

Parish Council Report - 1969

On behalf of the Parish Council, this annual report is submitted for the year 1969. The officers and members were as follows:

Chairman	- M. Casey Kazanjian
Vice Chairman	- Ashod Krikorian
Treasurer	- John Ohanian
Secretary	- Levon Terzian
	Dr. Harry Baker
	Armen Garabedian
	Dr. Ohannes Sahakian
	Aram Sakayan
	Joseph Vartabedian

One proposal which was accepted by the Parish Assembly in January 1969 to be implemented by Parish Council directed the Council to form a new three-member committee to call on Armenian families in the Greater Washington area. We regret that this proposal was not carried out. Two proposals were referred by the assembly to the Parish Council for action. The first, to place ads in Washington newspapers for each Sunday service was found to be too expensive. The second, to appoint a publicity chairman, was fulfilled with the appointment of Aram Sakayan to that position. The proposals to replace the altar and appoint a committee to seek a new church site were tabled previously and are pending before this assembly.

The activities which concerned the Parish Council during the past year are listed below:

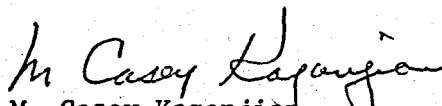
1. Accepted resignation of Mr. Haig Basdekian from Parish Council and appointed Mr. Joseph Vartabedian to fulfill one year term as prescribed by the By-Laws.
2. Jointly celebrated Martyrs Day with Holy Cross Church.
3. Applied and received membership in the Greater Washington National Council of Churches.
4. Completed and paid for renovation of the Church hall.
5. Purchased an organ for the Sunday School.
6. Presented a joint dance by the Washington and Richmond Churches.
7. Organized an adult Bible class.
8. Acquired without charge a commercial dishwasher which is awaiting installation.
9. Conducted Church Services in the Washington Cathedral.
10. Successfully presented a picnic at Naval Ordnance Laboratory (NOL) picnic grounds in June, the ceremony of the Blessing of the Grapes and picnic in August at Wheaton Regional Park; and the annual bazaar in November and reserved NOL grounds for June and August 1970.

11. Purchased a folding machine for flyers.
12. Reorganized the Sunday School.
13. Sponsored three-day camping trip to Skyline Drive for Church youth.
14. Renewed pest and pigeon control contracts.
15. Increased insurance on building.
16. Enlarged Choir Vesting Room by removing wall of adjacent closet.
17. Appointed church hall rental coordinator.
18. Updated church files.
19. Published monthly church bulletin "Shnorhali."

The Parish Council wishes to stress the following requirements of the Church: First, the pledges and contributions are not keeping pace with the increasing needs of our Church. The Parish Council favorably voted to present the following proposal to the Parish Assembly for consideration: Each family in the Parish should contribute not less than \$104.00 per year and that the payment of at least this minimum would entitle everyone of legal voting age (18) in that family to be considered as voting members of the St. Mary's Church. Secondly, the Sunday School which has been adequately and effectively staffed and organized must receive more attention and assistance from the members of the Parish. The Sunday School can easily handle double the present enrollment.

In conclusion, the Parish Council has done its utmost to fulfill its responsibilities. We are grateful to so many members of the Parish who helped without hesitation. The excellent monthly luncheons sponsored by the Ladies Guild enabled us to pay tribute to some of those members of our church who have performed outstanding service to St. Mary's Church. There are many others deserving recognition and we include Casper Kaspārian, former chairman, and Edward Onanian, former treasurer, of the 1968 Parish Council, the members of the Ladies Guild, Deacons, Choirmaster and Choir, organist, Sunday School staff, ACYOA and other young members of our Church. We express our thanks and appreciation to Bishop Papken Varjabedian for his spiritual leadership and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,


M. Casey Kazanjian,
Parish Council Chairman.