

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church  
General Assembly 1967  
Parish Council Report

I welcome you to the first session of the 1967 Parish Assembly. The reports we have prepared for you reflect the effort all of the auxiliary bodies of the Church have expended in your behalf throughout their term of office.

This past year had all of the normal challenges facing a Parish Council budgets, capital improvements, maintenance and fund raising were tasks we had been prepared to confront and solve. Dr. Onanian's financial report will bear out just how successfully we lived within our budget. The plus figures are a credit to him, for managing our money so efficiently. I will leave the facts and figures to Dr. Onanian and move on to an intangible item that was evident throughout the year. I speak of THE GREAT SPIRIT of Cooperation within our Parish.

In mid year the announcement that Hyar Sourp would leave St. Marys to become Bishop of Australia seemed an almost insurmountable loss to our Parish. Loss of our spiritual leader could have been a severe blow to our many programs. Where would the Spiritual leadership we had learned to depend on these last seven years come from ? Who would unite the parishoners to act as one great body ? How could the Parish Council expect to hold the young church together without a Priest to guide them ? All of our fears were soon dispelled when from within our Parish came this great quiet wave of cooperation. Everyone was eager to volunteer their services and renew their fate in their Parish Council. Parish Council members already taxed to their limits took on additional responsibilities. A program was instituted to replace Hyar Sourp. Five days after his announcement a list of six candidates were chosen. Each candidate was approached, interviewed and classified. Candidates from California and Racine were interviewed by phone. We are resolved to bring the finest Spiritual leader available within the Diocese to St. Marys.

Work within the Parish had to continue. A schedule of visiting Priest was established, and now we turned to face our annual bazaar without our General Chairman, Hyar Sourp. Once again, the Great Spirit of Cooperation was evidenced at bazaar time. Plans formulated by the chairman were put into action by the hard work and perseverance of all Parishoners. When all the receipts were counted and all the bills paid, it was established, this was to be memorable bazaar. Financially the most successful we've ever had at St. Marys. It could not have been possible without your spirit and support.

Then fate dealt us the cruellest blow of all. Our bazaar Chairman, Peter Terzian was taken from us. Though, Peter and Alice Terzian had been with us a short time their friends were many. All the Parishoners stood together to pay homage

to Peter. His dedication to his church, his diligence to his duty and his quiet wisdom will forever be enshrined with a memorial from a greatfull Parish.

Growth within our Parish has been steady this past year. The growth in income is a direct reflection of our growth in members. The visual improvements in our meeting area today are clearly visible for all to see. The new floor, the bright clean and cheery Sunday School classes are a few of the tangible improvements we can offer to our parish, however for every tangible asset we see there are the intangibles. The most important of these is the theme of my report to you. The Great Spirit of Cooperation that has swept over our Parish, in these trying times. A lesser Parish would have disintergrated under these existing conditions.

A Parish such as ours continuing to stand together displaying harmony, courage and an even greater Spirit of Cooperation shall endure the hardships we face in the days ahead.