

DIOCESAN DELEGATES' REPORT - 1988

The Diocesan Assembly convened on May 12, 1988 and met through May 14, 1988 at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, presiding.

Dr. Dennis R. Papazian was elected as Assembly Chairman, Harry Terzian as Vice Chairman, Rev. Fr. Krikor Hairabedian as Armenian Language Secretary and Dr. Garo Garibian as English Language Secretary.

Souren Fesjian, of our Church, was elected to the Diocesan Board of Trustees.

The Unity Committee presented its report which consisted primarily of copies of the correspondence between Diocesan Council Chairman, Vincent Gurahian, and Prelacy Executive Council Chairman, Nerses Chitjian, from the period of December, 1986 through April, 1988 and which resulted, ultimately, in setting a date, time and place for resumption of Unity Committee talks following completion of the Assembly meeting.

Among the items of significant business enacted was a resolution petitioning His Eminence, Archbishop Manoogian, to present to His Holiness, the Catholicos, the request of the Assembly that marital status of candidates to the priesthood not be a barrier to ordination and that qualified unmarried candidates be ordained, with a provision that at a later date they will be allowed to marry, if they desire, and continue to serve as married priests.


A similar request for petition to His Holiness was passed seeking to eliminate marital status as a barrier to achieving positions of higher authority in the church.

A proposal was passed that parish priests be assigned by the Primate, as needed and up to four times annually, to serve in parishes without pastors, mission communities and college campuses during which assignment deacons of the home parish will conduct Joshou services.

A further resolution was passed for clergy attendance at continuing education sessions to be organized by the Diocese; and declaring 1989 as a "Year of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian" in observance of the Primate's 70th birthday with appropriate activities to be organized.

As usual, the host Parish provided the delegates and guests with excellent accomodations and amenities and the Assembly selected St. Stepanos Armenian Church, Elberon, New Jersey, as the site for the 1989 Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,


Vincent Gurahian
Lionel Galstaun
Delegates