

Report of the Diocesan Delegate of the

78th Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church  
of America.

Jan 24, 1981

Your delegate attended the 78th Assembly held in Washington DC May 29 through June 1, 1980. Father Arakelian also attended.

The report of the Diocesan Council as well as that of the Treasurer created the chief bases for the deliberations of the Assembly. Below are listed some of events of note:

1. A new parish was established in Toronto.
2. Nassau County Armenians have requested that a parish be established in their community.
3. Unification of the See of Cilicia with Holy Etchmiadzin as matter of principle has the full support of both the council as well as the Primate. However the implementation process is still a matter of negotiations lead by the Vehapar. The proper steps will be taken only when His Holiness is assured of the preservation of the integrity of Armenian Holy Church and the right and obligations of all parties are in proper perspective.
4. The principle of the Kavookjian estate will be invested and the proceeds to be used to fund the maintenance of the Cathedral complex .
5. Canadian parishes have requested diocesan autonomy, separation from our Diocese. The Council was supportive of their wishes but The Vehapar was to make the final determination. Since the time of the meeting, He has approved a separation plan acceptable to all.
6. The closing of St Herves Seminary was discussed in some detail. When all of the discussion was sifted it became apparent that (1) The Arachnortaran had no authority in the administration of the school, <sup>(2)</sup> also it had become apparent that the school did not attract candidates for the priesthood either in quantity or quality to supply the needs of the Diocese. This is your delegate's assessment of the situation . We must do our best to make our parishes socially, economically, spiritually , culturally and

ethnically viable communities so that whatever inspiration our young men may have in serving the church will not end in disappointment and discouragement.

7. Father Chevont Samoorian outlined the aims and purposes of the diocesan paper Bema.
8. Among the committees established were two for the purpose reviewing clergy salary and clergy health maintenance programs.
9. The budget was reviewed in detail , modified and passed, a copy is available for study.

Attendance at the Assembly was a very rewarding experience , spiritually , for your delegate. I would commend all who can attend do so. We would soon learn that our problems are not unique to our parish. We would also learn that we are indeed a very important part of a far larger more important community, our Armenian Holy Church.

Respectfully submitted

*J. Haberman*