

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT TO ASSEMBLY

FROM

PARISH COUNCIL

Under the presidency of our pastor Der Karekin Kasparian and the chairmanship of Apkar Omartian, your council has met regularly on a twice monthly schedule to conduct parish business. This included, but was not limited to the following:

Finances: We have experienced considerable difficulty in meeting our operating budget. There has been a modest drop in membership. Attendance at worship services has been either static or somewhat reduced. We did not have a Spring dance. The White Plains Arts Festival did not include ethnic foods in 1977. In an effort to help solve this chronic, nagging financial problem the council has on numerous occasions considered recommending to the Assembly the adoption of a pledge system.

Representatives of your Parish Council have met with Diocesan Council representatives and have negotiated successfully for a reduced parish assessment and a stretch out of payments on the unpaid balance.

400 Club Raffle: To help solve the financial problem a 400 Club perpetual raffle was established. Each of the following two motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously:

1. "The net income from the raffle will be appropriated toward covering the operating deficit, if any, in the annual budget of the parish. The balance will be donated

to the Building Fund subject to the recommendation of the Parish Council."

2. "The Raffle Committee be authorized to open bank accounts in the name of 'The Armenian Church of Westchester - Raffle Fund'. The Raffle Committee is authorized to deduct expenses thereof."

Bi-Centennial Dinner: The culmination of our fund raising drive for 1976 was a successful dinner held at the Rye Golf Club on January 9, 1977.

Community Involvement: Representatives of your council met several times with representatives of our host church, St. Andrews, to discuss matters of mutual concern including rents, use and care of facilities, security, vandalism, etc.

Our Church in the person of Father Karekin once again participated in the joint Holy Week Services held at Sacred Heart R.C. Church.

Our pastor officiated on several occasions as the invited celebrant of St. Andrews congregation.

Picnic: Our annual picnic under the chairmanship of Mr. B. Serabian was held on August 28, 1977 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Keff Night: Under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Guendjoian, our annual Keff Night was held at Temple Emmanuel on October 29, 1977.

One World Festival: The Armenian Church of Westchester once again participated in the Annual One World Festival held at St. Vartan's Cathedral complex in New York City on September 10, 11, 1977.

Miscellaneous: Despite the anticipated drop in church attendance during the summer months, it was decided to hold worship services during July and August. The absence of our pastor, who was assigned other Diocesan duties during much of the summer necessitated the scheduling of substitute clergy.

The Council conducted numerous joint meetings with invited representatives of the various parish organizations to discuss their problems and seek possible solutions. The concensus seems to be the lack of our own quarters and supporting facilities such as hall, kitchen, gym is a serious handicap to expansion efforts.

Special Parish Assembly: A Special Parish Assembly was held on Friday, July 8, 1977 at St. Andrews. The purpose of the Assembly was to act on various proposals for the acquisition of property. It was the will of the Assembly that our Church should encourage St. Nersess Seminary to purchase the Lutheran property in New Rochelle and then to sit with Seminary representatives to negotiate for a portion of that property as a permanent site for our church.

Toward this goal, several members of the Parish have actively engaged in the negotiations with the Lutherans as participants invited by St. Nersess Seminary Treasurer, Archbishop Tiran Nersayan. A contract was signed for an agreed price of \$270,000; however, as of December 31, 1977 the closing had not taken place. Your Council has been advised by Diocesan representatives to await the actual passing of title before sitting down with the St. Nersess Seminary Board to negotiate for a portion for our Church site.

Site Committee: On October 6, 1977, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously authorizing the Chairman to appoint a new site committee. The motion reads: "While we are attempting to implement the mandate of the Parish Assembly with regard to participation with St. Nersess in the New Rochelle property, the Chairman of the Council be authorized to appoint a new site committee to continue looking for a suitable church property so that no acquisition opportunity will be lost in the event the New Rochelle transaction should not come to fruition."

Respectfully submitted

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Apkar Omartian  
Chairman

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Edward Essayan  
Secretary