

Special Parish Assembly

A special Parish Assembly was held on October 14th to present and discuss the report of the Building Fund Raising Committee. This report, as presented, was divided into three phases, namely:

- Phase I - Build a new Church
- Phase II - Renovate, upgrade, and integrate with the new Church, the current facilities.
- Phase III - Build a Hall

The Parish Council recommended that the first priority for consideration by the Parish Assembly should be to finance and build a new church, namely, Phase I. Four motions were proposed, and approved overwhelmingly during this Assembly, as documented and distributed to our members by the Parish Council on October 19th, which included:

1. Financing Plan - contribution of \$500 per member, per year, for two years.
2. Build a new church and proceed to hire an architect for this purpose.
3. Form a Building Committee.
4. Authorize the expenditure, not to exceed \$40,000, for the purpose of obtaining building plans and specifications for the new church.

Building Committee

In accordance with the motion passed by the Special Parish Assembly, the Parish Council is in the process of finalizing the membership of the Building Committee and structuring its mode of operation. In the meantime, an Architectural Review Committee, headed by Edward Essayan, has interviewed four architects. In a few days selection of the architect to be recommended to the Parish Council for its determination will be made by the Building Committee.

Annual Bazaar

The Annual Bazaar, co-chaired by Edward Essayan and Ara Shimshidian, was held on our grounds on October 20-21. The Oriental Rug Sale held in conjunction with the Bazaar was conducted skillfully by our own Garo Bashian. We owe a debt of gratitude to Garo for the rugs, to Yeretzgin Dawn for managing the culinary matters, to Grace Bozian and to many of our ladies for the preparation and selling of food, jewelry, and the many appealing articles offered, and to the co-chairmen for coordinating the Bazaar, and last, but not least, to the many persons who contributed in making the Bazaar a highly successful and profitable event for our Church.

Harvest Ball

A Harvest Ball was held on November 10th at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Rye, NY. It was a welcomed relief for our Parish to have an all-inclusive catered affair which included a cocktail hour, full course dinner, and live music. A profit of \$1,578.87 was realized from this affair. Our gratitude is extended to Mrs. Annette Bashian, Chairperson, and members of the committee for giving us a ball of a time.

Annual Banquet

The Fifth Annual Consecration Banquet of our Church was held on December 2nd at the Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY, under the co-chairpersonship of John and Anita Wolohojian. A delicious luncheon and a most interesting program was offered which included guest speaker Dr. Vigen Guroian, Professor of Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, and musical renditions by Vartkes Baboghlian. During this affair, our own Deacon John Vakassian was awarded the St. James Award for 1984.

Champagne Awards were given by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Jack Hachigian, to those individuals whom he felt made his job and that of the Parish Council a lot easier, by their services to our Parish. Special thanks to John and Anita Wolohojian for once again giving us a celebration which is characterized by its touch of dignity and class.

St. James Award for 1984

The St. James Award for 1984 was presented to Deacon John Vakassian, our young octogenarian, for continued dedicated service to our Church. John's dedication to our Church is unique and his high ideals set a pattern for all of us to follow. Our gratitude is also extended to his wife, Alyce, for her patience and encouragement.

Stewardship Program

The Stewardship program completed its third year of growth since its inception in 1982. With the initiative and guidance of the Pastor, Parish Council and Committee, we were able to achieve an amount representing a slight increase over the previous year. We must achieve as our goal, however, a wider participation of parishioners. Because we are embarking on the building of a new church, the Parish Council is exercising strict control over any increases in the Operating Budget. We deeply appreciate the wholehearted cooperation and support of the Stewards who graciously made their pledges in 1984.

We are happy to mention that Diocesan Council member, Hon. Vincent Gurahian, was selected as one of four delegates to a meeting with the Catholicos in Holy Etchmiadzin to discuss matters of importance and mutual interest, in June 1984.

We are indeed grateful to Elmas Davidian, who has contributed her services, on a voluntary basis, throughout the year in every conceivable way possible. It should be mentioned that we are fortunate in having Mrs. Helen Galbraith as our Church Secretary and Mr. Gregory Bochow as our Caretaker, both of whom have performed in an exemplary manner.

Conclusion

The Pastor and the Parish Council appreciate and commend all the Church organizations, the chairpersons and members of various committees, and all contributors for their continued support and involvement in the progress and well-being of our Parish. The year 1984 has been an eventful one for our Parish. We shall proceed with the great task which lies before us in the building of a new Church. With Divine guidance and with the cooperation and support of all our parishioners in our community, this will surely become a reality in early 1987.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Jack Hachigian, Chairman


John Boyajian, Recording Secretary


Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Pastor