in renting Abajian Hall for the much needed revenues which aids in supporting our Church Mission. Alice is very conscientious and is doing an outstanding job.

I would like to thank Minas Arakelian and his family for their continued efforts and many hours of service in keeping our facilities in good order.

I would like to thank Mary Ann Mozian and Patricia Trommielen, our Church Secretaries, for keeping the administrative affairs of our hectic office in good order.

I would like to thank Reverend Father Carnig Hallajian and Reverend Father Arnak Kasparian for worshipping with us and supporting our Parish throughout the year.

A grateful and fond thank you to Father Vahan for his support and spiritual leadership which helped make 1996 a banner year for St. Leon in its physical and spiritual growth.

Finally I would like to thank you all for the support and help you have given me these past four years as your Council Chairman. It was an honor and privilege to serve you and the Church. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



S. "Rex" Kachigian, Chairman
St. Leon Parish Council

SRK/pnt

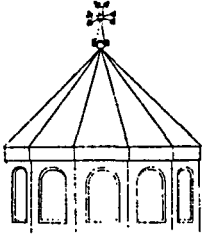
1996 PARISH COUNCIL ROSTER

V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian	President
*S. Rex Kachigian	Chairman
Ara Hourdajian	Vice Chairman
*Allan Tossoonian	Recording Secretary
*Barbara Boghosian	Corresponding Secretary
*Leo Manuelian	Treasurer
*Glenn Ajamian	Assistant Treasurer
Gregory Ashbahian	Member at Large
Lynda Chagachbanian	Member at Large
Richard Dabagian	Member at Large
Gabriel Kaprelian	Member at Large
*Arthur Ohnikian	Member at Large

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Thomas Ashbahian
Rose Najarian
Sarkis Soultanian

*Denotes Outgoing Member



ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

Սրբոց Ղեոնդեանց Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

Very Rev. Fr.
Vahan Hovhannessian
Pastor

Հ. Վահան Վրդ.
Յովհաննէսեան,
Հոգևոր Հովի

January 13, 1997

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

An examination of all financial reports from the Parish Council and various church organizations was conducted for the Fiscal Year 1996. Where necessary, except as noted below, corrections were made and brought to the attention of the Parish Council and/or other Organizations.

Our audit did not include the books of the Building Fund, which was outside the scope of responsibility of this Committee.

The Audit Committee, consisting of Leon Hovsepian, Vahe Kiljian and myself found the books to be in satisfactory condition.

Respectfully submitted,

William McMahon (L.H.)

William McMahon, Chairman
Auditing Committee

WMM/pnt

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors
A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors
Armenian School
Church Choir

Men's Fellowship
Senior Center
Sunday School
Women's Guild

**ACYOA JUNIORS
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Co-Chairpersons, Andrea Scicchitano, Vanessa Hortian; Recording Secretary, Roxanne Tashjian; Corresponding Secretary, Michael Burdman; Treasurer, Lori Hovsepian; Advisors, Margaret and Glenn Ajamian - Leo and Sona Manuelian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 26

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Valentine's Dance; Haunted Hay Ride; "A Christmas Carol," the play; Apple Picking; Ski Trip; Camp Bernie Retreat.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Valentine's Dance; Ski Trip; ACYOA Day - Palm Sunday; Camp Bernie Retreat; Pool Party; Car Wash; Trip to Old Age Home.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 2,251.52	
Savings	<u>-0-</u>	\$ 2,251.52
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 5,544.10	
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<u>6,351.85</u>	
Net 1996 Income		\$ <807.75>

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 1,443.77	
Savings	<u>-0-</u>	\$ 1,443.77
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council		\$ 1,155.02

**ACYOA SENIORS
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson, Lisa Vartabedian; Treasurer, Patti Toofangjian; Executive Committee, Carole Antreasian and Brett Tenbekjian; Advisor. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian.

TOTAL MAILING LIST - 205 - (Membership dues not collected in 1996)

MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR 1996: Christmas in the City; Christmas Gift and Stocking Stuffer Sale; Handel's Messiah at St. John the Divine; Eva's Shelter Dinner; Christmas by the Fire at Hayr Soorp's; Poon Paregentan Celebration; Lenten Service Project, (cleaning the sanctuary for Holy Week); ACYOA Day; Parish Appreciation Project; College Connection Network, (CCN); Summer Picnic; CCN Back-to-School BBQ; After Work Dinner Series.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Christmas in the City; Christmas by the Fire; Poon Paregentan Celebration; Shelter Dinner; Lenten Service Project; ACYOA Day; Art Auction; Summer Picnic; College Connection Network, (CCN); After Work Dinner Series; Educational/Spiritual Seminar.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 1,028.60		
Savings	<u>-0-</u>		\$ <u>1,028.60</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 1,701.71		
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<u>2,515.55</u>		
Net 1996 Income			\$ <u><813.84></u>

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 214.76		
Savings	<u>-0-</u>		\$ <u>214.76</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council			\$ <u>171.81</u>

**ARMENIAN SCHOOL
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson, Mary Ann Mozian; Recording Secretary Zabelle Kaprelian; Corresponding Secretary, Silva Jinivizian; Treasurer, Arda Kiljian; Acting Principal, Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian; Parish Council Liaison, Barbara Boghosian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 36 Students, 6 Teachers (Includes 1Dance, 1 Assistant Teacher)

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Food Festival; Christmas Plant Sale; Lenten Luncheon; Mother's Day Plant Sale; Hantes.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Food Festival; Christmas Plant Sale; Mother's Day Plant Sale; Lenten Luncheon; Hantes.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$	64.15			
Savings		<u>-0-</u>			\$ <u>65.15</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$	9,610.40			
Deduct 1996 Disbursements		<u>9,567.08</u>			
Net 1996 Income					\$ <u>41.32</u>

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$	105.47			
Savings		<u>-0-</u>			\$ <u>105.47</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council					\$ <u>84.37</u>

**CHURCH CHOIR
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson/Director, George Paroonagian; Vice Chairperson, Emerald Noorigian; Secretary, Lynn Beylerian; Treasurer, Vahe Kiljian; Advisors, Lucy Dabagian and Charles Pinajian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 25+

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Leading the Congregation in Singing Liturgical Hymns on Sundays; Biweekly Rehearsals with Choir Director and Hayr Soorp; Participation in AACCA-sponsored 25th Anniversary celebration, Special Mass October 27; Choir Convention.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Bi-weekly Rehearsals; Recruit New Choir Members; Sponsor Cultural Activities.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 3,596.17	
Savings	<u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>3,596.17</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 286.31	
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	< <u>3,502.14</u> >	
Net 1996 Income		\$ < <u>3,215.83</u> >

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 304.34	
Savings	<u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>380.34</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council		\$ <u>304.27</u>

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

***OFFICERS:** Chairperson, Ara Hourdajian; Vice Chairperson, Gabriel Yazidjian; Recording Secretary, Allan Tossoonian; Treasurer, Vahe Kiljian; Publicity, David Rowan; Advisors, Kevork Ohannessian, Barry Halejian, Hermon Kasaryan.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 30

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Super Bowl Party; Cooking and Serving Communion Breakfast; Sports Association Dinner Meeting; Parish-wide Children's Christmas; New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. Storage Area for Large Screen TV.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Super Bowl Party; Trip to Play, "Nine Armenians"; Cooking for St. Paul's Men's Homeless Shelter; Genocide Observation; Pancake Breakfast; Dinner Meetings; Communion Breakfast.

*Acting Board

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 563.24		
Savings	_____ -0-		\$ <u>563.24</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 3,705.00		
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<4,140.45		
Net 1996 Income			\$< <u>435.45</u> >

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 127.79		
Savings	_____ -0-		\$ <u>127.79</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council			\$ <u>102.23</u>

**SENIOR CENTER
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson, George Shahinian; Corresponding Secretary, Helen Mazoujian; Treasurer, Leon Bedigian; Advisor, Rene Shahinian, Satenig Johnson, Marion Nakashian, Manushag Arakelian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 84

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Trips to Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Atlantic City; Weekly meetings with Bingo, Tavloo, etc.; Christmas Party; Anniversary parties; Membership Drive, (increase from 65 to 84).

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Continued Good Fellowship and Trips.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 1,366.50				
Savings	<u>1,056.53</u>				<u>\$ 2,423.03</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 7,923.45				
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<u>6,779.51</u>				
Net 1996 Income					<u>\$ 1,143.94</u>

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 1,419.56				
Savings	<u>1,056.53</u>				<u>\$ 2,476.09</u>
80% of Net Income to Give Parish Council					<u>\$ 915.15</u>

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson/Superintendent, Arax Moumdjian; Recording Secretary, Jeannette Ashbahian; Treasurer, William McMahon; Publicity, Arax Moumdjian; Historian, James Leitner; Advisor, Linda Paroonagian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 134

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Christmas Pageant and Luncheon; Communion Breakfast; Faculty Attended Mardigian Institute; DRE Program Followed; Graduation Exercises; Recruitment of Teachers and Students.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Christmas Pageant and Luncheon; Communion Breakfast; Faculty to Attend Mardigian Institute; Follow DRE Program; Graduation Exercises; Continue Recruitment of Teachers and Students.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 3,451.00			
Savings	<u>-0-</u>			\$ <u>3,451.00</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 6,583.00			
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<u>7,491.00</u>			
Net 1996 Income				\$ < <u>908.00</u> >

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 2,543.00			
Savings	<u>-0-</u>			\$ <u>2,543.00</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council				\$ <u>2,034.00</u>

**WOMEN'S GUILD
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
1996 ACTIVITY REPORT**

OFFICERS: Chairperson, Carol Ashbahian; Vice Chairperson, Barbara Royland; Recording Secretary, Eva Yazidjian; Corresponding Secretary, Harriet Markarian; Treasurer, Linda Galgano; Photographers, Andrea Halejian and Carol Ashbahian; Advisor, Katherine Ohnikian.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 110

MAIN ACTIVITIES DURING 1996: Fish n' Chips Dinner; Overnight Retreat; Palm Sunday Choreg Sale; Membership Buffet Dinner; Hokehankisd for Deceased Members; Visiting Emerson Old Age Home; Musicale, "What Is A Woman?"; Exercise Class.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997: Fish n' Chips Dinner; One-Day Retreat; Palm Sunday Choreg Sale; Membership Buffet Dinner; Hokehankisd for Deceased Members; Visiting Emerson Old Age Home; Exercise Class; Cooking for Homeless.

1996 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand and in Banks as of December 1, 1995

Checking	\$ 5,797.50		
Savings	-0-		\$ <u>5,797.50</u>
Add 1996 Receipts	\$ 6,689.90		
Deduct 1996 Disbursements	<u>8,807.95</u>		
Net 1996 Income			\$ < <u>2,118.05</u> >

Cash on Hand in Banks on December 1, 1996 (Before Payment to Parish Council)

Checking	\$ 3,679.45		
Savings	-0-		\$ <u>3,679.45</u>
80% of Cash Balance to Give Parish Council			\$ <u>2,943.56</u>

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORTS

ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUNDS

COMPARATIVE OPERATING BUDGET RECEIPTS

COMPARATIVE OPERATING BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTS

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS LISTED
WITH
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT

GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

Thomas and Carol Ashbahian Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Sarkis and Ruth Bedevian Fund	5,025.00
George Beshlian Fund	4,500.06
Robert Buchakian Memorial Fund	100,025.00
E. George and Lucy Dabagian Fund	11,000.00
Zaven and Arlene Dadekian Fund	16,250.00
Ralph and June Lee Goomrigian Fund	500.00
Arpine Holopikian Memorial Fund	1,817.00
Noubar and Anita Jessourian Memorial Fund	13,000.00
Martin Kapoian Memorial Fund	1,780.00
Satenik Kazanjian Memorial Fund	25,000.00
Mirjan Kirian Fund	500.00
Angele Kouchoukians Memorial Fund	1,770.00
John and Arpine Nakashian	5,000.00
James and Emerald Noorigian Fund	2,267.00
Andrew and Florence Purpuse Memorial Fund	2,635.00
Karnig Shabazian Memorial Fund	5,000.00
Anthony Tungrian Fund	1,740.00
Lucille Varjian Fund	500.00

ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Harout Boyajian Memorial Fund	3,129.36
Peter Jesraly Memorial Fund	3,000.00
Pailak Khatchadourian Memorial Fund	6,000.00

CHURCH SCHOOL

Takvorial Fund	4,418.94
Varsen Torosian Memorial Fund	1,920.00
Albert and Lucy Tutunjian Memorial Fund	9,315.00

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Fr. Vahan and Yn. Zarouhi Jelalian Fund	<u>6,050.00</u>
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TOTAL **\$233,192.36**

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH - COMPARATIVE OPERATING BUDGET

DECEMBER 31, 1996

RECEIPTS

	ACTUAL 1996	PROPOSED 1996	PERCENT TOTAL	PROPOSED 1997
Weekly Envelopes				
Plate Collections				
Special Donations	58,533	62,500	97.56	64,700
Sacraments				
Hokehankisd				
In Lieu of Flowers	15,375	35,000	43.93	25,000
Lradoo	545	1,000	54.50	1,000
Christmas & Easter				
Yughakin	13,010	12,000	108.42	13,000
Auxiliary Organizations	8,176	12,000	68.14	12,000
Community Center Rentals	80,821	65,000	124.34	85,000
Endowment Fund Income	14,194	16,000	88.71	15,000
Net Proceeds from Affairs	39,188	37,200	105.34	40,000
Investment Income	6,292	7,000	89.89	2,400
Miscellaneous Income*	81,091	2,000	4054.55	5,000
TOTALS	317,226	249,700	128.33	263,100

*TRF FROM DREYFUS & OTHER ACCOUNTS 47,772
 INSURANCE REFUND 24,873
 72,645

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH - COMPARATIVE OPERATING BUDGET

DECEMBER 31 1996

DISBURSEMENTS

	ACTUAL 1996	PROPOSED 1996	PERCENT TOTAL	PROPOSED 1997
Clergy Stipend				
Employee Salaries				
Pensions				
Health Insurance	84,858	93,000	91.25	96,000
Visiting Clergy	3,125	1,000	312.50	1,000
Diocesan Dues and Expenses	28,820	23,000	125.30	26,000
Sports Association	4,326	2,000	216.30	2,000
General Administration Expense	10,430	18,000	57.94	12,000
Utilities	38,013	35,000	108.61	36,000
Publications & Mailings	4,120	4,000	103.00	4,100
Repairs & Maintenance	10,115	7,500	134.87	7,500
Insurance (Property Casualty & Liability)	10,600	11,500	92.17	13,000
Armenian School	1,119	1,000	111.90	1,000
Church School	650	1,000	65.00	1,000
Organist Stipend	3,190	3,500	91.14	3,200
Vehicle Expense	8,005	3,000	266.83	6,000
Community Center Expense	23,047	20,000	115.24	23,000

DISBURSEMENTS

	ACTUAL 1996	PROPOSED 1996	PERCENT TOTAL	PROPOSED 1997
Community Center Repair & Maintenance	7,081	3,000	236.03	4,100
Van Fund Reserve	2,000	2,000	100.00	2,000
Equipment Purchase	1,773	1,000	177.30	1,000
Community Center Reserve Fund	8,377	6,500	124.34	8,500
St. Nersess Seminary	2,200	2,200	100.00	2,200
Deacon's Training	1,050	2,500	0.00	2,500
Parish Functions and Church Activities	3,217	4,000	80.43	4,000
SLIC	0	0	0.00	2,000
Miscellaneous*	34,360	5,000	687.20	5,000
TOTAL	290,476	249,700	117.39	263,100

*Includes \$14,664 Explosion & Renovation Expense

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS ON HAND
DECEMBER 31, 1996

Parish Council Checking Account	\$ 44,865.00
Parish Council Special Events Account	2,994.60
Dreyfus Fund	41,232.96
Community Center Capital Improvement Fund	40,399.66
Building Fund	44,634.92
Van Reserve Fund	17,121.45
A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors	288.75
A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors	42.95
Armenian School	21.10
Church Choir	76.07
Men's Fellowship	25.56
Senior Center	1,560.94
Sunday School	509.00
Women's Guild	<u>735.89</u>
Total Funds on Hand December 31, 1996	\$194,508.85

**St. Leon Armenian Church
12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

**First Class
U. S. Postage Paid
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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