

DIOCESAN DELEGATES' REPORT - 1989

The Diocesan Assembly met this year on May 4-6, 1989 at St. Stepanos Church in Elberon, New Jersey, where Mr. Kevovk Hovnanian, well-known and affectionately admired philanthropist, was honored as Man of the Year. Mr. Hovnanian, a modest and retiring man, accepted the recognition with a mixture of humor, humility and good nature which is his characteristic.

The major business of the Assembly was to adopt the report of the Unity Committee proposing a schedule and time table agreed upon with the Prelacy Unity Committee. The major recommendations of that report are as follows:

1. To implement forthwith, cooperative programs in the Religious and Armenian Schools.

2. Joint statement urging representatives to avoid conflict for the Commemoration of the 1989 Martyrs Day.

3. In May, 1989, the respective committees will report to their 1989 Assemblies and requesting a commitment to Unity.

4. By February 1, 1990, completion of the proposed By-Laws.

5. For April 24, 1990, a joint commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide will take place.

6. In May, 1990, the proposed By-Laws of the United Diocese will be presented to the respective assemblies for comments and review, and referred back to the respective committees.

7. In May, 1991, the proposed agreed upon By-Laws will be presented to the respective assemblies for approval and will be forwarded to the Catholicos of all Armenians in Holy Etchmiadzin for confirmation of the reunited Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

It is expected the Prelacy also will adopt these recommendations and, for the first time in several years the Delegates appeared optimistic that Administrative Unity in the Church is within reach. With this in mind, our Assembly passed a resolution extending an invitation to the Prelacy to send an observer to our 1990 Diocesan Assembly and stated that if a similar invitation were sent to us to be present at the Prelacy Assembly we would be pleased to accept.

Other major business was the report on the Diocesan Earthquake activities and election of Diocesan Council members.

Re-elected were V. Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian, Daniel Dorian, and Edward Onanian. Replacing retiring members were V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian, George Stevoff and Asbed Zakarian.

Elected to the Board of Trustees was the Honorable John Najarian who replaced retiring Trustee, Edward Chapian.

Jack Antressian, Executive Director of the Diocesan Fund for Armenian Recovery, reported on his meetings in Armenia with government officials. He outlined our plans for construction of housing, advised that some \$2,000,000 in requested medications are now in process of shipment, that a program to train Armenian physicians in American hospitals is in

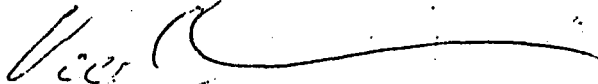
process of development and the Diocese will be participating in programs, as may be requested by Armenia, for reconstruction of factories, hospitals and schools.

The Diocesan Earthquake Fund now has some \$5,500,000 properly invested in liquid funds for immediate and ready access as the need arises. Substantial amounts of additional funds will be required as the rebuilding and rehabilitation programs are developed.

The Chairman of the Diocesan Council, the Honorable Vincent Gurahian (who is also one of our Delegates to the Assembly) expressed his satisfaction at the results of this year's Assembly.

The Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, our pastor retired from the Diocesan Council after 8 years of service, during which he contributed to the work of the Council and, in addition, worked on various committees implementing the educational, cultural and spiritual mission of the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent Gurahian  
Lionel Galstaun  
Delegates