

CHAIRMAN'S Report 1988

The past year has been one of adjustment and reassessment. As the costs of supporting a church with a priest became difficult, a transition to a dependence on visiting priests has been secured. Unfortunately, the dissension that resulted from this change has led to a segmentation of the Parish, with the withdrawal of many of the ardent supporters and workers of this Parish.

This withdrawal has compounded the problems of the Parish; because, to the responsibilities previously performed by the resident Priest, we must now add the responsibilities encountered in organizing successful services by visiting Priests. During the past year there have been only a few who are willing to do this work.

In reviewing the membership roles of the past decade,

it is clear that the number of Parishoners has greatly decreased. Not only have members passed away or moved away, but many children have not been actively encouraged to carry on our traditions as they enter adulthood. Additionally, members have not been willing to act as teachers in order to fulfill our needs in Sunday School and consequently children go to the Sunday schools of others.

We are still fortunate to have members who can perform these tasks. We must encourage an open attitude amongst our members by making examples of our own actions. We can not afford to place personal vendettas above the needs of our church.

On a brighter note, we are thankful for

the great concern and sacrifice that visiting Priests have shown our community. In all, we will have had bodarak performed thirteen times in 1988. As they have had to travel far in order to serve our community, our ~~heart~~ heart felt thanks are extended to Father Mesroob Semerjian, Father Jaren Godonian and Father Cornig Halajian.

In June, our Serpoyan paid council a visit in order to discuss the progress of our Parish. He emphasised a need to reconcile our differences and begin to open a dialogue amongst all our members.

In closing, I can do no better than to repeat the words of my predecessor, George Refebian, in last years annual report:

" Let us ^{remember} ~~remember~~ our purpose, and the sacrifices
and dedication of our fathers and mothers before us,
~~before us,~~ and resolve to go forward from this point on. "