

Report to Parish Assembly of St. Gregory's Armenian Church,  
Binghamton, New York, January 26th, 1969

Members:

During the year 1968, I had the honor of being chosen chairman of your parish council, having as my associates Mr. Armen Boyajian, Dr. Vahe Garabedian. Mrs. Mary Hagopian, Mr. Nishan Ketchoyan and member at large, Mr. Manoog Bogdasarian. Regular monthly meetings were held to discuss church activities, disbursements and problems, all of which has been noted in the council's minutes. An important request made by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, for transfer of the deed of this church's properties to the Diocese was carried out, as this assembly has been previously notified. The pledge system was instituted as you also directed by your votes, but during 1968 only 4 pledges were sent to our treasurer. I would ask, "Do you wish to continue such a system or discard it?"

We had 13 Badarak services at which several different clergymen officiated. There were 4 Baptisms, no weddings and no funerals.

In June, a picnic was given by the Parish Council. Only two Church dinners were given during the year.

Our Sunday school, under the able direction of Mr. Michael Ketchoyan, meets regularly. I do hope it continues so, and would urge all of you with children to support it strongly. This early Christian education may help your children much through the problems of later life.

The Women's Guild, under Mrs. Injigian had its activities as did the Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Mahakian, the Armenian School under Professor Dekmajian, and a new organizations to us, the A.C.Y O.A under Raymond Seraydarian.

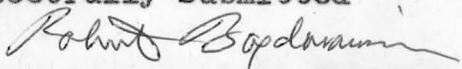
Our reserve fund is modest, yet to this small parish, seems adequate. Certainly you are aware that a goodly share of these funds came from the sources of two church dances. These monies were earmarked to do much needed repairs to the physical structure of this Church, therefore the savings account is also the capital reserve fund. Regular operation of the church, such as light, heat, cleaning, lawn care, water, small repairs all require your help. We barely collect enough on Badarak Sundays to pay our visiting Clergy.

The Women's Guild is experiencing difficulty in interesting enough help to put on those good Church dinners ,which actually serve to bring the congregation together. The fewer of these functions that we have, the farther apart we may grow. I propose that each family group, and there are enough of them here, get together once a church year, plan the menu, do the shopping, cooking, arrange the serving and the after-dinner general clearing. Paid help will wash the dishes and do the final kitchen clean-up. We tried this and it works. For small families, a number of them may arrange to do it together, thus everyone will be able to work happily together with not a few having to do it all. You can submit your group's name and a dinner date can be given to you sufficiently in advance to carry it out. Please seriously consider this proposal and the Parish Council can set the dates on the calendar.

I would ask you to try to attend Church when you are in town. Your presence helps you, first, then your church.

I also want to thank the members of the Parish Council, all of whom have been so helpful as also the members of the various Church Committees.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Robert Bogdasarian, Chairman