



REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
THE HOLY ASCENSION

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January, 1989

--- PARISH COUNCIL ---
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

It is gratifying to report an increase of 65% in dues and pledges and though it fell short of the committee's objective we are pleased and appreciate the response of our parishioners and friends.

We must mention a "first" in the history of Holy Ascension. Two ladies were elected at our last Parish Assembly to serve on the Parish Council. Margaret Azarian and Connie Kasparian have served nearly a year at this writing and we could'nt have two people more devoted and energetic. At our next Parish Assembly we will be increasing Parish Council members from seven to nine. We look forward to this addition for there is much to be done.

Renovations of our Church hall, classrooms and rest rooms were completed in February and though the expense was great, it was obvious at the recent Hokejash for our earthquake bretheren, we would have had to turn people away because the hall was too small. Armenian language school and Sunday School attendance increases have put the new and renovated classrooms to good use. It is most heartwarming to see the energetic activity of our children and teachers eagerly absorbed in their lessons.

It may not be obvious to all but this year we discontinued use of our well to both the Church and the Parish House and are now connected to City water. YOU can't imagine the maintenance problems and costs that have been eliminated.

This year we purchased approximately a half acre of land that will give us access to Stella Street if and when we choose. More importantly, it makes the acreage behind the Church much more valuable because without the new access it could only be used for Church purposes.

There have been new additions to the Sanctuary. There are three large paintings mounted and seven more in various stages of completion. Der Hyre has found ten donors to undertake all costs. Donors have been found for all classrooms but one. We are also looking for a donor for the Church Hall.

Another unique event took place in our Parish this year. We had the honor of having Surpazan Hyre presenting Der Hyre with his Pectoral Cross. Margaret Azarian and Connie Kasparian co-chaired the committee for the planning of this happy event. Local dignitaries and all who attended were impressed with the program. Special thanks to Surpazan Hyre for advice and counsel and also to Victor Arzoumanian, Master of Ceremonies. Bravo to the Committee for a job well done.

Last but certainly not least came the fateful day of December 7, 1988. Words are inadequate to describe the feelings of Armenians everywhere. After the initial shock, we gathered at Church at 8:00 A.M. on December 8 to meet with TV media and to formulate plans of action. We decided to postpone any and all social activities and devote all our resources to help our stricken bretheren. Der HYRE asked for a committee of volunteers and the response was overwhelming. The committee is chaired by Carmen Cartiglia. Without hesitation, Carmen set a short term goal of \$100,000.00 to be achieved by January 6, 1989. We were slightly short of the objective on that date but surpassed it at the January 15 Hokejash. We are all proud of Carmen and his Co-Chairman Lionel Ketchian and the whole committee.

The December 7 catastrophe has forced us to postpone our fund raising program intended to reduce our mortgage. We must not and cannot put this off too long or the situation could become critical. Additionally, as you can see in our 1989 proposed budget, the outside of our beloved Church needs attention. I do not like to end this report in a negative manner, therefore I'm sure we will all face these necessary responsibilities successfully together as we have in the past.

Finally, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve my Church with such a capable and cooperative council. Thanks to all other organizations of the Church and their capable chairpersons. Special thanks to Der Hyre for his guidance in all matters.

Respectfully,



Archie Misakian
Chairman - Parish Council