

1978 REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The 76th Annual Diocesan Assembly was held at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan.

169 Delegates were present, including 21 Parish Council Chairmen. The Assembly was chaired by Kachadoor Kazarian and presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Our Church's delegation consisted of Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Edward S. Dorian and Edward Essayan.

His Eminence, Archbishop T. Manoogian was elected Primate for a fourth 4 year term.

The Unity Committee reported that just one meeting was held with our Separated Brethren. This took place in April 1978, at which time it was agreed that if satisfactory progress were made in drafting new by-laws by February 1, 1979, a joint celebration of Martyrs Day could be held in April, 1979.

It was reported that at the end of 1977 there were 9 students at St. Nersess Theological Seminary of which four would be graduated in 1978.

A new major medical plan for Diocesan clergy and employees was adopted providing for \$100 deductible and 80% co-insurance on the next \$900 - effective October 1, 1978.

It was reported that the A.C.Y.O.A. Senior group now consists of 600 members.

By-Law Amendments:

1. Article 14 (a) and (b) were amended so that officers of the Parish Assembly are now nominated by the Nominating Committee instead of the Parish Assembly. In addition, the Article now provides that elections at the annual Parish Assembly are to be governed by Nominating and Auditing Committees. Having been approved by two consecutive assemblies, this amendment is now effective.

2. The amendment to Article 14 (b) received first approval. If approved again at the next assembly the amendment will become effective. The amendment provides that members of the Nominating Committee are limited to two consecutive terms.

Fund-Raising:

The Diocesan Council established a Pacesetter Committee to raise \$125,000 of which \$70,000 would be raised by the Mercedes Benz raffle.

In addition, a Fund Raising Committee has been established to raise \$150,000 to cover the annual Cathedral mortgage payments and an additional \$100,000 to cover the general expenses of the Diocese.

A budget of \$632,000 for 1978 was approved. The largest single expense item in the budget, \$254,000 is attributable to salaries.

The site of the 1979 Assembly will be Merrimac Valley, jointly hosted by three parishes in that area.