

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

1972

At the General Membership Meeting of the Holy Cross Armenian Church held on February 6, 1972, five (5) parish council members were elected and after the Primate's approval, at the Parish Council meeting of March 10, 1972, the following officers were elected:

Chairman	John Hovsepian
Vice Chairman	Deran Chopoorian
Recording Secretary	Richard Kalbian*
Corresponding Secretary	Bart Sarkisian
Treasurer	Charles Sarajian
Advisor	Richard Altounian
Advisor	Leon Boghosian
Advisor	Nubar Dorian
Advisor	Charles Genjian
Advisor	Peter Kapusuzian
Advisor	Lud Shahbazian

* Assumed position on May 26, 1972 since originally elected Recording Secretary, Peter Kapusuzian, resigned due to personal reasons.

During 1972, the Parish Council held twenty (20) meetings, attending to the needs of the Parish. The Chairman, Mr. John Hovsepian, together with Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, appointed the following committee chairmen and liaisons:

PICNIC:	Leon Boghosian
BAZAAR:	Richard Altounian Richard Kalbian
PUBLICITY:	Richard Kalbian Bart Sarkisian
PLEDGE SYSTEM:	Leon Boghosian
PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Nubar Dorian Charles Genjian John Hovsepian Lud Shahbazian
VISION:	Ann Dadafan Nubar Dorian John Hovsepian
BUILDING MAIN- TENANCE	Deran Chopoorian
ACYOA LIAISON:	Richard Kalbian

CHOIR LIAISON:	Peter Kapusuzian
MEN'S CLUB LIAISON:	Charles Sarajian
SUNDAY SCHOOL LIAISON:	Nubar Dorian
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION:	Peter Kapusuzian Bart Sarkisian
20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER CHURCH CENTER:	Nubar Dorian Charles Genjian Richard Kalbian Bart Sarkisian

- A. ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - Under the leadership and direction of Picnic Chairman, Leon Boghosian, this year's picnic was a social and financial success. He and his committee coordinated the efforts of the Men's Club and Parish Council to insure the enjoyment of all our Parishioners.
- B. ANNUAL BAZAAR - Bazaar '72 proved to be a very successful endeavor. This was largely due to the untiring efforts of Committee members, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Altounian, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Takakjian, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Takakjian, Mrs. Lucy Bozolan, Mrs. George Atamian, Mr. Richard Kalbian, the Ladies Aid and Ladies Educational Society and the ACYOA. Children's night at the Bazaar was highlighted by a guest appearance of TV chimp, Mr. Jiggs. Other first for the Bazaar included an appearance by a caricature artist, a fortune teller and cotton candy. As always, the Ladies Aid foot got rave notices. Congratulations and many thanks to all involved!
- C. NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION - Balloons, noise makers, streamers, two bands, plenty of good food and drink -- all added to the merriment of those in attendance at our Church's New Year's Eve Celebration. Thanks to the hard work of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Sarkisian and their committee this affair proved to be very successful.
- D. ROTATION OF CLERGY - At the June 29, 1972 Parish Council meeting, the Rt. Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, announced his plans for rotation of clergy within the Diocese. At that time, he stated that Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian would be transferred to St. Mary's Church, Elberton, N. J. and Rev. Vartan Megherian would be transferred to our Church as soon as details could be worked out.

Der Vertanes' new assignment began in September, 1972. On September 10, 1972, a farewell dinner for Der Hayr was held at the Church Center to thank him for his years of devotion and inspiration to our Parish.

Since Father Vartan Megherian was not ready to assume full-time duties at our Church, the Primate decided that he would serve our Church as a visiting clergyman for several months.

During the months of September, October and November, 1972, the Parish Council conducted special meetings with all Church-affiliated organizations to explain the background of the rotation of clergy, the meetings that had taken place with the Primate and arrangements that had been made with the Diocese.

A caretaker committee consisting of Harold Azmelian, Deran Chopoorian and John Hovsepien was set up to coordinate all affairs between our Parish and the Diocese. It was during this period that full cooperation was received from all of our Parishioners so that our Church could continue to operate fully.

On November 27, 1972, Father Vartan began his duties as our permanent Parish Priest. An official reception and dinner was held for Der Hayr and his family on December 3, 1972.

- E. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES - As has been our custom for the past several years, the Lenten Lecture series was conducted after Wednesday Evening Lenten Services. Presentations were made by visiting clergymen, theologians, and Parish Council member Nubar Dorian.
- F. SACRAMENTS AND PRAYERS - The following sacraments have been celebrated by Father Vertanes and Father Vartan and have been duly recorded in our Parish Registry for 1972:
1. Baptisms and Confirmations - 2
 2. Weddings - 4
 3. Funerals - 26
 4. Home blessings also were performed according to the needs and requests of the parishioners.

In connection with marriages, Der Hayr devoted time on counseling and advise. Married couples also have received Der Hayr's spiritual guidance. Social service also became an important part of Der Hayr's activities.

- G. PUBLICATIONS - OFFICE WORK. - Our Parish Paper, the VISION was published 10 times during the year. In addition, we have mailed out numerous special bulletins, announcements and invitations. Assisting Der Hayr in the editorial work of the VISION were Mr. and Mrs. Nubar Dorian. Miss Ann Dadaian did the typing and Mr. John Hovsepien prepared the offsetting with the generosity of Mr. Edward Turnamian of Gotham Graphics, Inc. An average of 615 addresses received our publications. The Parish Council welcomes the assistance of all parishioners who would like to help in the publication work of the Church Office and urges all Church organizations to submit articles for publication in the VISION.

Along with the preparation of all news publications, Der Hayr spent office hours keeping correspondence both in English and Armenian and kept contact with the parishioners by telephone. Much time was also spent preparing sermons both in English and Armenian.

- H. VISITATIONS - Throughout the year, Der Hayr made an effort to visit parishioners on different occasions and administered to the needs of the sick at the following hospitals: North Hudson Hospital, Christ Hospital, Greenville Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Hackensack Hospital, Englewood Hospital, Holy Name Hospital and Bergen Pines Hospital. With visiting committees of the Ladies Aid and Ladies Educational Society, Der Hayr visited the sick at their homes. He also was helpful in finding housing, jobs and legal help for parishioners who required such assistance.
- I. ENVELOPE SYSTEM - There are now 98 parishioners who are making weekly contributions through the Envelope System. In 1972, through this system, the Church realized the sum of \$2,008.50. The number of parishioners using the Envelope System and the contributions realized have decreased to a very large extent. The conclusion is discouraging and we need improvement in our stewardship responsibilities.
- J. CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS - Throughout the year the following organizations worked with dedication and in harmony to enrich the life of our parish: The Ladies Aid, Ladies Educational Society, Sunday School, ACYOA, Men's Club and the Choir. We thank all of the executive officers and their respective memberships for their continuous dedication.
- K. DIOCESAN DELEGATES - Our Diocesan Delegates, Deran Chopoorian, Nubar Dorian, Richard Hachadoorian, Lud Shahbazian and Edward Turnamian attended the Annual Diocesan Assembly held May 13-14, 1972 at St. Peter's Armenian Church, Watervliet, New York, and reported to the Parish Council. They have also attended on many occasions Parish Council meetings and have made many useful contributions for which we thank them.
- L. BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE - Mr. Deran Chopoorian, Chairman of the Building Maintenance Committee made certain that proper upkeep was maintained on all Parish facilities. Since caretaker, Mr. Marino Perez, resigned July 1, 1972, a caretaker selection committee consisting of Messrs. Deran Chopoorian, John Hovsepian and Richard Kalbian interviewed and hired Mr. Pablo Taura, who assumed the position of caretaker on October 1, 1972.
- M. WORSHIP - Church Services and Divine Liturgy were held every Sunday. During Lent, evening services were held on Wednesdays. The sermons were delivered in both Armenian and English. Throughout the year, we were honored by the presence of several guest clergymen who on different occasions celebrated Divine Liturgy in our Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our deep and sincere gratitude and obedience to His Grace the Rt. Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

Special thanks to all Chairmen and Chairladies of all our Church organizations: Mrs. M. Aramian of the Ladies Aid; Mrs. Alice Najarian of the Ladies Educational Society; Mr. Armen Kalbian of the Men's Club; Mr. Zaven Hovsepian of the Sunday School; Mr. Nish Bozoyan of the ACYOA; Mrs. Arpena Sbarbaro of the Choir; to Miss Lucy Soovajian, Organist; to Messrs. Thomas Dabakian, Hagop Hovsepian and newcomers Sarkis Boghosian and Hagop Kradjian for assisting on the Altar; and to our Deacons, Messrs. K. Bendian and M. Katoonagian for their invaluable services and dedication.

Our deep gratitude to Miss Ann Dadaian who, in addition to her duties as choirmaster, has spent so much time in assisting our Pastor in parish office activities.

We gratefully acknowledge the services of Mrs. N. Soovajian, Mrs. M. Seiradarian, Mrs. H. Apkarian for preparing the Mas.

Many thanks to Mrs. Helen Assolian and Mrs. Margaret Mekjian for their loving and dedicated work as Advisors to the ACYOA.

We thank Mr. John Hovsepian and Mr. Edward Turnamian of Gotham Graphics, Inc. for offsetting the VISION and other church circulars.

We must also thank Mr. Lud Shahbazian for his design of the flyers for the Church picnic, annual bazaar and New Year's Eve Celebration.

We express thanks to Mr. Deran Chopoorian. In addition to his duties as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, he has devoted a great deal of time and effort in caring for and maintaining the Parish facilities.

The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the faith and trust of the parishioners in supporting their objectives. Our thanks for the guidance and understanding of our former Parish Priest, Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian. Our warmest welcome to Rev. Vartan Megherian; may God be with him in his new assignment. And our most sincere and fondest hopes that the Holy Cross Armenian Church will continue to grow in the service of God.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD KALBIAN
Secretary

REV. FR. VARTAN MEGHERIAN
Pastor-President

JOHN HOVSEPIAN
Chairman