

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Friday, February 11, 1983

The assembly was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Arthur S. Mardigian, Parish Council Chairman. Mr. Mardigian announced that in accordance with Article 17 of the bylaws, the Assembly was in order. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian offered the prayer of Invocation.

Mr. Mardigian cited Articles 43 and 22 of the bylaws indicating the Parish Priest is the Presiding Officer of this Assembly and each member is entitled to one vote. In the case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote, or he shall authorize a second balloting upon the same question. Mr. Mardigian stated that the Chairman of the Day to be elected will conduct the Assembly in an orderly and business-like fashion and will refrain from answering any questions on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council will answer all questions. The meeting will be conducted in English; however, questions may be asked in Armenian and will be answered in Armenian. Mr. Mardigian stated that the Nominating Committee will read the names only of the candidates for the various elected positions and then we will ask for nominations from the floor. Only the name of the nominee will be accepted. The nominee will then be afforded the same opportunity as the other candidates to fill out the same Church-related background questionnaire that all the other candidates have filled out. The nominee will then be presented to the Parish Assembly with all of the other candidates for the elected office.

Mr. Mardigian then asked the Nominating Committee to present the candidates. Howard Atesian, Chairman of the 1982 Nominating Committee, reviewed the election rules and procedures and named the other members of the Committee: Violet Cholakian, Edward S. Jamian, Jacqueline Melkonian, and Rosalie Papazian.

He then presented the candidates for Chairman and Secretary of the Day:

Assembly Chairman

Garo Yeghissian
Gary Zamanigian

Assembly Secretary

Mary Cholmakjian
Judy Hovnan

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed. Since Mary Cholmakjian, one of the candidates for Secretary of the Day, was unable to attend the Parish Assembly, Judy Hovnan assumed the position by acclamation. Voting then proceeded for Chairman of the Day.

Mr. Atesian was asked by the Chair to present the candidates for the other positions.

Mr. Atesian then presented the candidates for Parish Council; five to be elected:

Walter Akkashian	Edward Haic Korkoian
Arthur A. Apkarian	Arthur S. Mardigian
George H. Cross	Michael Mousigian
Margaret Dakessian	Kazar P. Terterian
C. Garry Javizian	Ashod Torosian
Stephan Karougian	

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations for Parish Council. Motion carried.

Mr. Atesian presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee; five to be elected:

Harry Amirkanian	Souren Keoleian
Anita Arslanian	Michael Matoian
Rosemary Bagdasarian	Kathy Mekjian
Noubar Dourjalian	Catherine Sarkesian
Gary Ezmerlian	Mary Simonian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

Mr. Atesian presented the candidates for Diocesan Delegates; seven to be elected:

Richard M. Apkarian	Arthur S. Mardigian
Martin H. Cholakian	Sirvart Mezian
Sooren H. Gozmanian	Dennis R. Papazian
Mihran Hoplamazian	Victoria Reizian
Paul Hovsepian	Rose Samarian
Simon Javizian	John K. Semizian
Edward B. Korkoian	Harry Terzian
Martin M. Manoogian	Richard Vahratian

Nominations from the floor were requested by Mr. Mardigian. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Diocesan Delegates. Motion passed.

Candidates were then presented for Auditing Committee; two to be elected:

George Arevigian	Albert Mardirosian
Emma Betrosian	Janice Torosian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor for Auditing Committee. There being none, a motion was made to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made by Daniel Shahan that the Church-related background of the candidates not be read, since it has already been published in the Torch Bearer. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ballots were distributed, and the Assembly proceeded to vote. Mr. Mardigian announced that voting would be permitted until 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Mardigian explained to the Assembly that we have been electing auditors for three-year terms in the past, but that beginning next year we will be electing three auditors for a one-year term, to be in compliance with the bylaws of the Armenian Church of America.

It was announced by the Chair that Garo Yeghissian was elected Chairman of the Day. Mr. Yeghissian was asked to assume his responsibility.

George Arevigian made a point of clarification, stating that while the Balance Sheet on page 25 of the Annual Report was audited by the Auditing Committee, the Supplemental Information on pages 38-39 was prepared by the Parish Council.

1982 PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES:

Mr. Yeghissian opened the floor for approval of the previous Annual Assembly Minutes.

Motion: Edward B. Korkoian moved to accept the Minutes of the 1982 Parish Assembly. The motion was seconded and passed.

1982 ANNUAL REPORT:

Mr. Yeghissian opened the floor to questions concerning the 1982 Annual Report.

Martin Manoogian said that according to the Minutes of the 1982 Parish Assembly, Parish Council was directed to prepare a budget and a financial report listing the church operations separately, the hall operations separately, and the new complex operations separately. Mr. Mardigian answered that the breakdown is contained on pages 38-39 of the 1982 Annual Report under Supplemental Information. Mr. Manoogian responded that that was not the information requested. Mr. Mardigian suggested that Mr. Manoogian make a motion to expand the reporting next year to include whatever additional information the parishioners request. Mr. Manoogian asked what makes up the expenses and the receipts for the church. Mr. Mardigian referred to the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures on pages 26-27 of the Annual Report. Mr. Manoogian asked why all salaries were grouped into one figure in this report, while in past years they were broken down. Mr. Mardigian responded that this is the example set by the Diocese, and we elected to follow that example.

Nerses Serkaian questioned the difference between the \$122,000 figure for salaries and the figure of \$235,760 under Expenditures. Mr. Mardigian explained that the figure of \$122,000 was for the Church only, which includes clergy, secretary, and one maintenance man. One figure is from the Supplemental Information sheet, while the other is from the Budget sheet.

Jack Cross commented that we are a quasi-public body and have the right to inspect records to satisfy ourselves. An Annual Report does not give an item-by-item breakdown. If anyone wants to see specific information, the records are open. We should not waste the time of the Parish Assembly to identify minute items.

Harry Terzian commented that the Parish Council cannot fulfill the request to this motion. In our complex we have one gas meter, one light meter, one insurance bill, etc. The Parish Council would have to guess how much gas going through the meter is church gas, hall gas, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Serkaian made a motion that the Parish Council present for 1983 a complete breakdown of budget income and expenses per category of the Church, the cultural hall, and the Recreation Center. The motion was seconded and discussed. Motion was defeated.

A ballot vote was requested. The Chair advised that since the show of hands was overwhelmingly opposed to the motion, a ballot vote would not take place.

Ara Haig commented that the Komitas Choir of St. John's is in need of new members. He suggested that possibly the Church School students could participate in the choir. Mr. Haig asked that the new Parish Council together with the Church School administration take whatever action is necessary.

Mr. Serkaian questioned the rental of the new Recreation Center. His concern was whether the rental would offset the loss of \$82,867 in 1982.

Mr. Mardigian explained that the Recreation Center has no income except for the annual rental that is paid for the use of the Center by the AGBU Alex Manoogian School. He also listed some of the expenses incurred for the Recreation Center such as the Activities Director, two maintenance men, payroll taxes, telephone, etc. He further explained that the Recreation Center was never meant to be an income-producing facility. It was meant for the benefit of our youth and our community at large.

Sooren Gozmanian asked for an explanation between "Cultural Hall" and "Building Operation" listed on pages 38 and 39. Mr. Mardigian answered that the "Building Operation" refers to the catering operation, while the "Cultural Hall" is the total Hall operations.

Martin Manoogian recommended that the \$82,000 deficit of the Recreation Center be supplemented by the Bingo operation. He recommended that by earmarking the Bingo profits for the funding of that facility, the youth could then come here and help raise the funds by working at Bingo.

Vahe Papelian reported that the Bingo operation made approximately \$10,000 more than last year. He said that ten people come every week, and without them, we could not run the Bingo. Mr. Papelian extended particular thanks to Souren & Sona Yavruian who help every week without fail and without whom Bingo could not operate. Mr. Papelian noted that since Michael Mousigian took over the refreshment stand four years ago, the profits increased from \$4,000 to \$9,000 per year.

Mr. Papelian then broached the subject of the Senior Citizens' luncheons, suggesting that we raise the price, stating that he would personally subsidize anyone who could not afford the increase.

Arshavir Yeghissian suggested that an item for New Business be added to the Agenda next year.

Richard Simonian commented on the Supplemental Information section included in the Annual Report and offered his congratulations to whoever set it up. He felt that while it does need some improvement, it is a good first step. For example, under Recreation Center, he suggested using the title "Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures" rather than "Loss".

MOTION: Garry Javizian made a motion that a listing be made in the Annual Report of the Church Organizations that participated in the Bazaar, the responsibilities each took on, and how much profit they made for the Bazaar. The motion was seconded by Pamela Dayinian. Mihran Hoplamazian offered his comments on the motion. Since we are one church and not divided into factions or organizations seeking individual credit, we are only concerned with the glory of our church. Many individuals here do not belong to one organization or another, but come here diligently and participate, giving of their time and effort. Whether you belong to an organization or not makes no difference. Many organizations participate in the Bazaar, and many individuals, without being a part of any organization, do come and work. The motion was put to vote; it was defeated.

Gary Zamanigian commented that we are confusing acceptance of the 1982 Annual Report with proposals that we would like to have in next year's booklet and stated that the proceedings were out of order. Mr. Yeghissian, the Chairman, after consulting with Fr. Paren, ruled the proceedings to be in order.

Gloria Mikaelian advised that as the editor of the Torch Bearer, she looks forward every month to receiving information from the organizations. She feels it is the responsibility of the chairman of every event to see that something is reported in the Torch Bearer. Mrs. Mikaelian added that some of the things that are being suggested for inclusion in the Annual Report could well be covered in the Torch Bearer.

Arthur Barsamian questioned a line item on page 25 regarding a "zero" figure for "Current Year's Disbursement for Major Maintenance" and the "Building Report 1982" on page 13 referring to major improvements for the year of 1982, which includes "purchase of additional dishes...repair of the furnaces in Church and hall..." He asked how we get a "zero" line balance and where those expenses appear if not on that line. Mr. Mardigian explained that the items mentioned are not considered major repairs and that they are provided for in the budget. He said a major maintenance would be the repair of the roof of the building, etc.

Harry Zartarian asked if the Church artifacts are being properly recorded. Fr. Paren assured him that we do have inventory of all the artifacts. Fr. Paren further advised that the artifacts are insured.

Carol Palaian addressed the issue of property security. She asked why we had a budget for \$6,000 and only expended \$4,400. She also questioned the quality of guard service we have that isn't here every night people are here. She stated that her car was broken into once and stolen again last Monday night, and there were no security guards on duty that night. Fr. Paren explained that in last year's budget, there was no such item as property security, meaning security personnel. He further pointed out that the first time Mrs. Palaian had her car broken into, around mid-year, was the time when

Parish Council realized that a problem existed and they made some arrangements for it. Fr. Paren continued that for a number of months we did not have a problem with the security people, but for some reason, last Monday night, the company did not send anyone. Mr. Mardigian further explained that the \$6,000 is only for the nights the building is being used. Mr. Mardigian said it is our policy to have security here every night we have people here, and it was not known why the security service did not send a guard that night. He assured her, however, that Parish Council would look into the matter and take whatever action is necessary to assure that there is security in the parking lot every time the building is being used.

Mrs. Palaian stated that if we realized this problem mid-year, why are we only allocating \$6,000 for all of 1983, when we spent \$4,400 for approximately a six-month period. Mr. Mardigian responded that the budgeted figure is only for the nights we use the building, which is usually Monday and Wednesday evenings. Generally, the building is closed on Tuesday evenings, Bingo pays for security on Thursday evenings, and whoever rents the building on weekends is responsible for their own security.

MOTION: Ara Haig made a motion that the Annual Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The motion passed.

The Chairman then invited Arthur Mardigian to present the next item of the agenda.

PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSAL RE: SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCHEONS:

Mr. Mardigian stated that it was the recommendation of the Parish Council that the Senior Citizens' luncheons be increased from \$1.00 to \$2.00 for members only. Non-members and guests will remain at the \$4.00 per person fee. He further stated that it was the recommendation of Parish Council that this Assembly make this policy effective immediately. Mr. Mardigian said that at the present, the Senior Citizens' luncheon is open to the entire Armenian Community. Approximately 40-50 non-members take advantage of this luncheon each time, and this has been the biggest complaint of our members. He said our senior citizens are willing to pay \$2.00, which is near the actual cost of \$2.50, as long as non-members and guests pay \$4.00.

Arshavir Yeghissian felt this arrangement would freeze out every Armenian that has been coming to these luncheons in the past and are not members of the Church. He felt it would be reasonable to charge everybody whatever the luncheon costs and not differentiate between members and non-members. There are people among the non-members who cannot afford the \$4.00 and people among the members who can afford more. He felt that Armenians come here for fellowship and many are widows who are lonely people.

Fr. Paren commented that this Church does follow the policy of distinguishing between members and non-members. For example, when the Hall is rented, a member pays only a certain percentage. Other Armenians and non-Armenians are welcome to take advantage of these premises at a higher cost, but members make a sacrifice annually, and our policy is to rent the Hall to them at a reduced rate. Likewise, the Recreation Center is available for rental to members only; the same logic and principle is being applied here. He further advised

that if overhead is included in the price of the luncheon, it would be well over the \$2.50 the Chairman of the Council stated. Fr. Paren did not feel the Council was being negligent of its obligation to provide services to the entire community by making the distinction between members and non-members.

Martin Cholakian questioned the charge of \$4.00. He asked who authorized this change, since the Assembly has always been opposed to it. The concept was originally to provide a luncheon once a month, and we made it twice a month, through the Parish Assembly, and provided for a limited cost to all Armenians who are Senior Citizens. He stated that he does not recall when we changed the price to \$4.00 for non-members. Mr. Mardigian said there were other senior citizen groups from Dearborn, Warren, etc. that wanted to come here and have lunch and visit the Church. When we received the first request, the Parish Council made a decision that, in those cases, they would be charged \$4.00, and that is where the \$4.00 non-member fee came in. Mr. Cholakian asked for a clarification as to whether the fee is for non-members or non-Armenians. Mr. Mardigian said that when these requests first came, they were for non-Armenians. Mr. Cholakian then asked if the intent of the proposal is to limit the luncheon to only Armenians. Mr. Mardigian said our proposal is \$2.00 for members and \$4.00 for non-members and guests, and this could be non-Armenians.

Mr. Mardigian mentioned another problem of non-Senior Citizens who attend. He stated that we have to create a policy. He said that the Parish Council discussed this issue for a long time, and they feel the proposal is fair.

Garry Javizian suggested that we raise the cost of the dinner for non-Armenians and non-Senior Citizens and keep the price of the dinner the same for all Armenians.

Mr. Mardigian said the problem with Senior Citizens is distinguishing between members and non-members. Parish Council's position after considerable discussion was that we do owe something to Senior Citizens who are members of this Church.

Maritza Negosian asked for a definition of the term "Senior Citizen". She has seen younger individuals attending the luncheon who are paying only \$1.00 for their meals. She also inquired as to the purpose of being a dues-paying member of the Church if we cannot benefit from a reduced rate to pay for a meal and enjoy the fellowship. She felt it is not too much to expect others to pay a little extra. She mentioned an observation she made when one of our women was trying to sell tickets for the Sunday Vartanantz Dinner, and all of the non-members who were approached turned the other way. If they are not going to support us in our efforts here, we should not feel an obligation to bend over backwards for them.

Of the \$7,000 budgeted, Michael Assarian asked what the overall loss was to the church for the dinner. Mr. Mardigian answered that the \$7,000 loss shown was what the church subsidized the dinners.

MOTION: Mr. Assarian moved that all Armenians who identify themselves as Senior Citizens be subsidized down to the level of \$2.00 per meal. Any guests that the Senior Citizens bring with them should be charged a fee that compensates the Church for the total cost of the luncheon. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Mardigian commented that this motion creates another problem. We know who are Senior Citizens are. How are we going to differentiate between Senior Citizens of our Church and Armenian Senior Citizens from other churches? We have no way of knowing that they are Senior Citizens, retired, or not retired.

One parishioner suggested we ask them for identification.

Another parishioner mentioned that we have not yet defined "Senior Citizen". We need to have the guidelines set.

Mr. Mardigian explained that Senior Citizens are persons 62 years of age or over or fully retired. The person may be 55 years old and may be fully retired.

Mr. Assarian's interpretation as it pertains to his motion is anyone who qualifies for a medicare card.

The motion was re-read and passed by a show of hands.

The Chairman then invited Victoria Reizian to present the Parish Council finding on the Senior Citizens' transportation issue.

PARISH COUNCIL FINDING RE: TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:

Mrs. Reizian presented the finding of the Parish Council on the issue of transportation for Senior Citizens to attend Church services and Church-related functions. She explained that three different sources had been contacted, and the company offering the best transportation was Semta. Pick-up would be provided at 5 locations; namely: 7 Mile and Middlebelt; 13 Mile and Orchard Lake; 13 Mile and Woodward; Civic Center Drive and Telegraph; and individual homes as requested that are on the route to Church. She listed the occasions this service would be available and added that provisions could be made for others besides Senior Citizens. The fee for Senior Citizens would be \$1.25 one way or \$2.50 round trip; the fee for non-Senior Citizens would be \$2.50 one way or \$5.00 round trip. Mrs. Reizian explained that at least 10 people from each location would be required in order to obtain this service, and anyone interested should contact the Church office. In answer to a question from the floor, Barbara Sarkisian responded that the Semta Company has the guidelines for ages. Senior Citizens start at 62 years old.

The Chairman then invited Arthur Mardigian to present information on the new burial space at Woodlawn Cemetery.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION RE: NEW BURIAL SPACE AT WOODLAWN CEMETERY:

Mr. Mardigian discussed the lack of burial space in the Armenian sections at Woodlawn Cemetery and a letter received from them. Mr. Mardigian read certain portions of the letter sent to St. John's by the Woodlawn Cemetery Association. He explained that our present sections are almost full, and that another section is being made available to us. Woodlawn Cemetery further advises us that they would work with us on the size and style of a shrine to be erected in honor of the Armenian people in the new section, and the cost of the shrine would be paid by Woodlawn. As soon as arrangements can be made, this section will be consecrated.

Mr. Yeghissian then invited the Treasurer, Ashod Torosian, to present the 1983 Budget.

1983 BUDGET

Mr. Torosian presented the 1983 Budget to the Assembly. He explained that for the past year we had budgeted \$623,800 for receipts, and we actually received \$649,631. Therefore, we were over by \$25,800 on the proposed budget. The new proposed budget for 1983 is \$671,575, which is an increase of just under seven percent.

Vahe Papelian asked for the balance we did not collect for 1982 from pledges. Mr. Torosian advised that we do not keep track of that; however, he explained that one of the rules for voting is that you must be a paid-up member. Mr. Papelian explained that he had helped the Church Office send out the pledge statements one day and noticed that almost every statement had a balance due. He called this disgraceful.

Harry Zartarian commented that the financial survival of the Church should not depend on Bingo. The interest income should not be included in the operating revenue. Mr. Torosian explained that it is income and must be shown as a receipt. He said that in 1982 we were very fortunate -- the money we had in the bank was earning anywhere from 13 to 17 percent for us. That percentage has gone down since the beginning of the year, and we feel the monies that we have in the bank will earn in the area of \$60,000. Mr. Zartarian said that interest is not operating revenue and should not be in the operating budget. He continued by saying that if we need expenditures to build an additional building, instead of going to the parishioners to collect money and causing hardships, why not have a reserve. After 22 years, we should have much more monies in the bank, but we keep spending it in the budget year after year.

Lucy Merzian asked about rentals, "other organizations." She said the actual for 1982 is \$11,200 and the year before it was \$2,800. She asked how we can budget \$20,300 for 1983? Is it because we already have rentals for 1983 that we can expect that kind of income or are we just guessing? Mr. Torosian explained that we put up the Recreation Center, and we do get rental from the AGBU School and others.

Miss Merzian then asked about the Super Raffle. Do we have some plan of action to yield \$25,000 this year? Mr. Torosian responded that the Parish Council asked the Fund-Raising Committee to put forth a great effort this year, and they have been working on it. Parish Council is sure they will try to get the budget that we set up for them.

Harry Amirkanian said the actual expense for heating this year is \$36,632, which is \$11,500 more than the budget for last year, yet we only budgeted \$30,000 for next year. Mr. Torosian explained that last year we had severe weather, and after only two months, our bills are considerably less this year.

Mr. Amirkanian also questioned insurance rates. Last year we spent \$22,412 and only budgeted \$18,012 for 1983. Mr. Torosian explained that we are going out for competitive bids, and it looks like our insurance rates will be going down. We are also consolidating the buildings on the complex to obtain a lower rate.

Mr. Amirkanian also noted that the budget for the Torch Bearer is less. Mr. Torosian said it is as a result of a new printing firm.

MOTION: Sooren Gozmanian made a motion that we accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Yeghissian invited the Chairman of the Parish Council to present the next item of the agenda.

Mr. Mardigian referred to a letter from the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America regarding the 81st Diocesan Assembly, which will be held at Sts. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church in Palos Heights, Illinois from May 5-7, 1983. All bylaws must be submitted to the Diocese by February 21, 1983. All proposals must be submitted to the Diocese by April 18, 1983. These are the deadlines in order to properly submit and discuss them at the Diocesan Assembly. Mr. Mardigian stated that the Parish Council has no bylaws amendments or proposals to make at this time.

The Chair then asked for bylaws amendments or proposals from the floor to be submitted to the Diocesan Assembly. No proposals or bylaws amendments were made.

At this time, it was read into the Minutes that 382 members were in attendance and voting.

The Chairman, Mr. Yeghissian, then announced the results of the elections:

Parish Council

Arthur A. Apkarian
George H. Cross
Edward H. Korkoian
Arthur S. Mardigian
Ashod Torosian

Diocesan Delegates

Martin H. Cholakian
Mihran Hoplamazian
Edward B. Korkoian
Arthur S. Mardigian
Dennis R. Papazian
Harry Terzian
Richard Vahratian

Nominating Committee

Rosemary Bagdasarian
Noubar Dourjalian
Gary Ezmerlian
Souren Keolelian
Kathy Mekjian

Auditors

Albert Mardirosian
Janice Torosian

Ara Haig asked who the alternate Diocesan Delegate would be if Arthur Mardigian is elected Chairman of Parish Council, since he would be attending the Diocesan Assembly in that capacity and not as a Diocesan Delegate. It was explained that the Nominating Committee has that information which was not readily available at this time.

The Chair then invited Fr. Paren Avedikian to give his closing message and the Benediction.

Fr. Paren commented on the Choir situation. He agreed with Ara Haig that we are in need of new choir members, but he said that the Church School students cannot resolve the problems the Choir has. He felt that the responsibility is being shifted to the students. The choir needs our help now. A letter soliciting new members was published in the Torch Bearer; unfortunately, not a single response was received. He continued that, as in other areas, certain parishioners feel the responsibility of carrying all aspects of the church belongs to a few. Fr. Paren mentioned an incident that occurred this past summer when Archbishop Serovpe Manoogian visited our church. Noticing that there were only six choir members in church, Fr. Paren asked the Parish Council Chairman to keep Archbishop Manoogian busy in the office so as not to be embarrassed by the small turnout of the Choir on that given Sunday. An appeal is being made, and that is the intent of the Choir and Choir director. He expressed his hope that qualified members would come forth and offer their services.

Fr. Paren also expressed his appreciation to all the committees who work for this church. He explained that the opportunity is available for the chairmen of the various committees, if they feel it necessary, to recognize one person over another in their section of the Annual Booklet. He specifically called this to the attention of Mr. Papelian for his Bingo report. Fr. Paren mentioned that everyone does according to his or her ability to serve.

Fr. Paren then expressed his disappointment in the conduct of the Assembly. He felt the Chairman of the Day tried to do his best, and with a little less interference from the floor, the meeting could have been conducted in a more orderly fashion. He hoped that in future Assemblies, individuals will properly ask to be recognized and then address the Assembly on a given issue or question.

Regarding payment of dues, Fr. Paren assured the Assembly that dues are being paid in a timely manner. He stated that making the parishioners feel that something is wrong and that people are not paying their dues is the wrong impression to give. He stated that receiving \$152,000 in 1982 indicates that our parishioners are paying their dues. Fr. Paren also mentioned that the Diocesan bylaws allow parishioners to pay their annual dues in the fiscal or in the calendar year; it is each parishioner's prerogative.

Fr. Paren then thanked everyone on the Parish Council, Diocesan Delegates, Auditors and other elected officers of St. John's Parish, who, in the past year or years, have served this parish; and he offered his congratulations to those who were elected to new positions in these categories. He expressed the hope that each elected officer will try to do his or her utmost to fulfill the expectations of the parishioners which will be to the credit of St. John's. Fr. Paren then thanked everyone for their patience during this lengthy Assembly.

The meeting closed at 11:40 p.m. with the Benediction offered by Fr. Paren.

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor

Judy Hovnan

Judy Hovnan
Secretary

Garro Yeghissian

Garro Yeghissian
Chairman