

Chairman's Report to Parish Assembly, 1979

I am sorry not to be with you today, but I am sure that the Assembly will be successful and well run.

I would like to thank all of the members of Parish Council for their cooperation and hard work during the past year, especially the treasurer, John Bogdasarian, for all his hours of book work, pledge mailings and worry over our financial standing, and also the two secretaries, Edward Seraydarian for his excellent Minutes and all the little odd jobs he has done around the church and hall, and Henry Kachadourian, especially for his hard work on the Port Crane property. Nishan Ketchoyian also contributed materials and expertise to that property. It has been a pleasure to work with all of the Council.

We have had a relatively successful year financially and the treasurer's report will give exact figures on that. However you will notice that we have spent practically nothing on repair and maintenance, and this next year we must do so without fail. Socially we have had many successful events - the dance and church dinners; the picnic was not very successful this year. I hope that we have come out of the year as strong a community as when we entered it. Spiritually I believe that we need some upgrading. Attendance at church is sometimes very low. There may be some steps that we can take in the future to strengthen the Sunday School. The curriculum sent from the Diocese is difficult for us to apply to our smaller than usual congregation. I believe we need more emphasis on Bible study, and perhaps we could use the Catechism of the Armenian Church as a teaching guide. Being a Parish Council member is a difficult position in that we tend to become enmeshed in local and Diocesan fund raising and in the monetary side of the parish problems and to overlook the important fact that our main function is to provide a place and an association to serve the spiritual needs of the Armenian community. I hope that the next Council will make a real effort in this direction.

The Parish Council has sent a letter to our sister parishes containing two proposals aimed at helping to solve the problem of parishes not paying their dues on time. I sincerely hope that this parish will pass the proposals which we have suggested. If enough of our parishes pass them, I believe it will do a lot to alleviate some of the financial problems of the Diocese and indirectly, some of our local ones, as well.

In this next year, we have some important physical needs to fill. The roof of the parish hall is again leaking. The furnace in the church is not working well, and needs replacement. The parish hall needs the ceiling and walls repainted and the floor refinished. These needs have been put off much too long already.

Lastly, during the year we have discussed the Port Crans

property at great length, and have tried to determine the costs of making a picnic ground out of it. We have regretfully found that the economics of the scheme make such usage out of the question. The cost runs to a minimum of \$8000 and probably closed to \$10,000, not including the value of the land. I therefore recommend that the Assembly vote to dispose of the property. It can probably be sold as a summer cottage at a relatively good price, as there is a building on the property, and the septic system has been installed, and the roof repaired. There are some problems remaining, but since the property is in the flood plain and new construction is forbidden there, it is an advantage that the cottage exists. With the money that would be earned from the capital realized from the sale, we can afford to rent picnic grounds as often as we would wish. I would also point out that we have found it very difficult to get as much work done as has been done, and that regular maintainance would prove a considerable burden to our small community. Even if we were to rent the property every week all summer at the highest possible rent, maintainance and other costs would make us lose money on it, especially when one considers the loss of income from the money we would have to spend on it.

Best wishes to all of you for a successful Assembly.

Carl J. Glasman

Chairman