

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN CHURCH  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - 1971

Chairman - Ashod Krikorian  
Vice Chairman - Jack Andonian  
Treasurer - Vaughn Sayian  
Secretary - Jack Hananian  
Albert Manian  
Philip O'Gulian  
Ohannes Sahakyan  
Aram Sakayan  
Sarkis Satian

ACTIVITIES DURING 1971

1. Commemorated Martyrs' Day by a Special Church Service at the Washington Cathedral.
2. Held Annual Fathers' Day Picnic at Naval Ordnance Laboratory in June.
3. Sponsored two ACYOA members to attend St. Nersess Conference in Evanston, Ill. in June.
4. Held Blessing of the Grapes Picnic at Naval Ordnance Laboratory in August.
5. Sponsored four ACYOA members to attend Annual Sports Week-end in Detroit, Mich. in September.
6. Raised funds for the Armen Kidney Fund.
7. Celebrated Bishop Papken's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination at the Kenwood Country Club in September.
8. Sent a representative to Etchmiadzin as a Special Guest of the Catholicos.
9. Hot-topped the rear of the church for parking.
10. Held the Annual Bazaar in November.
11. Donated \$1,000 to the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. (as a result of a special plea from the Diocese)
12. Celebrated Karekin Catholicos' Centennial.
13. Paid for a new mimeograph machine.
14. Purchased a new electric typewriter.
15. Published the monthly Shnorhali Bulletin.

I am pleased to report that 1971 was a good year for St. Mary's -- a year in which membership increased, our financial situation improved, and a great many worthwhile projects were achieved. It was a year of growing challenge for the Church, and the new Parish Council will find much important work to do.

In 1971, we added 10 new members, and our congregation is much the richer for these additions. We would, of course, have liked a larger increase in membership, and this is a goal that should be pursued vigorously in the year ahead. It is extremely important that our membership increase so that we may be a still stronger church, both spiritually and financially.

We are particularly pleased with the increase in Sunday School enrollment and want to remind parents that their support is essential to the success of a Sunday School program. Parental encouragement is more important than anything else in guiding young people into the church environment. The ACYOA is also an important part of our church group and should not be neglected. The ACYOA has a number of worthwhile projects planned for this year, and we should all help them in accomplishing these goals.

Financially, we are in better shape than we have been in several years. We must do still better, however, if we are to carry on the important projects and improvements which our church so desperately needs. For some years, we have been relying heavily on the Annual Bazaar to carry us through, because member pledges are not adequate to cover the rising costs of maintaining our church. It has now become apparent that the

Bazaar - successful as it is -- will not produce enough funds to meet our growing requirements. We must either increase our yearly pledge or enlarge our membership further in order to meet the future needs of the church. An increase in the annual pledge is being recommended, and we hope that the new Parish Council will carry out this recommendation.

We wish to congratulate the various church organizations for their hard work and devotion in pursuing the objectives laid out for them. Again, we wish to commend our Bazaar Chairman, his committee, and the many faithful workers for their outstanding performance during that annual event. The results speak for themselves.

Special thanks go to Bishop Papken for his spiritual guidance and untiring efforts as pastor of St. Mary's Church. Without the leadership and dedication that Bishop Papken brings to the Church and to this Parish, we would certainly not have the kind of fellowship and spiritual vitality that we have in this Congregation.

Finally, may I say that I have enjoyed serving as your Chairman this past year. It is an experience that I will always remember. The help and cooperation given by the other members of the Parish Council has been most gratifying. Whatever success the Council has had in helping to make St. Mary's a better church is to the credit of those members who spent so much of their time and energies in the service of the Parish this past year.

We congratulate the new Parish Council and wish its Chairman and its members a most successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashod Krikorian, Chairman  
Parish Council

January 30, 1972