

# Saint Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church



12 CORBETT AVE.  
BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903  
(607) 722-8801

## Chairman's Report - December 1998.

Once again, it was my pleasure and privilege to serve as Parish Council Chairman during this calendar year. The members of the Council were their usual energetic and committed selves, and we met once or twice each month to conduct the business of the church. We enjoyed the constructive leadership and professional assistance of Deacon George, and much was accomplished during the year the highlight of which was the visit of Archbishop Barsamian in August. Other significant events were the initiation of Armenian language classes, Sunday School meetings twice monthly over once-a-month sessions last year, several lectures on Armenian cultural and historical matters, a well-attended summer picnic/raffle, and a less successful pledge function in the fall.

Regular church attendance was, in general, rather sparse, but those who were there on Sundays enjoyed the coffee hours donated by various parishioners and ably organized by Louise Rockwell. The choir continued to experience some ups and downs, but we thank those few regulars who persist despite difficulties. The Women's Guild, under the leadership of Louise Kontos, has had, from all indications, a successful year and we thank them for their support.

Through the generosity of several members (Sarkisians, Kradjians, Bogdasarians), much-needed repairs were made to the lavatory area, the front steps and the roof; all church curtains were cleaned, and a donation from the Rozen Foundation provided new cushions for the church pews. Dr. Garabedian has, throughout the year, quietly handled many smaller repairs, and we thank him most sincerely.

This report is not intended to be an all-inclusive enumeration of events and contributions; it would take too much time. Let me, nevertheless, thank everyone for making an Armenian social and spiritual presence possible in Binghamton. In my opinion, we are indeed enjoying a renewed sense of community, and we must continue on this path of success with generosity, cooperation and tolerance.

Garabed Fattal  
Chairman, Parish Council