

REPORT ON 1981 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocese of the Armenian Church held its 79th Annual Diocesan Assembly during the weekend of April 30-May 2 in Watertown, Mass., hosted by the St. James parish of that city.

The St. Thomas Parish was represented by Diocesan Delegates Arthur Azarik, Victor Arzoomanian, George Mekenian, and Joseph Kalemkerian, Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian and Parish Council Chairman, Peter Jamgochian.

The Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, delivered his address in which he stressed the need for church unity, the financial stability of the Diocese, and violence in today's society.

The Assembly directed the Church Unity Committee to continue its discussions with the separated brethren committee to achieve church unity.

The delegates heard a report on the impending creation of the Diocese of Canada. The date will be determined following final negotiations between His Holiness and the parties involved.

Due to the acute clergy shortage a proposal was accepted charging the Primate and the Diocesan Council to appoint a committee to formulate the plans and organizational details for the creation of a Department of Clergy Recruitment.

The budget for 1981 of \$1,170,000 was approved. Parish dues assessments will total \$425,000. The St. Thomas Parish has been assessed \$19,199.

According to the report submitted by Victor Arzoomanian, Executive Director of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, there is \$1,800,000 in assets in the Fund which earned \$77,000 for the Diocese.

In conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly, meetings were also held for Sunday School Teachers, Armenian School Teachers, ACYOA, and Women's Guilds. St. Thomas was represented at those meetings as well by members of the organizations.

The 1982 Diocesan Assembly will be held in early May in New Britain, Conn.

Joseph Kalemkerian, Delegate
George Mekenian, Delegate
Victor Arzoomanian, Delegate
Arthur Azarik, Delegate
Rev. Arnak Kasparian, Pastor
Peter Jamgochian, Parish Council Chairman