

Saint Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church



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Chairman's Message
Annual Parish Assembly Meeting - December 7, 1997

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself, I would like to thank you all for your continued support during a year which can best be described as progressive and activist. To a large extent we owe this to our dynamic spiritual leader, Deacon George Devejian, who is about to complete his first full calendar year with us. Under his determined and dedicated tutelage, our community was brought together, and everyone worked successfully toward a more vibrant and committed Armenian presence in our region of New York State. In this, we are doing the bidding of our ancestors. They survived -- therefore, we must do the same!

We began the year with the drafting of a mission statement which, in some ways, was our road map for the future. Fundraising, as expected, has been a major concern. We had a successful raffle and a formal pledge reception at the Regency Hotel. Other highlights of the year were a well attended picnic, several lectures covering topics important to Armenians, a trip to the Diocese to attend the ordination of Deacon Michael Findikyan, and a moving, well attended dinner in honor of Hayr Soorp. In addition to reinstating the Sunday School, Deacon George has also been very active with ecumenical efforts, visitations, the enrollment of new members, and the encouragement of the younger generation to return to the fold of the Armenian Church, all of which has been heartily supported by the Council.

A number of repairs were completed recently, and I take this opportunity to thank all those who made additional donations for special purposes. We now look forward to our next Annual Parish Assembly. We, the Council, thank you for the opportunity of serving our community. We hope the new Council will be given the same broad mandate so that our church may continue along a similarly constructive path, a path which must include participation, cooperation, and generosity. Please remember, "our heritage is our responsibility!"

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garabed Fattal".

Garabed Fattal