

## **PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998**

The Parish Council met regularly during 1998 with both a general and an executive committee meeting scheduled each month, and special meetings occurring as needed.

### **Parish Council Composition**

#### **Executive Committee**

President – Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian  
Chair – Ara Ishkanian  
Vice Chair – Michael Pisani  
Recording Secretary – Lionel S. Galstaun  
Treasurer – Mack Basil  
Corresponding Secretary – Lisa Kouzoujian  
Assistant Treasurer – Ruth Sanossian

#### **Councilors**

Menas Daderian  
Harry Gurun  
Paul Keyishian  
Van Krikorian  
Laura Shimshidian

### **A Year Like No Other**

The past year has been unlike any previous year in our church's history. It has been a year requiring much hard work, hope, and patience. It has been a year when the dream of building our own church complex became a reality. The past year has been one of impressive accomplishments and rewarding, awe-inspiring achievements.

1998 was also a year when 70-150 persons regularly filled the tiny chapel at St. Nersess designed to accommodate 40 people. Our parishioners strained to hear the Badarak from adjoining rooms and stretched to catch a glimpse of the altar. Our children attended classes in the basement and second floor of St. Nersess, at Iona Grammar School, and at the White House on our North Street property. Our parishioners, both tiny and large, young and old, endured discomfort and inconvenience, thereby enabling us to reach our church building goal together. For everyone's patience, effort, and faith, the Parish Council is truly grateful.

### **In Appreciation**

During the past year many annually scheduled church activities had to be postponed because of logistical and space-related problems, but thanks to some extraordinary effort and cooperation, several major functions were held. The Parish Council is especially grateful to the following:

- Fr. Arakel Aljalian and St. Nersess Seminary for so graciously providing us a "home" until our church was built
- the Greek Orthodox church of Our Savior for the use of its grounds and hall for our picnic and rug sale
- the Temple Israel of New Rochelle community for its generosity in providing us with the use of their hall for our annual Water Blessing, Palm Sunday, and Easter services
- the Haig and Simon Tutak families for their wonderfully generous financial contributions toward the building of our new church complex.
- Suren Feshjian for his continuing financial support and leadership
- Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian for his unwavering optimism and relentless pursuit of our church complex and community building goal
- Richard Papalian and Zaven Tachdjian for their tireless and successful management of our church construction project
- Mack Basil for his conceptualizing and implementing a fund-raising plan that fueled our construction efforts
- all the members of our church community who responded so generously time after time to our appeals for more money
- Michael Guroian for his countless gifts of time and energy throughout the year and especially as the chief planner and manager of our annual picnic and the One World Festival
- Yt. Dawn and Ruth Sanossian for their skillful organization of our beautiful Consecration Banquet
- Gale Perzigian and Elma Davidian for their very generous gift of time and skill that keep our church office functioning
- Paul Keyishian for his management of our annual rug sales, and, with Irene Shadoian, management of our critically important annual stewardship drive
- Anahid Chookhachian for her management of our Language School as well as assistance in many special year-round projects.

-Bea Postian, Laura Shimshidian and colleagues for their very faithful service to the children of our Sunday School

-Rosa Ohanian for her vision and efforts in organizing our weekly hospitality and fellowship hour

-Raffi Sevadjian, members of our choir, Marguerite Sagatelian and Meline Kasparian, our organists, for providing the beautiful music of our Badarak every Sunday

-Harry Nakashian for providing us with a rich, visual documentation of our past year's activities

-Andy and Eddy for their assistance in keeping wherever we were looking presentable

-Michael Pisani who, along with Mack Basil and crew, gave up many weekends and weekdays to paint and repair the outside of the White House

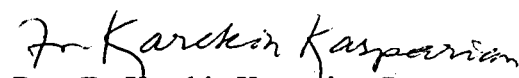
-Lionel Galstaun for his invaluable insight and faithful recording of the work of the Parish Council as well as that of the Building Committee.

Lastly, I would like to thank outgoing members of the Parish Council for their faithful and invaluable service. Without their efforts, our church's business would not have occurred. Leaving the Parish Council are the following: Lionel Galstaun, Mack Basil, Paul Keyishian, Van Krikorian. Each of these members will be greatly missed. They gave much of themselves during a very critical time in our church's history.

In conclusion, we have our church; we have our church at last! Let us now work together to make S. Krikor/ St. Gregory a shining light in the life and thought of both the Armenian and the White Plains communities.

  
Ara Ishkanian, Chairperson

Lionel Galstaun, Recording Sec.

  
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Pastor