

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - FEB. 3, 1991

WHEN I BEGAN WRITING MY REPORT MY MIND WAS ON THE PERSIAN GULF CRISIS AND THE HEARTACHE SOME FAMILIES WILL HAVE TO ENDURE BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE AND THEN I BEGAN WRITING ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS THAT WE FACED THIS YEAR AND THEY ALL SEEMED TRIVIAL WHEN PUT IN PERSPECTIVE.

OFTEN IT TAKES A MAJOR CATASTROPHY TO SHAKE US INTO THE REALIZATION THAT MOST PROBLEMS ARE SURMOUNTABLE AND THAT OBSTACLES ARE MERELY OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN VERY CHALLENGING BOTH IN MEETING OUR EXPECTED AND UNEXPECTED EXPENSES. WE COMPLETED THE ELECTRICAL AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS ACCORDING TO CODE.

THE NEXT ITEMS WERE UNEXPECTED.

1- EARLY IN THE SPRING THE KITCHEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM FAILED AND HAD TO BE TOTALLY REPLACED AND A CLEANOUT SYSTEM NEEDED TO BE ADDED. AT THIS TIME WE WERE ADVISED THE CHURCH'S LEECHING FIELD NEXT TO THE KITCHEN COULD FAIL AT ANY TIME.

2- ALSO DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD, THE SEPTIC SYSTEM AND LEECHING FIELD COMPLETELY BROKE DOWN AT THE PARISH HOUSE. AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH TO FIND THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR TO MEET THE TOWN OF TRUMBULL ENGINEER'S SPECIFICATIONS, THE JOB WAS GIVEN AND ACCOMPLISHED ACCORDING TO CODE.

THE TENANTS WERE VERY COOPERATIVE CONSIDERING THEY WERE CONSIDERABLY INCONVENIENCED FOR WEEKS.

THE TOWN ENGINEER ADVISED US OUR FUTURE WITH THE SEPTIC SYSTEMS ARE TENUOUS. (WEAK). ON A POSITIVE NOTE WE WERE INFORMED THAT A NEW LEECHING FIELD WAS FOUND WHICH COULD BE USED FOR BOTH THE PARISH HOUSE AND CHURCH SHOULD THE NEED ARISE. ALTHOUGH, IT WOULD BE COSTLY, WE WOULD HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MEET THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGE.

3- UNFORTUNATELY, THE FIRE MARSHALL ENTERED OUR LIVES AGAIN. TWO DEMANDS WERE ISSUED. (a) TWO FIRE DOORS HAD TO BE INSTALLED PER ARCHITECTS RENDERING AND APPROVED BY HIS DEPARTMENT - ONE DOWNSTAIRS NEAR THE BACK ENTRANCE AND ONE UPSTAIRS IN THE CONFERENCE AREA. (b) TO RAISE THE WALL NEXT TO THE BACK STAIRS IN THE CONFERENCE AREA TO THE CEILING. WE ARE ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM NOW. THE WORK IS ALMOST COMPLETED.

4- THE LARGE HOLES BENEATH THE GUTTER ON ONE SIDE OF THE BUILDING CAUSED BY WATER DAMAGE, ANIMALS AND BIRDS WAS TAKEN CARE OF IN DECEMBER.

THE AFOREMENTIONED REASONS WERE WHY WE REQUESTED EXTRA FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE.

THE UPDATE FLYER WAS SENT IN SEPTEMBER AS YOU MAY REMEMBER. TO DATE \$3,500 HAS BEEN COLLECTED, BUT OUR EXPENSES WERE \$29,000.

THE COSTS OF MAINTAINING THIS PROPERTY DUE TO ITS AGE AND CONDITION WILL CONTINUE TO ESCALATE SO YOU CAN SEE WE CAN NO LONGER SURVIVE WITH THE \$50, \$100 & \$200 A YEAR PER FAMILY IN PLEDGES.

THE PARISH COUNCIL REALIZES WE ALL GIVE ACCORDING TO OUR INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL SITUATION. IN LIGHT OF OUR FINANCIAL STATUS WE APPEAL ALSO TO YOUR HEARTS AND ASK YOU TO THINK A BIT LONGER WHEN FILLING OUT YOUR PLEDGE CARDS - REMEMBERING THAT ALL THAT WE GIVE IS RETURNED TEN FOLD.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A BLEAK PICTURE BECAUSE WE HAVE OTHER AVENUES TO PURSUE TO HELP US....

- 1- WE CAN WORK TO BURN THE MORTGAGE;
- 2- ESTABLISH ENDOWMENT FUNDS;
- 3- SELL THE ADJACENT UNUSED PROPERTY.

IF ALL THREE POINTS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, OUR INCOME WOULD RISE AND THE NEED TO GO TO OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS BEYOND THE USUAL PLEDGE REQUESTS - FUNDRAISERS, ETC. COULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. WE ALSO DERIVE INCOME FROM THE PARISH HOUSE, NURSERY SCHOOL, HALL RENTAL ETC.

WITH ALL THE AFOREMENTIONED, OUR FEET COULD ONE DAY SOON BE ON SOLID GROUND.

ALSO, I'M PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MEMBERSHIP, SUNDAY AND ARMENIAN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HAVE ALL INCREASED.

OUR YOUTH GROUP IS BEING RE-ORGANIZED BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING THEIR TEEN YEARS HAS GROWN AND WITH OUR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THEY COULD BECOME A VITAL ORGANIZATION WITHIN OUR CHURCH.

TWO HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR WERE:

1- AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL I ATTENDED THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY HELD IN WORCESTER, MASS IN MAY. IT WAS ENLIGHTENING AND EDUCATIONAL, NAMELY TO HEAR THE SAME PROBLEMS ADDRESSED AND POSSIBLE WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM. ALSO IT WAS EXCITING BECAUSE WE WERE THERE TO ELECT A NEW PRIMATE. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE ELECTRICITY AND FEELING OF ANTICIPATION IN THE AIR BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED HIS NAME. WHEN HE DID, THE ROOM BURST INTO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE AND A STANDING OVATION. HIS BROTHERS IN CHRIST THEN ESCORTED HIM INTO THE CHURCH SINGING "REJOICE O HOLY CHURCH". IT WAS A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE.

2- THE CONSECRATION ON JUNE 3RD OF THE 10 RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS. I WAS PERSONALLY HONORED AT HAVING TWO OF THEM MY OWN WORKS, A TRUE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE.

AND IT WAS SPECIAL TO SEE SO MANY OF OUR FAMILIES APPLAUDED FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN MAKING POSSIBLE THE EVENTS OF THE DAY. SO MANY DEDICATED AND FITTING TRIBUTES TO THEIR LOVED ONES. I'M SURE THE ENTIRE PARISH JOINS ME IN COMMENDING DER HYRE ON HIS LEADERSHIP AND PERSERVERANCE ON SEEING THIS FOUR YEAR PROJECT COME TO A SUCCESSFUL CLOSE.

IN THE FALL OUR PARISH COUNCIL WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ALL DAY WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE WESTCHESTER CHURCH. ST. THOMAS IN TENEFLY WAS THE OTHER INVITED PARISH. WE WERE REPRESENTED BY DER HYRE, SHAVARSH PAPAZIAN, CONNIE KASPARIAN AND MYSELF. WE NEED MORE OF THESE WORKSHOPS FOR THE SHARING OF IDEAS.

IN OCTOBER THE ANNUAL MT. ARARAT BAZAAR WAS HELD AND WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS, THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE AND ALL THE WORKERS BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT. OUR PROFIT WAS A HEALTHY \$20,000.

EVIDENTLY, TRUMBULL IS ON THE MAP BECAUSE ONE OF THE FIVE LARGEST CHURCHES IN OUR DIOCFSE CAME AFTER DER UNTZAG CAUSING US QUITE ABIT OF ANXIETY (WHICH I KNOW HE AND HIS FAMILY FELT ALSO) BUT THE OUTCOMF OF HIS STAYING WITH US NOT ONLY MADE US HAPPY, BUT I'M SURE OTHER PARISHES ARE SAYING "WHAT DOES HOLY ASCENSION HAVE?. THE ANSWER IS WE HAVE DER HYRE AND YERETZGIN AND THEY HAVE IN EACH OF US AN EXTENDED FAMILY WITH WHOM THEY LOOK FOREARD TO WORKING WITH CO-HESIVELY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. THANK GOD FOR BLESSINGS LARGE AND SMALL.

AT THIS TIME I THANK THE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS: VREJ YAPOUJIAN; VICE-CHAIRMAN, SHAVARSH PAPAZIAN; TREASURER, TOM DABAKIAN, SECRETARY; CONNIE KASPARIAN; ASS'T TREASURER, RICHARD NAJARIAN; CORRESPONDING SECRETARY HERBERT AVAKIAN, GARO GARABEDIAN AND CHARLES GOORHIGIAN FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DEDICATED VOLUNTEERISM.

THE PARISH COUNCIL COULD NOT LET THIS TIME PASS WITHOUT RECOGNIZING A HIGHLY UNUSUAL ACHIEVEMENT. AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE A FEW VERY DEDICATED AND TALENTED ORGANISTS BUT <sup>Presently in the</sup> ~~IN THE HISTORY~~ OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN 11½ YEAR OLD ORGANIST PLAYING THE BADARAK AND WE WISH TO SHOW HOVIG NALBANDIAN HOW VERY PROUD WE ARE THAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS.

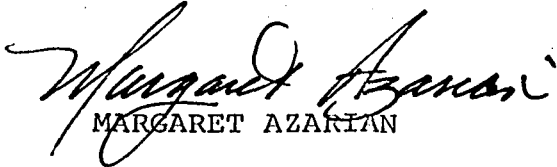
WE REALIZE DER HYRE WOULD'T DO THIS SINCE HOVIG IS HIS SON AND WE FEEL IF IT WAS SOME ONE ELSE'S CHILD, HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE RECOGNITIO FOR THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE. WE WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOVIG AND ENCOURAGE OTHER YOUNG TALENTS TO FOLLOW SUIT.

HOVIG PLEASE ACCEPT THIS SMALL TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION.

OF COURSE, <sup>AS ALWAYS,</sup> OUR THANKS GO TO DER HYRE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE, GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP. WITH THIS SHEPHERD LEADING US OUR ROAD TRAVELLED IS EASIER.

IN CLOSING, IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND I THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.

THANK YOU

  
MARGARET AZARIAN

Feb. 3, 1991