

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT      January, 1997

Dear Parishioners:

As Parish Council Chairman, I feel blessed to be able to report this year's progress. I am filled with a sense of gratitude and humbleness because of all we have accomplished. The saying that "God makes the impossible possible" is so true!

When I took on the responsibilities of Parish Council Chairman, I must admit I was a little overwhelmed by the job, I had to take each step and meeting with total trust that God would help me do a good job. I learned so much from this experience and the wonderful group who manages affairs of the church.

Each person on the Council has contributed their talents in a special way. They all have special gifts that I was able to tap and use in the decision making process. Not one Council member ever denied help or advice when I called on them. Scripture says there is safety in the counsel of many advisors (Pr. 11:14). This group of dedicated parishioners helped make, what I feel, were wise decisions during the past year.

At this time I want to thank the outgoing Parish Council members for their help and dedication this past year. Your advice and counsel were helpful and appreciated.

Since my election to this office, in the Spring of 1996, much has been accomplished. We collected apx. \$22,700.00 from pledges and our church membership increased. We resolved many land sale items so that the project can be settled. Parish Council members participated in the anniversary banquet. The Armenian Alphabet monument project was completed. The April 13th Appreciation Parish Dance was held. Maintenance problems were resolved, i.e., had kitchen, pantry, windows and floors cleaned, etc. The 1996 Picnic took place on August 18th, raised apx. \$3,000.00. We had a successful church bazaar in November and raised \$11,000.00. The Parish Council worked on several church related items such as: Scholarship decision, Interfaith meetings, car bids, church hall rental, parish house septic system and our young people were polled for suggestions to improve their interest in church. Also, the Council decided ways to increase our income, discussed care taker situation and responsibilities, decided how to resolve church water problem, fixed lavatory pipes, worked on parish house lease, and is presently working with financial advisors to come up with new ways to increase our resources.

Today, our parish is in a better financial position than it has been in years because the church mortgage has been paid. As our Der Hyre has shared with many of you, for the years he has been with us, we have had the burden of a mortgage and all our extra resources have gone into eliminating this burden. If we had extra money at the end of any year it went towards lowering the mortgage. It is because of this dedication, and with the extra effort shown this year, we have removed this obligation. Now we have to assign our resources towards putting our church in a better financial position, so that the Council and Pastor do not have to continually think of ways to raise money to meet basis expenses. This is an important move because it will make our mission, to reach more souls for Christ, easier.

To put us in a better financial position we have decided to: 1) Raise our pledges from \$25,000.00 a year to \$50,000.00 a year, by asking each family to contribute at least \$1.00 a day (\$365.00/yr.) or more. 2) Invest the \$200,000.00 we receive from the sale of church property in secure and wise investments. 3) Hold at least three money making projects a year; i.e., Church Anniversary, Picnic, Bazaar. 4) Continue renting out church hall and parish house.

To reach more souls for Christ, the mission of our church we have to: 1) Learn and accept the teachings of Christ as our Lord and Savior so we can share the "Good News" with others. 2) Learn to pray more effectively. 3) Re-dedicate ourselves to God's work.

I am confident that with God's blessings we will accomplish the goals we have set for 1997, however, all of us must do our part as parishioners and servants of Christ to carry on the church mission.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen B. Najarian*

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Parish Council Chairman

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*Dani Jesugobian*  
Treasurer  
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Secretary