

## DIOCESAN DELEGATE REPORT

On May 14-15 the annual diocesan assembly took place in the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in West Philadelphia. Over one hundred clerical and lay delegates attended the assembly. The delegates from our church were Hayr Soorp Kazanjian, Mr. Dikran Koumjian and myself.

The following were the significant discussions and decisions of the assembly:

A proposal from Cleveland that representations be made to the Government that a postage stamp be issued to commemorate the Armenian martyrs was referred to the Diocesan Council for implementation.

An appropriation of \$7,000 was made for the establishment of a vicar general's office in Detroit. This vicar general would have to represent the primate in the Middle West and Canada. This proposal was made by the primate, Archbishop Sion, and approved by the assembly.

A proposal was presented by our church that a committee be formed to prepare a manual describing the duties and functions of a parish council. The assembly approved the proposal and referred it to the Diocesan Council for implementation.

Racine proposed that all fund raising campaigns by church groups outside the diocese will be made under the auspices of the diocesan office and collected monies will be forwarded to the diocesan for transmittal to the collecting group's headquarters. This proposal was approved.

A revised set of by-laws were presented to the assembly for approval. Because it became obvious that extended discussion would take place and time was short, the by-laws were referred to the next assembly when a whole day will be devoted to its discussion. In this connection Colonel Juskalian and I made a detailed review of the proposed by-laws prior to the assembly and I submitted a listing of our comments to the Diocesan Council for their consideration.

7 A proposal was presented by our church that a committee be formed to prepare a comprehensive plan for the use of all parishes in membership drives. The assembly approved this proposal and referred it to the Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Report (continued)

The financial statement for 1964 showing disbursements of \$96,000 was approved and a budget of \$101,500 was approved for 1965. A five per cent increase was voted in parish dues. This meant our dues were increased from \$1000 to \$1050.

Very Rev. Karekin Kazanjian, Rev. Levon Arakelian, Dr. Arra Avakian, Messrs Khachig Goshgarian and George Bashian were elected for four year terms on the Diocesan Council. We as a relatively small parish should be proud that our pastor and choirmaster were elected to the highest council of our diocese.

The 1966 assembly will be held in St. Thomas Church in Tenafly, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Caspar Kasparian