

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
PARISH REPORTS - 2018

February 10, 2019



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
4125 Fessenden St. NW, Washington, DC 20016
202.363.1923 / www.stmaryaac.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Invitation to the Parish Assembly.....	3
Agenda.....	4
Please note the following.....	5
Current Standing Committees.....	6
Preliminary Ballot	7
Minutes of Last Parish Assembly.....	8
Clergy Report	12
Parish Council Report.....	17
Diocesan Delegate Report.....	18
Board of Stewards Report.....	24
Choir Report.....	24
Food Festival Report.....	25
ACYOA Juniors Report.....	25
Ararat Avak Society Report.....	26
Shnorhali School Report.....	27
Religious Education Report.....	29
WED Fund Scholarship Committee Report.....	30
Women's Guild Report.....	30
Gift Shop Report.....	31
Preliminary Memorandum of Understanding.....	32
Operating Account Financial Report.....	34
Restricted Account Financial Report.....	35
Endowment Fund (ACEF) Financial Report.....	36
Lazarian Fund Financial Summary.....	39
New Organ Fund Financial Summary	39
New Year's Eve Party Financial Summary.....	39
Investment Committee Financial Report.....	40
Food Festival Financial Reports.....	41
Wed Educational Fund Financial Report	42
Ararat Avak Society Financial Report.....	43
Gift Store Financial Report.....	44
St. Mary Choir Financial Report.....	45
Shnorhali Financial Report.....	46
Women's Guild Financial Report	47
Consolidated Financial Balance Sheet.....	48

ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ՍՈՒՐԲ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱԾԻՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Rev. Father Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor

Տէր Յովսէփ Բիւյ. Կարապետեան, Հովիւ

January 21, 2019

**INVITATION LETTER TO
THE PARISH ASSEMBLY – 2019**

Dear Dues Paying Member,

Our Annual Parish Assembly this year will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 12:00 pm, with an alternate date of February 17, 2019 at 12:00 pm. A light luncheon will be served right before we begin the meeting.

Enclosed you will find the agenda of the meeting along with the names of all the people remaining in office after this Assembly, as well as the slate of Nominees for the Assembly. Annual Report with all the Organizations' reports, all of the budget reports, etc., is enclosed in this booklet. Please read it before attending the meeting.

If you are a fully pledged dues-paying member and are concerned about the future of our Church, it is essential for you to take part in this meeting held only once a year. Please make every effort to be present. The elections, the budget and other items of business have much to do with ministry and direction of our Church.

With prayers,

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan,
Pastor

Ms. Sarine Zenian,
Parish Council Chairman

**Annual Parish Assembly
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Washington, DC**

February 10, 2019

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Verification of Eligible Voters and Call for Quorum
3. Election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes of 2018 Parish Assembly
6. Nominating Committee Report and Floor Nominations
7. Pastor's Report
8. Parish Council Report
9. Vote on the Ballot
10. Operating Fund Report - 2018 Expenses
11. Pastor's MOU
12. Review and Adoption of the 2019 Budget
13. Other Treasury Report (Restricted Funds and ACEF)
14. Questions and Acceptance of Organizational Reports (a representative will be present to answer questions)
15. Diocesan Delegates' Report
16. Auditing Committee Report
17. Investment Committee Report
18. Announcements of Elections Results
19. New Business
20. Motion to Adjourn and Benediction

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Church services on February 10, 2019:
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Holy Badarak
11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon Light Lunch
2. Please make reservations for the luncheon. RSVP: 202.363.1923: **we need to be prepared!**
3. Please submit your proposals, resolutions, and bylaws amendments in writing prior to the Assembly, to be placed on the agenda of the meeting. Please contact Ms. Sarine Zenian, Parish Council Chairman. The proposals or the resolutions may be related to:
 - a. The overall mission or the activities of the church;
 - b. The specific issues concerning the auxiliary organizations' activities and their mission;
 - c. The specific issues related to the Diocese.
4. You don't have to be a dues-paying/voting member to attend the Parish Assembly.
5. Voting members! To be eligible to vote, please make sure you have paid your membership dues for the year 2018. All dues must have been paid by December 31st in order to be eligible to vote.
6. If you have delinquent dues for 2018, to restore your voting membership privilege, you must submit your dues both for the years 2017 and 2018. The annual dues are \$250 per person, 18 and over, and \$100 for senior citizens and students.
7. For election, nominations can be made from the floor. Please secure the prior consent of the nominee. Please call one of the Nominating Committee members and volunteer or suggest your nomination.
8. **Attention:** the nursery will be staffed during the meeting so people can bring their children (age 6 or under) to the nursery.

The Nominating Committee would like to express our appreciation to everyone that has volunteered to put their names forward in service to our Church. It was our goal to find the most talented and dedicated members to volunteer so that the Ballot and upcoming Church Committees would reflect the diversity of our Parish.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you have any questions regarding the Ballot or Parish Assembly Election procedures.

The Nominating Committee

Mrs. Anna Andriasova – (202) 550-0592
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan – (202) 509-5005
Mrs. Ani Derderian – (301) 254-3925

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church 2018 Standing Committee List

Parish Council (2 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms)

Garbis Chubukian (2018)*	-- elected 2015, 2017
Artur Sivaslian (2018) *	-- elected 2017
Onnik Sivaslian(2018) *	-- elected 2017
Sarine Zenian (2018)	-- elected 2013, 2015, 2017 no more runs
Eric Ashbaian (2019)*	-- elected 2018
Ara Avedissian (2019)*	-- elected 2018
Jack Guiragossian (2019)	-- elected 2014, 2016, 2018 no more runs
Mark Krikorian (2019)*	-- elected 2016, 2018
Zakar Shaverdian (2019)	-- elected 2014, 2016, 2018 no more runs

Nominating Committee (1 year term, limit 2 consecutive terms)

Yn Jennifer Karapetyan (2018)	-- elected 2017, 2018 no more runs
Anna Seferian (2018)	-- elected 2017, 2018 no more runs
Ani Derderian (2018)*	-- elected 2018

Auditing Committee (3 year term)

Edvik Alexandrian (2018)
Luiz Gusmao (2019)
Raffi Karahisar (2020)

Diocesan Delegates (4 year term)

Jack Guiragossian (2020)
Onnik Sivaslian (2020)
Sarine Zenian (2020)

Investment Committee (3 year term)

Robert George (2018)
Michael Sahakian (2019)
David Sayian (2020)

WED Scholarship Committee (5 year term)

Raffi Karahisar (2018)
Zaven Kalayjian (2019)
Anna Andrisova Seferian (2020)
Patricia Yeghissian (2021)
Sophia Shahverdian-Hawit (2022)

Year is the last year of the term, * denotes may run again

**St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
2019 Draft Ballot**

Parish Council (2 year term) CIRCLE 3

Garbis Chubukian

Artur Sivaslian

Ara Stepanyan

Nominating Committee (1 year term, **limit 2 consecutive terms) CIRCLE 3**

Janet Arabian

Catherine Sahakian

Shoghig Sahakian

Auditing Committee (3 year term) CIRCLE 1

Ruzanna Jamgochian

Investment Committee (3 year term) CIRCLE 1

Robert George

WED Scholarship Committee (5 year term) CIRCLE 1

Sara Arabian

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Washington DC
February 11, 2018

1. **Opening:** The Parish Assembly was called to order by Parish Council Chairman Mr Onnik Sivaslian at 12:40 PM. Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer and a moment of silence for recently deceased members of St. Mary Church.
2. **Verification of Quorum:** The Nominating Committee verified the presence of 56 dues-paying members, which constituted a quorum.
3. **Election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day:** The ballot for the officers of the day was presented. The ballots were handed out and counted. The chairperson of the day was Hratch Semerjian. The secretary of the day was Rebecca (Becky) Bagdasarian.
4. **Adoption of Agenda:** A **motion** was made to adopt the agenda as it was presented in the written materials sent to parishioners' homes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Parish Assembly:** The 2017 Parish Assembly Minutes were reviewed. It was noted that the Parish Council size will increase to 9, per last year's Parish Assembly. A **motion** was made to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
6. **Nominating Committee Report and Floor Nominations:** The Assembly reviewed the ballot. Sara Arabian's name was withdrawn from the Parish Council ballot and Aline Guiragossian and Mike Airumian were added. It was ascertained that there were at least 1.5 nominations for each vacant position. The **motion** to accept the ballot, as amended, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
7. **Pastor's Report:** Der Hayr Hovsep Karapetyan presented his report. He spoke of the celebration of Holy Days, the celebration of the 26th anniversary of Armenia and the new pomegranate blessing ceremony. He led parishioners on a Christmas pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He also took the young people from the Diocese to the Holy Land during the summer. Other highlights included spiritual programs during Lent and Advent and a number of book signings/programs. Der Hovsep spoke about how young people had a successful year with the programs of the Shnorhali school and participation (20 students) at St Vartan camp. The parish also contributed money for the Texas hurricane victims. Der Hovsep participated in 10 ecumenical activities, representing our church.

Der Hovsep encouraged the parish members to show love and kindness to others. Coming to church is the simplest way to show our love. He quoted Ecclesiastes concerning there being a time for everything – good times and bad. He said we must endure the Winter in order to enjoy the warmth of the Spring. He closed, by passing on a blessing to the congregation, that 2018 will be filled with blessings for all of our families and our church.

8. **Parish Council Report:** The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Onnik Sivaslian presented the Parish Council report. He mentioned that though pledges and dues decreased this year, The Parish Council tried to do the best they could with the available resources.

A question about the delay in the side entrance renovation was asked. Mr. Sivaslian responded saying that the renovation may require more than the original \$40K estimate, due to cracks and settlement issues. The work will start in April, once the weather is better. See the New Business section of this document.

Answering a question about “cultural differences,” mentioned in the report, Mr. Sivaslian said that the Parish Council is trying to engage people from Armenia, who are in the community but not involved. A

suggestion was made to have a focus group of people from various groups to see how we can come together. It was suggested that people need education about the role of the church. Another approach is to look at it via generationally, targeting youth. See the New Business section of this document.

A **motion** to accept the Pastor's and the Parish Council's reports was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

9. **Vote on the Ballot:** The Nominating Committee distributed ballots to parishioners who held voting passes. A parishioner suggested that, in the future, biographies be provided for all candidates, not just Parish Council. The Assembly Chair cautioned the members to make sure not to vote for more than the maximum number of vacant positions, which would void that section of the ballot. After voting, the Nominating Committee retired to count the votes.

10. **2017 Financial Report:** The report was presented by Mr. Jack Guiragossian, Parish Council Treasurer. It was noted that pledges were down during 2017, but the number of dues paying members (324 total members) were up. The decrease in dues was explained by the fact that in years that there is special fundraising (e.g., for side entrance renovation), pledge income is typically lower than normal.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Parish Council and the Parish Priest was presented. It was noted that the memorandum dates should be 2018, not 2017. Yn Jennifer's job provides the health insurance; and the church reimburses the \$10K for this. This coverage is half the price of the coverage available to Armenian priests, and saves the church a considerable amount of money.

A **motion** to accept the 2017 Financial Report and the MOU was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

11. **Proposed 2018 Budget:** The 2018 budget was presented. Several clarifications were provided by Mr. Guiragossian. A **motion** to accept the 2018 Budget, as presented, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

12. **Other Treasury Reports (Restricted Funds and ACEF):**

- It was noted that designated funds go into the Restricted Fund Accounts.
- Havad Fund was created by Der Hayr and Yn Kalayjian to help orphans from Armenia. These funds still go to help support orphanages in Armenia. This year there were no disbursements.
- The Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF), an independent nonprofit that supports parishes and individuals who are creating a legacy through endowments, provides 4.5% return every year (not dependent on stock prices) on St. Mary funds. St. Mary also has its own endowment fund, invested and controlled by the Investment Committee (discussed later in the meeting).
- The Lazarian Fund sends \$5K to our sister parish in Armenia every year (Saghmosovank).
- The last report was the St Mary/Soorp Khatch joint events committee report. It was pointed out that, in case the committee was disbanded, available funds would be distributed equally to each church.

It was suggested that some of the restricted funds be handed over to the Investment Committee to invest. The Parish Council will look into this.

A **motion** to accept the Other Treasury Reports was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

13. **Organizational Reports:** The representatives of the organizations came forward for questions.
- **The Choir** 2017 report was sent to the office in time; but the book shows the 2015 report. The 2017 report included news of the new choir robes. A new activity this year was Christmas caroling at an assisted living community.
 - **The Avak Society** reported they donated \$5K to the church.

- **The Women's Guild** reported that the Lenten food festival is canceled this year due to the many other activities during that same period of time (Spring and Fall Food Festivals will be continued).
- **Stewards** created a yellow laminated sheet explaining church etiquette.
- It was noted that the work with the youth (school, ACYOA Seniors, ACYOA Juniors) has increased this year. The students attending college in the area are invited to attend ACYOA Seniors events and the ACYOA Seniors Facebook page.

A **motion** to accept the 9 Organizational Reports was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

14. Diocesan Delegates: The report date in the assembly book should be 2017 not 2015.

- Delegate Onnik Sivaslian answered questions about the \$1,000,000 cut in the Diocesan budget. It was achieved via staffing cuts and less money going towards renovations.
- Delegate Sarine Zenian noted that the Diocese is producing short Bread and Salt videos and podcasts to try to educate the younger generation.
- A question came up about the large cut in the budget for the department of Youth and Christian Education. No one was able to answer the question at that the time of the assembly and the delegates were asked to find out about it at the next assembly. The delegates only can see the current year funding for the department and so they will try to compare it with past years.
- Several years ago the Diocesan Council made changes to the bylaws of the Diocese, based on instructions by the ERA (Ecclesiastical Representative Assembly). In general, any changes to the Diocesan bylaws require approval by two consecutive Diocesan Assemblies. This vote did not occur. It may not be legal to change the bylaws (laws of a USA organization) without Diocesan Assembly approval. A committee made up of lay members and clergy was established to address this issue; the committee could not agree on common recommendations; instead, they issued two separate reports. An outside legal counsel has been engaged to resolve the issue.

A **motion** to accept the Delegates Report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

15. Auditing Committee: On behalf of the Auditing Committee, Mr. Raffi Karahisar reported that all financial reports of the church organizations were audited and found in good order. It was noted that the ACYOA Seniors' financial report did not get audited, because the treasurer recently moved. The ACYOA representative, Danielle Saroyan, said she will get in touch with the treasurer. A **motion** to accept the Auditing Committee Report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

16. Investment Committee: It was noted that the church has not withdrawn any income from this fund, except the \$5K for the Lazarian fund for the orphans/children of Armenia (sister parish Saghmosavank).

Parish Council has met with the Investment Committee to discuss other investment opportunities to provide services to the community and generate income. The Investment Committee will return to the Parish Council with recommendations.

A **motion** to accept the Investment Committee Report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

17. Announcement of Election Results: The following individuals were elected:

- Parish Council: Eric Ashbaian, Ara Avedissian, Jack Guiragossian, Mark Krikorian, Zakar Shahverdian. The alternate is Mike Airumian.
- Nominating Committee: Ani Derderian, Yn Jennifer Karapetyan, Anna Seferian. The alternate is Catherine Sahakian.
- Auditing Committee: Raffi Karahisar. The alternate is Ruzanan Jamgochian.
- Investment Committee: David Sayian. The alternate is John Assadoorian.
- WED Committee: Sophia Shahverdian-Hawit. The alternate is Svetlanna Hovhanissyan.

18. New Business

Proposal to Form a Committee to look into cultural difference issues

Paul Murad made the following **motion**, which was amended by several parishioners to become: *There shall be established a committee to identify the opportunities to bring together and strengthen the different parts of the community. It will identify approaches to address the opportunities to bring together and strengthen the different parts of the community. The committee shall report to the next Parish Assembly.* A second was made so the motion could be discussed.

Zaven Kalayjian made a **motion** for the following amendment. A second was made to the motion to be discussed. *The parish shall reach out to the parents of the Shnorhali School to invite them to a program, at same time as badarak, which may be an on ramp to getting them to stay and attend badarak. The parents will be invited to come and discuss problems of concern to them in the parish hall, which will be lead by a deacon or PC member or someone who can talk to them and lead them to some role in Parish Life. It will include some food and coffee.*

Discussion points included the following perspectives:

- The Parish Council should send a letter to school parents.
- The committee should focus on more than just school parents or people from Armenia.
- The organizations of the church should be involved, such as the WED committee.
- Some parishioners were against a committee approach and wanted input. Others felt that being too specific would tie the hands of a committee. One suggestion was that the committee be formed and hold a meeting with parishioners for input. A focus group was also proposed.
- One parishioner noted that we need to be a loving family. If we serve people's needs and are positive, people will participate.

Zaven withdrew his **motion** for an amendment. A **motion** to accept the proposal to form a committee, as amended, was made, seconded, and passed with three dissenting votes.

Proposal to Reactivate the Narek Handbell Choir

Zaven Kalayjian made the following proposal: *The parish shall reactivate the Narek handbell choir. The handbell bank account was closed and given to the choir. The choir will give the funds back to the handbell choir.* A **motion** to accept the proposal was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Proposal to Increase the Capital Improvement Ceiling

Jack Kooyoomjian made the following proposal: *The Parish Assembly shall authorize an increase in the Capital Improvement authorization (for the side entrance project) from \$40K to \$60K.* A **motion** to accept the proposal was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Proposal to Distribute Assembly Packet via Email

Onnik Sivaslian made the following proposal: *The Parish Assembly packet shall be sent via email to those who have an email address.* The **motion** was withdrawn. People who want to receive their packet via email may email the office to make this request.

Proposal to Formalize Operation of the Avak Society

Lena Zenian made the following proposal: *The Parish Council shall consider formalizing the operations of the Avak Society.* The discussion involved mention of the fact that they handle money and need to have elections and a treasurer. The Women's Guild members thought that the current Avak Society leadership was becoming their own separate Women's Guild and this would only fragment the Women's Guild. A **motion** to accept the proposal was made, seconded, and passed with 2 dissenting votes.

19. A motion was made to adjourn. The Assembly voted to adjourn at 3:45 pm. Der Hayr thanked the Assembly and asked them to join in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Der Hovsep Karapetyan
Pastor/President

Miss Rebecca Bagdasarian
Secretary

Dr. Hratch Semerjian
Chairman

CLERGY REPORT – 2018 Parish Assembly – February 10, 2019

With God's Providence 2018 has proved to be a blessed year for our parish and has entered into the history of our church as another milestone in the life of St. Mary Church. Of course, there were challenges but at the same time many blessings and wonderful memories that build us up and bring us closer to God.

As every year, this year also we had our regular church activities and functions which have become a tradition in our parish. In addition, we held and participated in many others that were unique to the year. All of our church organizations held their regular functions and ended the year with success.

Our year was filled with many important celebrations. Below is a list of activities that we held throughout 2018. A more detailed description of individual events and activities can be found in our St. Mary Armenian Church Annual Journal, to be distributed during the Parish Assembly.

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES - 2017	Number
<i>Sacraments and Services continue to be performed. The totals reflect Services performed in 2018.</i>	
Badarak	51
Ministry Meetings	32
Baptisms	25
Engagements	1
Weddings	4
Funerals	16
Requiems (Hokehankists)	65
Home Blessings	23
Visitations	42
Pre-Marital, Baptismal Counseling/Meetings	47

SOCIAL MEDIA/ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Constant Contact: Church's main electronic communication platform. Over 122 electronic communications sent in 2018, including Weekly E-Bulletins, Monthly E-Newsletters, Funeral and special event announcements. We now have 1122 active email addresses in our contacts with an average 40% open rate.

Facebook: Our Page continues to be updated with events and announcements. It has been followed and liked by over 1,778 people.

SmugMug: www.stmaryaac.smugmug.com This is our Church's main portal for all our event pictures. This year we had a record high view of 151, 612. and contains event photos since 2007.

Website: www.stmaryaac.org Our website has been updated and now is fully manageable by our church office staff.

FEASTS & OUTREACH

Below is the list of spiritual activities and feasts celebrated as the focal point of our community life. Special emphasis was made to increase opportunities for spiritual education and worship.

• Eve and Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated.	January 5
• Feast of Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	January 6
• Feast of Nativity and Theophany celebrated in Baltimore Community with participation of the St. Mary Deacons and Choir.	January 9
• Lenten Worship services and Spiritual discussions entitled “Spiritual Journey Toward Easter”. This year's theme, entitled "Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross” concentrated on the last words of our Lord from the cross.	March/April
• Saintly Women’s Day commemorating the two New Testament saintly women, Priscilla, who served as a church leader, a missionary apostle, and a teacher; and Phoebe, a figure of unequivocal authority, who exemplified Jesus' call to all people, men and women, to not only follow Him but then to teach and witness to others.	March 3
• St. Sarkis Day Celebration	February 10
• Vartanants Day Celebration	February 19
• Palm Sunday Celebration and ACYOA Day. The year's ACYOA Outstanding Service Award was given to Dn. Mark Krikorian for his dedication and love to the youth, Sunday School and St. Mary Church. The Installation of New Officers and a deliciously prepared and hosted Luncheon and Program were given by the ACYOA and also took place after Holy Badarak.	March 25
• Holy Week Celebration including: Washing of the Feet Service, The Service commemorating the Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord, Holy Friday Service of Crucifixion and Entombment, Easter Eve Badarak, and Celebration of the Feast of Resurrection of Our Lord.	March 29,30,31 and April 1
• Hampartzoom/Ascension Day Celebration prayer service, dinner and program sponsored by the Women’s Guild. Mrs. Zvart Bolat and Mrs. Sona Bakirci were recognized and honored for their dedication and many years of service to St. Mary Armenian Church Women's Guild.	May 11
• Following the Divine Liturgy an Order of Thanksgiving Prayer took place on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the Battle of Sardarabad, and the establishment of the First Armenian Republic.	May 27
• St. Mary celebrated the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin. On this auspicious occasion a special prayer was offered for the Catholicos, the successor of St. Gregory the Illuminator.	June 3
• Feast of the Assumption and Name Day of our Church. Parishioners Armenak and Lusin Simon were honored with the Pastoral Certificate of Recognition for their Dedication and Love to St. Mary.	August 12
• Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and Antasdan service with the blessing of Madagh and Luncheon.	September 16
• St. Mary Church celebrated the 27th anniversary of the Independence	September 23

of our Homeland with a special prayer of thanksgiving for the Republic of Armenia, which took place after the Badarak.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four session Advent Bible Study occurred on Tuesdays in November/December and took place in the St. Mary Church Hall. During this year's Bible Study the participants took a journey through Advent with the Old Testament Prophets. The Christmas story began in the Old Testament. God's nature didn't change, nor did ours, and He had our redemption in mind all the time. The prophets Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, and Micah all proclaim the Christ that was to come. 	November/December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took place in Armenia in 1988, a special Requiem Service was conducted at St. Mary Church to remember and pray for the souls of the victims of the earthquake. 	December 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Shnorhali Christmas Pageant held which re-enacted the Nativity Story and brought the message of Christ's birth to our Parish. 	December 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing of the Pomegranates Service 	December 30

CULTURAL EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Cultural and educational activities remain an important part of our community life through which we celebrate our rich heritage and history.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity Festive Luncheon hosted by Ararat Avak Society. 	January 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Lenten Luncheon hosted by St. Mary Women's Guild 	March 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACYOA Jrs. Lock-in. 	March 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampartzum Luncheon and program hosted by Women's Guild 	May 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Commemoration of the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with special Hokehankist and Program 	April 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Spring Food Festival. 	May 18-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Guild Summer Kick off Luncheon & General Meeting 	June 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shnorhali Year End Hantess of lower and upper grades, with recitations, songs, dances and cultural presentations. 	June 3 and 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACYOA Juniors kicked off their year with a Pool Party and BBQ with over 30 teens and parents gathered at the home of Paul and Lucy Murad to enjoy burgers, swimming and plenty of fun! Parents also got in on the fun and were able to gather and plan activities for the upcoming semester. 	June 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Mary ACYOA Seniors had their beginning of summer get together on Friday June 15. They enjoyed an evening of bowling, games and fellowship. 	June 15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary youth enjoyed St. Vartan Camp. 	July 9-22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fellow choir members, family and friends of our late choir director Dr. Socrates Boyajian came together at St. Mary Church hall to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his passing. 	September 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACYOA Juniors kicked off pot luck dinner 	September 22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by Mr. Arsen Mikayelyan, Newly Appointed Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Washington, DC, as well as beautiful performances and reception by St. Mary's young members Andre Alexandrian, Anayis Chubukian and Hovsep Seferian took place on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Armenia's Independence 	September 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Church 70th Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival 	October 4-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary ACYOA Juniors participated in the ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend at the St. Peter Church of Watervliet, NY 	October 6-9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the celebration of cultural month in October, St. Mary Women's Guild organized a beautiful afternoon of cherishing the Armenian culture and heritage. 	October 21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Church ACYOA Juniors lived by the words of our Lord, "so in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matt. 7:12), as on Sunday, November 5 they gathered to prepare 200 bagged lunches for the homeless. 	November 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A book presentation and signing by Mr. Avedis Hadjian. 	November 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Thanksgiving Luncheon sponsored by The Women's Guild. 	November 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Women's Guild Christmas party was held at "Fontina Grille" restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. 	December 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Armenian Church celebrated 85th Anniversary, presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. The Honorees, Mr. and Mrs. David and Leda Zenian, were recognized for their lifetime achievements, personally and professionally, and their contributions to the Armenian community. 	December 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary ACYOA Juniors had their Christmas get together at the Kazanjian family residence. 	December 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary Ararat Avak Society hosted its holiday luncheon 	December 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve Celebration Organized by the Armenian Community Events Planners. 	December 31

ECUMENICAL & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

It was my privilege to represent our Church and Diocese in many ecumenical spheres, some of which are presented below.

- Participated at the 26th Anniversary of the Armenia's Independence events.
- Welcomed President of Artsakh St. Mary Church
- Represented the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America at the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Mary Church Welcomed the Armenia Parliamentary Delegation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in a special reception at the Embassy of Vatican in Honor of Pope Francis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in Lenten Clergy Retreat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in an event during which U.S. Medical Professionals Honored at The Armenian Embassy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the observance of the 101th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Capitol Hill; Wreath Laying Ceremony and Service at the Embassy of Armenia's Khatchar;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the 116th Diocesan Assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I organized and hosted a special Service of the Blessing of the Fields (Andastan) at the National Mall as a part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival opening ceremonies. The Service was attended by Very Reverend Fr. Daniel Findikian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Eastern Prelacy. In attendance were Fr. Mardiros Chebian, Dean of St. Nersess Seminary, Fr. Sarkis Aktavoukian, Pastor of Soorp Khatch Church,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the concluding day of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, I organized and hosted a special service of the Blessing of the Khatchkar at the National Mall with the participation of Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I participated in a panel discussion of three speakers representing the three religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and spoke about the significance of Jerusalem to the Armenians, explaining the historical roots of the Armenian presence in the Holy City and its cultural and spiritual significance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special Farewell to the Ambassador Hovhannissian and his Family

I would like to express my special thanks to everyone who contributed and responded to our fundraising, yughakin, candlelight and special needs donations requests. Our deepest gratitude to our Primate Very Reverend Fr. Daniel Findikian for his eternal love and bountiful guidance throughout the year, and to Archbishop Vicken Aykazian for his support and leadership in times of need to our Parish and community as Ecumenical Director and Legate of the Eastern Diocese. Our sincere appreciation to Yn. Anahit Kalayjian for her continued assistance and guidance during times of need.

Special appreciation to our dedicated Deacons and Altar Servants Dn. Vartkess Keshishian, Dn. Jack Guiragossian, Dn. George Guiragossian, Dn. Garegin Vardanyan, Dn. Zaven Kalayjian, Sub-Deacons Simon Kumkumian and Edwin Tilimian; our Deacon's Ministry under the leadership of Dn. Mark Krikorian, devoted team of "Mahs Bakers" Lola Pickering, Gulbahar Ozkayan, Vercin Bolat, and Takuhi Ozbenian, our Choir under the leadership of Mrs. Edita Kalayjian and Dr. Hratch Semerjian, our Ushers under the leadership of Mr. Garbis Chubukian, our Parish Office Administrators Mrs. Julie Avedikian and Ms. Dolores Rogers, our fundraising planning Advisor Ms. Dolores Rogers, the Parish Council under the leadership of Ms. Sarine Zenian, Diocesan Delegates Dn. Jack Guiragossian, Ms. Sarine Zenian and Mr. Onnik Sivaslian, the Women's Guild under the leadership of Mrs. Nadya Chubukian, the Gift Store under the leadership of Mrs. Aline Guiragossian, the Ararat Avak Society under the leadership of Mrs. Takuhi Hallajian, Mrs. Marie Shafakian and Mrs. Eva Shafakian, the WED Educational Fund Scholarship Committee under the leadership of Mr. Raffi Karahisar, the Shnorhali School Teachers and Staff under the leadership of Mr. Harry Tchetchenian, the Sunday School Teachers and Staff under the leadership of Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, our Jr. ACYOA under the leadership of Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan and Ms. Rebecca Baghdasarian.

In conclusion, I would also like us all to remember and pay our respects to all of our dedicated members whom we lost this year. May God rest their souls in peace. I pray that the upcoming year will hold many successful accomplishments and be a year of peace and prosperity for our Parish and our families.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL 2018 REPORT

2018 was a wonderful year for the St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church. The year started off with another successful parish assembly. This year, the Parish Council has increased its number of members to nine from the previous seven. We found this was necessary to accommodate all of the events and needs of our church. The Parish Council was entrusted with managing the day-to-day activities and management of the facilities of our church. The Council members serve on a rotating schedule to always be present for services on Sunday. As noted in the weekly emails, a minimum of three members are on duty each Sunday. Parish Council meetings were held twice a month throughout the year. Between meetings, emails and phone conversations are used to keep all members up to date with ongoing issues.

We had yet another full year of events in our Parish. Christmas celebration, weekly Lenten services/lectures, Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Easter, Feast of the Assumption and St. Mary name day celebration, and two successful Food Festivals were part of our regular events. We were honored to have present with us our new Primate Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan during our 86th annual Anniversary Celebration. We were also privileged to have with us our new Ambassador from Armenia, His Excellency Varuzhan Nersesyan. Throughout the year, the Parish Council participated in numerous gatherings at the Embassy to ensure representation on behalf of our Parish. The year ended with a festive New Year's Eve Celebration hosted by the ACEP – Armenian Community Event Planners – which is a committee comprised of members from both Churches. The Council is thankful for their hard work and for sponsoring many cultural events throughout the year.

Our church organizations kept busy and created wonderful programming for all members of the Parish. Each member of the Parish Council is grateful to all of those who dedicated their time and energy throughout the year. The Parish Council also appreciates and is thankful to the dedication of our Women's Guild Executive Committee and members. Without their support and devotion we would not have been able to execute two successful food festivals this year. These festivals are essential in funding the services and programs the Parish Council organizes throughout the year. We would like to invite everybody to participate in these extraordinary events.

We are thankful for the commitment of our teachers in the Shnorhali School and Sunday School. They work each week to educate our youth on Armenian culture, language and religion. The Ararat Avak Society also worked throughout the year to host events for the elderly members of our Parish. The ACYOA Juniors had another fruitful year. The youth is the future of our Church and the Council thanks the parents and volunteers for their commitment to supporting our future. The Book Store kept its doors open every Sunday to provide a place to purchase treasured gifts and other Armenian cultural and religious items. The Parish Administrative Office was open daily to manage the day to day scheduling and operations of the Church. The Council would like to also thank the Deacons for serving faithfully each Sunday, the Ushers for leading the way and guiding our parishioners during services and the Choir for filling the sanctuary with their angelic voices.

Even with all of these successes, there is work that needs to be done. Our Parish needs your support. I'm sure if anyone asks what a Parish Council member does, the majority of our parishioners would say, managing the finances, scheduling activities and maintaining the facilities. What many people probably may not realize is that anything that happens under the roof and behind the doors of this church falls on the shoulders of the Parish Council.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes when it comes to maintaining our home and organizing events for the community. A lot is done that is not seen - late-night meetings and event preparation, emergency plumbing, cleaning up and mopping of floors before services on Sundays - many hours go into maintaining our church and making it available for our parishioners to come and worship and join in fellowship. If I could improve on one thing for the coming year it would be to increase awareness and see more members volunteering to help. It

cannot rest solely on the nine of us to maintain our house of worship. St. Mary's is a family and has been here for 86 years and will continue to be present in our nation's capitol for many more years to come. Without the dedication of our community and the parishioners this will be difficult, if not impossible. The Council is limited in their ability as we are only 9 people. But each member of this parish has a skill or talent that can be utilized to help our Church. We ask you to share that with us. I ask that you reach out to the Parish Council and talk with us.

Again, the Parish Council would like to thank all of the organizations of our Church. We appreciate all that you do. To the Women's Guild, the Ararat Avak Society, Shnorhali and Sunday Schools, Book Store, Deacons, ushers, Choir, and the ACYOA we say Thank You! And most importantly, we would like to thank Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan for his devotion to his flock and his untiring work in guiding us spiritually. Without your service, we would not worship each week to grow in our faith. You are always there to listen and lead.

Personally, I would like to thank each member of the Parish Council. Without your support, time and dedication, we would not have been able to have another successful year. It has been a pleasure to serve my Parish and my community. I would encourage more women from our community to join the Parish Council. We need more women to take on leadership roles within the Church, and to bring different perspectives and ideas to the Parish Council. It has been an honor to serve as your Chairlady.

Sarine Zenian
Parish Council Chairlady

116TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – HIGHLIGHTS

More than 160 clergy and lay delegates, representing parishes from across the Eastern Diocese, gathered in West Harrison, NY, from May 3 to 5, for the 116th Diocesan Assembly, hosted by the St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY.

The gathering was one of the most consequential Diocesan Assemblies in a generation, marking the conclusion of one period of leadership, and the start of another.

For Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the 116th Diocesan Assembly represented the last time he would preside over the event as Primate of the Eastern Diocese—a role in which he has honorably served for the past 28 years, constituting seven terms of office. He announced his decision previous week that he would not seek another term of office as Primate.

With Archbishop Barsamian having previously withdrawn his name from consideration as a candidate in the scheduled, quadrennial election for the office, the path was cleared for a new Primate to succeed him.

The delegates were presented with a slate of three candidates: Archbishop Vicken Aykazian (the Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director), the Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian (pastor of the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church of Wynnewood, PA), and the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan (director of the Diocese's Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center).

In advance of the election, during brief remarks before the assembled delegates, all three candidates expressed brotherly affection for one another, and mutual confidence in each candidate's ability to serve the Diocese as Primate. Those sentiments were warmly reaffirmed by each after the election result.

On the morning of Friday, May 4, in the course of two ballots, the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan was elected as Primate.

He went on to express his friendship and admiration to Archbishop Aykazian and Fr. Gulgulian, and his gratitude and congratulations to Archbishop Barsamian. The outgoing Primate in turn expressed his warm good will and confidence in Fr. Findikyan, adding he would always be available any time he is needed.

(Subsequent to the May 4 election, His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, in a letter received May 8, 2018, confirmed and blessed the election of Fr. Findikyan, who will now lead the Eastern Diocese as its 12th Primate.)

Under One Roof

The Primate's election was only one feature of the 2018 Diocesan Assembly, which revolved around the theme "Under One Roof," and was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of New York's St. Vartan Cathedral.

In his last time presiding over the assembly as Primate, Archbishop Barsamian struck notes of unity and common purpose. As the Assembly convened on the afternoon of Thursday, May 3, he was greeted with warm applause by the delegates. Remarking that "It was a difficult decision for me not to run" for Primate, he added optimistically that "after 28 years it is time to let a new leader hold the honor of this office. Change is natural, change is good. And in this Diocese, change will be a positive force as long as we love one another, as our Lord taught us."

In his formal address on Friday morning, Archbishop Barsamian referred to St. Vartan Cathedral as a sign of unity in the Diocese, symbolically uniting all the local parishes and parishioners under its dome, over the foundation of a common faith in Christ.

He related this vision to the Assembly theme. "This is the image we envisioned when we chose the theme for this assembly: 'Under One Roof.' Under One Roof we find all the parishes of our Diocese, working together in a spirit of solidarity. Under One Roof we find all our clergy and lay leaders; men and women; adults, youth and children; all together, worshipping and singing in harmony. Under One Roof we find all the Diocesan departments, working collaboratively in a common mission."

His remarks also offered heartfelt reflection on the privilege of serving as Diocese Primate. "It has been 28 years of celebrating badarak in your parishes, consecrating new churches, ordaining new clergy, performing sacraments. Years of great milestones to celebrate, and great tragedies to mourn. Years of meetings, planning, seeing things to fruition. Years of outreach to our miraculous independent homeland, and outreach here at home to our communities in America," he said.

"I want you to know that it has been the greatest blessing in my life to be among you, under one roof of the Armenian Church in America." He concluded his address with a prayer: "Bless the people in this room, Lord, and keep watch over them. Bless the Eastern Diocese, its parishes and people; make them prosper and grow in your light. Enter their open hearts, and unite them by the power of your Holy Spirit."

A Year of Accomplishment and Planning

At the start of the Assembly's first session, the Rev. Fr. Arnak Harutyunyan read the message of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Fr. Harutyunyan and the Very Rev Fr Daniel Tumanyan both attended the 116th Diocesan Assembly as representatives of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

"We send our Pontifical love and appreciation to all Armenians, who with their commitment edify our communities and churches, and brighten our people's spiritual life," His Holiness wrote in his message to the delegates.

The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian gave the report of the Clergy Conference, held April 30-May 2. He thanked Archbishop Barsamian for 28 years of being a father to the Diocesan clergy. He also announced that the assembled clergy at the conference had unanimously endorsed all three candidates for the election for Primate, in anticipation of the Diocesan Assembly.

Gail Boroyan gave a report of the Parish Council Chairs meeting held on the morning of May 3. The meeting was led by Diocesan Council member Paul Mardoian, and gave parish council chairs a chance to discuss issues relating to local parish insurance and taxes, developing a pilot stewardship pledge system, and general matters concerning the state of church life.

For the Diocesan Council report, council chair James Kalustian spoke on the accomplishments of the previous year, highlighting the council's long-term strategic plan alongside positive advances in the Diocese's finances,

development, and the recently inaugurated Creative Ministries department. He screened one of the fruits of the latter effort, a video on Armenian Christian approaches to the problem of opioid addiction.

He noted the council's work with local parishes, in particular its ongoing guidance to the Hye Pointe Church of Bradford, MA, which is in the process of building a new sanctuary.

Regarding the Diocesan Center in New York, James Kalustian unveiled a plan for the monetization of the air rights of the complex. He emphasized that the project would maintain the integrity of the cathedral, its site lines, and the cathedral plaza, and would also secure major funding for the much needed renovation of the Diocesan complex and its infrastructure. He introduced the property developer who has been working and consulting with the council over a period of two years, as well as Ara Hovnanian, who has partnered with Mr. Kalustian on the project, lending his years of experience in real estate development. Together the three individuals led a productive question-and-answer session with the delegates on how the plan would proceed in coming months. The delegates gave a vote of confidence to the Diocesan Council and Board of Trustees to move forward with the planned project.

Diocesan Council treasurer Roseann Manoogian Attar presented the council's financial report. Her information on the disciplined approach that the council has been taking to budgetary issues, which allowed the Diocese to "turn a modest profit" in 2017, was well-received by the delegates, who voted to approve the revised 2018 budget and a proposed budget for 2019.

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director—and the newly elected president of the ecumenical group Christian Churches Together—spoke on the plight of Christians in the Middle East, and his advocacy on their behalf in the United States. These topics generated a great deal of support from the delegates.

Speaking in the aftermath of the election for Primate, in which he had stood as a candidate, Archbishop Aykazian also offered his warm congratulations to the new Primate-elect, graciously remarking: "I can assure you that Fr. Daniel will make an excellent Primate of this Diocese."

In a panel discussion format, reports and overviews were given by the leaders of the Diocese's auxiliary organizations, including Aram Hintlian on the Ararat Youth and Conference Center; Mallory Maslar on the ACYOA Central Council; Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian on the Annual Appeal; Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan on the Sacred Music Council; Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian on St. Nersess Seminary; Charlotte Sevazlian on the Women's Guild Central Council; Charles Demerjian on Armenian Church Endowment Fund; and Randy Sapah-Gulian on the Fund for Armenian Relief.

Delegates also heard the Auditing Committee's report from Michelle Ouzounian.

Ara Araz spoke on behalf of the NEA and ERA Bylaws Review Committee, formally established by the Diocesan Assembly two years ago. The committee retained the law firm of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP to provide opinion whether, under NY Religious Corporation Law and NY Not-for-Profit Law. The firm confirmed that "for an amendment of a corporate document to be valid, the organization must follow procedures outlined in its governing documents". Furthermore, it concluded that "Article 89 provides the exclusive authority and procedures for amending the Bylaws and the Bylaws cannot be amended absent compliance with that provision."

Dn. Ara Jeknavorian reported on the Ecclesiastical Representative Assembly that met in Armenia in 2017, which he attended as part of the Eastern Diocese's official delegation.

Melanie Dadourian and Oscar Tatosian, co-chairs of the Diocese's "Our Church, Our Legacy" Endowment Campaign, spoke about the effort to raise \$15 million to support Diocesan and parish programs, which has now passed the half-way mark to its goal.

As part of the "Under One Roof" theme, the Diocese's Director of Ministries, the Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, led the Diocesan staff members in a panel presentation on their collaborative efforts. These include a new website, Vemkar.us, and its related weekly e-mail broadcast, "Get Ready for Sunday." Special emphasis was laid on the work of the Creative Ministries department, which produces online videos in the Diocese's "Bread & Salt" series, and is pioneering a SmartBoard initiative to enhance classroom education in the local parishes.

The delegates considered a proposal supporting the expansion of the role of women in the liturgy, and especially in the diaconate. The proposal, submitted by the host parish in White Plains, NY, reaffirmed a

proposal approved in 1986. The delegates approved an amended version directing the Diocesan Council to report on the subject of women in the diaconate within the coming 12 months.

Closing Thoughts

In the closing session on Saturday, May 5, the Diocesan Assembly welcomed two distinguished visitors: Archbishop Nathan Hovhannisian from Holy Etchmiadzin, and Bishop Abgar Hovakimyan, Primate of the Diocese of Canada. The former conveyed the blessings, good wishes, and fatherly love of His Holiness Karekin II. Both expressed their warm wishes to the people of the Eastern Diocese, and its Primate and Primate-elect.

Fr. Daniel Findikyan, addressing the delegates in Armenian and English, spoke about the new horizons opening before the Armenian people. He thanked Archbishop Barsamian, affirming that he would always remain a fatherly, guiding spirit to the Diocese and its people; and he conveyed his prayers and love for Catholicos Karekin II.

“Transitions are exciting, but also intimidating,” Fr. Findikyan said, referring to the season of change not only in the Eastern Diocese but in Armenia as well. “But I have faith that God has been guiding events and actions in the Armenian world. Pray for me, that I may live up to the enormous responsibility with which you have entrusted me.”

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ended the Assembly by saying that he steps down from the office of Primate with excitement and hope for the Diocese, and especially with gratitude to every person who contributes to the life of the Armenian Church in America. He recalled his own first moments as Primate-elect in 1990, when his predecessor Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, then-Patriarch of Jerusalem, had called the Assembly to offer his congratulations.

“Torkom Srpazan told us that from his window at the Patriarchate, he was looking out upon a rising sun,” said the outgoing Diocesan Primate. “And today, 28 years later, I feel I can see the same sunrise, as Fr. Daniel Findikyan moves up into the leadership of this great Diocese.”

The 116th Diocesan Assembly was chaired by Diran Jebejian of St. Leon Church of Fair Lawn, NJ, with Lisa Esayian of St. James Church of Evanston, IL, serving as vice chair. Dn. Thomas Dabakian of Holy Resurrection Church of Trumbull, CT, served as the secretary.

The assembly host committee was led by the Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan, pastor of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY, and Maria Stepanian, committee chair.

The 117th Diocesan Assembly will be hosted by St. James Church of Watertown, MA.

2018 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

Below are the names of individuals elected to Diocesan boards and positions during the 116th Diocesan Assembly.

Diocesan Board of Trustees

Melanie Dadourian

Lisa Esayian

(Runner-up: Richard Norsigian)

Auditing Committee

Karen Dederyan

(Runner-up: Michelle Ouzounian)

Proposals Committee

Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian

Fr. Vart Gyozyan

Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan

Mark Kazanjian

Lisa Manookian

(Runner-up: Vartan Ajamian)

Nominating Committee

Fr. Khachatur Kesablyan

Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan

Lynn Beylerian

Lynn Cetin
Lisa Kouzoujian
(Runner-up: Jacqueline Elchemmas)

Respectfully Submitted by

Sarine Zenian, Onnik Sivaslian and Jack Guiragossian

**Combined Financial Statements
December 31, 2017 and 2016
With Independent Accountants' Review Report**

Independent Accounting Report

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying combined financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
Combined Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2017 and 2016**

Assets	2017	2016
Current assets	\$ 2,139,757	\$ 865,648
Cash and cash equivalents		
Custodial money market accounts	--	35,959
Investments	171,984	151,718
Parish dues receivable	10,594	10,767
Bookstore receivables	591	5,137
Accounts receivable, other	60,441	117,274
Donations and pledges receivable	1,152,251	801,138
Merchandise inventory, net	20,974	19,899
Prepaid expenses	<u>8,227</u>	<u>58,063</u>
Total current assets	3,564,819	2,065,603
Property and equipment, net	7,366,630	7,509,119
Other assets	2,187,107	2,442,718
Donations and pledges receivable, net of current portion and discount		
Beneficial interest in funds held by ACEF	27,134,442	24,193,862
Pooled investments held by ACEF	<u>15,404,085</u>	<u>13,656,881</u>
Total other assets	<u>44,725,634</u>	<u>40,293,461</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 55,657,083</u>	\$ 49,868,183

Art Collection

The Diocese has a collection of fine arts and manuscripts which were either purchased by the Diocese in prior years, or previously received as contributions from donors. During 2007, the Diocese obtained an independent appraisal of these collectibles, in order to maintain adequate insurance coverage on these items. The appraised value of these collectibles was \$3,569,000 and is not included in the property and equipment accounts in the combined financial statements. Additionally, the Diocese is the owner of an art collection which has not been appraised and is housed at the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, Portugal. The appraised value of these collection items has not been recorded in the combined financial statements as permitted under current accounting guidance.

Donations and acquisitions of collections are not required to be recognized since they are added to collections that are held for public exhibition and education in furtherance of public service rather than financial gain; are protected, kept encumbered, cared for and preserved; and are subject to a policy that requires the proceeds from sales of collection items to be used to acquire other items for collections.

Donations and Pledges Receivable

Donations and pledges receivable were \$3,339,358 and \$3,243,856 at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively as follows:

	2017	2016
Total contributions receivable	\$ 3,429,501	\$ 3,412,638
Less: Discount to net present value	(90,143)	(168,782)
Net contributions and bequests receivable	3,339,358	3,243,856
Less: Current portion	1,152,251	801,138
Contributions receivable, long term	\$ 2,187,107	\$ 2,442,718

Investments

Investments are held in pooled funds invested with the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, Inc. (“ACEF”) and in mutual funds and are measured at fair value in the combined statements of financial position. ACEF is a separate corporation organized to accept endowments and other funds for investment from donors and fund beneficiaries. As a participant in the pooled funds, the Diocese’s ownership interest is based on the allocation of the fair value of the Diocese’s units to the total fair value of the investment pool. The pool is revalued periodically and investment income is allocated to the participants based on their units. The pooled investments have been shown as long term in the combined statements of financial position based on donor restrictions or the intended usage by the board. Investment income is included in unrestricted or temporarily restricted net assets as governed by donors or law. The cost and fair value of investments are as follows, at December 31:

	2017 Cost	2017 Fair Value	2016 Cost	2016 Fair Value
Mutual funds	\$ 51,325	\$ 98,423	\$ 50,164	\$ 80,004
Money market funds	17,454	17,453	9,734	9,734
Equity securities	39,802	56,108	44,456	61,980
	108,581	171,984	104,354	151,718
Pooled investments	14,448,395	15,404,085	12,809,590	3,656,881
	\$ 14,556,976	\$ 15,576,069	\$ 12,913,944	\$ 13,808,599

	2017	2016
Interest and dividend income	\$ 1,609,129	\$ 1,638,482
Unrealized gain	1,430,207	254,686
Investment expense	(68,232)	(63,483)
Annual return	\$ 2,971,104	\$ 1,829,685

BOARD OF STEWARDS YEAR 2018 REPORT USHERS PROGRAM

Since 1995 Ushers have assisted in preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services, assisting parishioners and Parish Council members with various tasks, before, during, and after Badarak, including:

- ensuring mas is prepared in a timely fashion;
- ensuring adequate number of candles are present;
- providing assistance to parishioners in arriving to their seat;
- ensure church is left in proper condition following the service;
- change the front sign message in a timely fashion.

Ushers are also present at other events such as weddings and funerals. Ushers were present at the services during Easter, Holy Week, New Year's Eve Service, as well as Armenian Christmas services.

We have wonderful volunteers that make up the ushers group. They are: Sara Arabian, Garbis Chubukian, Rouzanna Oganissian, Rebecca Petrosian, Anna Seferian, Nora Shafakian.

We thank Rosemary Arkoian and Danielle Saroyan for their service during the year 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Garbis Chubukian

2018 ST. MARY CHOIR REPORT

In 2018, the choir had a typically busy year. We started the year by celebrating the Nativity and Theophany at St. Mary Church and also by traveling to Baltimore to sing in a Christmas service there as well.

During the spring Lenten Lecture Series, the choir members provided a delicious and plentiful vegan dinner following the lecture and discussion.

Later in the spring, a new organ was purchased for the church. Viguen and Teresa Ter-Minassian and Jerair and Anahid Nishanian were major donors for this purchase. Donations were also received from: Ara and Maggie Avedisian, Souren and Ema Hakopian, Raffi and Kathy Karahisar, Larry and Janet Arabian, Ed and Ellen Bodurian, Clara Andonian, David and Leda Zenian, Nabil and Rita Azzam, the Vartkess and Rita Balian Family Foundation, the St. Mary's Avak Society, Zakavoos and Patricia Shahverdian, Paul and Lucy Murad, Malvina Vartanian and Thomas Pulver. God bless all these generous donors for their gifts. Apologies if anyone's name was left out.

In September, the choir remembered the 10-year anniversary of the passing of our beloved Choir Director Sograt Boyagian with a dinner celebrated jointly with members of the Ani Choral Group and by providing lunch following a Hokihankist the next day.

The choir is very grateful to our talented Choir Director Mrs. Edita Dolunts Kalayjian and to our Director Emeritus Dr. Hratch Semerjian and our substitute Directors Mr. Vartges Keshishian and Dr. Zaven Kalayjian. We are also grateful to our talented organist Mrs. Karine Muradyan.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Nersesian Paul
Choir Secretary

2018 FOOD FESTIVALS' REPORT

The Parish Council sponsored two food festivals in 2018, following the usual pattern established for the last several years:

- 1) The Spring Food Festival was held from May 18th through May 20th, consisting of three lunches (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and two dinners (Friday and Saturday);
- 2) The Fall Food Festival was held from October 4th through October 7th, consisting of four lunches (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and two dinners (Friday and Saturday).

The proceeds from both festivals amount to \$67,000, the second highest ever in the present format, surpassing last years' number of \$63,000, despite fairly average (but nevertheless steady) turnouts.

These funds will go long ways in meeting the operating needs of our church. For this, we are extremely grateful, as the success of these events is made possible only through countless hours of labor from our volunteers, plus the generous financial contributions from our sponsors, the rental income from our vendors, and finally, last but not least, the general support from our Armenian community, our neighbors and the public at large.

For a more detailed description of the financial figures, please refer to the Festival Financial Reports appearing elsewhere in this handout.

Respectfully submitted,
Raffi Karahisar, Treasurer

ACYOA JUNIORS 2018 REPORT

The ACYOA Juniors had a productive and fun year as we continued on our mission to witness and reach out to the Armenian youth of the greater D.C. community. Here are just a few of the events that the Juniors held over the past year:

- In the Spring, we held a Lock-In focused on Lenten fellowship
- In July, our ACYOA Juniors attended St. Vartan camp with the group from St. Mary.
- In June the Murad family graciously hosted a BBQ & Pool Party that was attended by over 20 youth.
- In September, the youth gathered at Der Hovsep & Yn. Jennifer's house for BBQ and Volleyball.
- In October, St. Mary ACYOA Juniors participated in the ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend at St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY. Over 250 teens from churches across the Diocese participated in basketball, volleyball and various other competitive activities. The St. Mary teams participated in Co-ed Volleyball and Girls' Basketball, led by Coach Mike Sahakian. And the Boys Basketball Team won 2nd Place Overall!! The weekend culminated with a Dance on Saturday night and a closing Banquet and Awards ceremony on Sunday evening. Special appreciation goes to chaperones

Hasmik Keurian, Coach Mike Sahakian and Lilit Festekjian who brought their time and effort to make this an exceptional weekend for our youth.

- In November, teens participated in a Service Project led by Greg and Katie Kumkumian where they made over 100 bagged meals for a nearby homeless shelter.
- On December, teens and parents alike were welcomed into the home of Gladys and Victor Kazanjian for a festive Christmas party. Over 40 teens and parents played games, participated in a gift exchange and games. Special appreciation to the Kazanjian Family for hosting this wonderful event.

The notable increased activity in the number of Juniors' events is due to the leadership and support of a special group of parents and parishioners: Michael and Catherine Sahakian, Greg and Katie Kumkumian, Lynn Keurian, Lucy and Paul Murad, Garbis and Nadya Chubukian, David Sayian, Patricia Yeghissian, Bob George, Talar Festekjian, Lily Festekjian.

Special appreciation also goes to our Youth Advisor, Becky Bagdasarian. I continue to be inspired and spiritually uplifted by the dedication and passion with which Becky has dedicated herself to the ministry of our youth. Surely, we are blessed to have our youth lead by one who espouses the very meaning of Christian service through her living example.

In the upcoming months, the ACYOA Juniors hope to continue to bring together teens throughout the St. Mary's community through activities that combine service, worship, education, witness, and fellowship in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people. Please contact stmaryyouthdc@gmail.com for information regarding upcoming events or to be included on the email contact list.

Respectfully submitted by
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

**ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
THE ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY
2018 REPORT**

In 2018, the Ararat Avak Society hosted successful Luncheons on the following dates: January 6 – Christmas Luncheon, February 10 – Valentine's Luncheon, December 15 – Holiday Luncheon. Each Luncheon included a delicious, wholesome, homemade meal enjoyed by everyone.

Throughout the year the Society hosted and sponsored various other opportunities, such as one Hospitality Table and two Coffee Tables: January 7 – Hospitality Table for Varoujan Habibian (Hokehankist); January 28 – Coffee Table; April 1 – Easter Coffee Table. The Society also sponsored 5 trays of homemade Baklava for the AYC Fundraising Golf Tournament.

It is important to recognize those who have supported the Society's mission throughout the year with their generous donations. Mr. and Mrs. Manoug Habibian for the Hokehankist of Varoujan Habibian; Valentine's Day donations were made by the following: Rita Shafakian, Sarah Dudek, Clara Andonian, Bella Kazanjian, and Dean Shahinian; the following donations were made for the memory of Mardiros Shafakian: Araxie Van, Mr. and Mrs. Mellkon Delikahya, Suzanne Ellian, Doris George, and Kathryn Kapikian; the Holiday Luncheon was donated by Takuhi Hallajian, Mari Shafakian, and Eva Shafakian in memory of their loved ones, and a donation was made by Mr. Louis Quiroz and Mrs. Nidal Khalek to the Holiday Luncheon.

Further, the Society would like to acknowledge and express their gratitude to those who have notably dedicated their time in supporting and volunteering during our events: Clara Andonian, Louisa Baghdasarian, Malvina Brown, Mari Dogum, Yercanik Delikahya, Suzanne Harutounian, Bella Kazanjian, Judy Markarian, Raffi and

Shoghig Sahakyan, Margie Satian, and Mrs. Sanaz, and to the many who kindly stayed behind after events to assist in our clean-up efforts.

The Society thrives on the support of its members and St. Mary Armenian Church to continue to serve its senior citizen community with festive luncheons and cultural events. Such a mission could not be possible without the constant unconditional support by Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan. It is with their blessings that the Society can grow and serve and maintain the solidarity that brings its members together. For that, we wish to extend our sincerest gratitude from the bottom of our hearts.

For the 2019 calendar year, the Society hopes to continue to provide exciting luncheons, host cultural events, and make donations to various Armenian outreach organizations to expand their mission. To do so, the Society gladly offers volunteer opportunities to support its efforts. Volunteers are welcomed to assist in set-up and clean-up of Luncheons and other fundraising events hosted by the Society. Volunteers are also needed to drive our attendees to and from events when needed. Furthermore, the Society accepts luncheon sponsors throughout the year for those who wish to sponsor a luncheon to honor the memory of their loved ones. Those who wish to volunteer during events, shuttle our participants, sponsor a lunch, and/or donate in support of the Society's mission are encouraged to contact the committee at 301.219.4041.

The Ararat Avak Society thanks you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Takuhi Hallajian, Mrs. Mari Shafakian, and Mrs. Eva Shafakian
Co-Chairpersons
Ararat Avak Society of St. Mary

SHNORHALI SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Who We Are

Shnorhali School is the primary educational ministry of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church. Our mission is to instill in our children the love of God and pride in our Armenian language, identity and culture. Our efforts are intended to help our children and families live authentic Armenian Christian lives and become active members of the Church community.

The school is comprised of two curriculums, one dedicated to Christian Education and the other to Armenian Language and Culture. Our program provides school children K-6 an excellent opportunity to learn about their Armenian Christian heritage.

2018-2019 Overview

Shnorhali School currently has 89 registered students with ages ranging from 4 to 16. We have 12 students that restrict their attendance to the Christian Education portion of our program, with the remaining 77 attending both Christian Education and Armenian Language and Culture. We have 19 new students this year.

The school's Armenian Language and Culture curriculum this year supported six grade levels. We were also able to continue our Western Armenian class.

An adult Eastern Armenian Language course was offered for the second year to help adults with basic and conversational Eastern Armenian.

Administration

The table below lists our Administrative team by position.

Name	Position
Der Hovsep Karapetyan	Pastor
Harry Tchetchenian	Principal
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan	Head of Religion Program
Vladimir Shekoyan	Treasurer
Svetlana Hovhannisyann	Lunch Assistant

Teaching Staff

Maintaining the quality and stability of our teaching staff is of utmost importance. We are pleased to report that all of our Language and Culture teachers from the previous academic school year returned to continue teaching this year.

Grade	Teacher
Kindergarten	Meline Petrosyan-Dalvi
Eastern Armenian 1 st	Anna Gevorgyan
Eastern Armenian 2 nd	Gemma Grigoryan
Eastern Armenian 3 rd	Maro Hovhannissian
Eastern Armenian 4 th	Anushik Mazmanyann-Scott
Eastern Armenian 5 th	Julietta Movsessian
Eastern Armenian 6 th	Marta Kotanyan
Western Armenian	Jermen Halajian
Eastern Armenian for Adults	Araxie Vann

Internship Program

This year we continued to develop the educational component of our internship program which fosters greater learning for post graduates who wanted to remain connected to the Shnorhali School. The education component of the program consists of an immersive Religion course. After completing their courses, some of our interns aid with lunch preparation and serve as teacher assistants. They also lend their support in staging Shnorhali-organized functions.

Core Curriculum

The Armenian Language and Culture program incorporates and balances the core curriculum set forth by the Diocese and the recommendations made by our own experienced Shnorhali School teachers. Teachers are allowed considerable freedom to modify the curriculum to meet the changing needs of their students. At the end of the academic year, students will be assessed in accordance with the objectives and outcomes existing for each grade.

Textbooks used for our Armenian Language and Culture classes have been, for the previous 5 years, made available to the school gratuitously through the support of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of the Diaspora. These textbooks are the same as the ones used in Armenia, and have therefore the approval of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Education.

Extra-curriculum Activities

The Shnorhali School continues to offer Armenian dance lessons as an extra-curriculum activity this year, with Mrs. Nunik Nishanian serving as our dance instructor.

Planned Events

Shnorhali School organizes events with the goal of bringing families closer together and contributing to the cultural enrichment of children in addition to the education received at the school. These events are also a fundraiser for the school. Events carried out and planned for this academic year are:

1. Christmas Hantess (December 16, 2018)
2. Easter Celebration (planning in process for April 2019)
3. Armenian dance performance (planning in process for the last of week of May)

4. End of Year Hantess (planning in process for early June 2019).

Respectfully submitted by: Harry Tchetchenian

SHNORHALI SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018 REPORT

The Sunday School celebrated another wonderful year in 2018! Through the persistence and efforts of our teachers, our children experienced a fruitful and spiritually fulfilling year. The Sunday School has participated in various ways in the life of our Parish. For the Feast of Epiphany & Theophany, the Holy Week Services, and the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday School students participated by Reading the Holy Scriptures and participating in the Holy Badarak.

Another wonderful event was the Christmas Pageant, where over 80 students participated in bringing to life the Nativity of Our Lord. Students sang carols, Armenian sharagans, and recited Bible verses to celebrate the Birth of Our Savior. Special appreciation also goes to the teachers who worked tirelessly to prepare the children for the performance and especially to Becky Bagdasarian, for playing an instrumental role in organizing the Hantess. Special gratitude also goes to all of the parents for their support in volunteering the day of the Hantess.

Teachers and Curriculum

The teachers of the Sunday School continue to help our children discover and live authentic Christian lives through the teachings of Christ and within the fold of the Armenian Church. The teachers and staff of the Sunday School continue to work together, in cooperation with the Armenian branch of the Shnorhali School, to educate the children of our community on the spiritual treasures of our Church and guide them in the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This year the school has been blessed to have the support of very special members who have dedicated their time and effort to teaching our High School Religion class. They have gone above and beyond to help educate our youth and our children are blessed to have their influence in our school - thank you Patricia Yeghissian, Bob George, David Sayian and Becky Bagdasarian!

Staff for 2018-2019 School year:

Name	Position
Melineh Petrossian	Pre-K/Kindergarten
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan	1 st /2 nd grade
Danielle Saroyan/Eric Ashbaian	3 rd grade
Daron Bedrosian	4 th grade
Greg Kumkumian/Mike Sahakian	5 th /6 th grade
Rebecca Bagdasarian	Middle School 7 th & 8 th grades
Pat Yeghissian, David Sayian, Robert George, Paul Murad, Levon Andonian	High School

Respectfully submitted by

Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

WED FUND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 2018 REPORT

The WED Educational Fund was established at St Mary Armenian Church in 1998, thanks to the generosity of the late parishioner William Ervant Docter (WED). Over the years, the Fund has provided financial support to many qualified Armenian Americans pursuing studies or training in United States or Canada. More specifically, since its inception, the fund has disbursed \$877,000 to 441 worthy candidates, out of a total of 817 applicants. This constitutes a 54% award rate, with the average grant totaling \$1,989 and the individual grants ranging from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000.

Each year, the total amount of the awards available is based on a formula that takes into account a fixed percentage (usually 4.5%) of the total value of the WED assets held under the management of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) during the previous twelve-quarter period. In 2018 the net amount of new money received for scholarships was \$38,946 (after allowing for administrative expenses), pretty much in line with the last few years...

This year, the WED (William Ervant Docter) Educational Scholarship Committee met on July 14th, to select the recipients of the WED scholarships for the school year 2018- 2019, out of a total of 36 applications:

- Eighteen (18) of the applicants were awarded grants totaling \$39,000, based on carefully selected criteria designed to demonstrate both financial need AND academic excellence: Four (4) applicants received \$3,000 each; thirteen (13) received \$2,000, and finally one (1) received \$1,000 each.
- The average GPA: 3.59; the median GPA: 3.62. Almost identical to last year's numbers.
- The average tuition cost for applicants was \$38,633, the median: \$42,980. Not much change there.
- Twenty (20) of the applicants were graduate students, versus sixteen (16) undergraduates.
- Understandably, more graduate students had needs for financial help than undergraduates, and the needs of the former group were significantly higher...
- Again Medicine, Dentistry and other Health Sciences were amongst the more popular majors, followed by Business Administration, Law, Political Sciences, Engineering, and finally few in International Affairs, Near Eastern Studies, Divinity, etc.
- This year, only three of the applicants were planning to attend local area universities and colleges. Again, the majority were headed to institutions in California, New York or New England.

WED Scholarship Committee this year consisted of Mr. Zaven Kalayjian, Ms. Anna Andriasova Seferian, Ms. Patricia Yeghissian, Ms. Sophia Shahverdian Hawit and Mr. Raffi Karahisar. The Committee was assisted ably by the WED Office Manager, Ms. Julie Avedikian, and the WED Treasurer, Mr. Zakar Shahverdian.

As the chairman of the Scholarship Committee, I would like to express my extreme gratitude to them all for their long hours of preparation, review and support, and their dedication to this worthwhile endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,
Raffi Karahisar, Chairman

Women's Guild 2018 Annual Report

Executive Committee

Nadya Chubukian – Chairlady; Suzanne Haroutunian - Vice-Chairlady; Lusine Simon – Treasurer; Arda Hebert - Assistant Treasurer; Kristie Siroonian - Recording Secretary; Rita Koudoussian - Corresponding Secretary; Jermen Hallajian – Advisor; Siroun Demirji – Advisor; Cathy Kapikian - Advisor

2018 proved to be another extraordinary year for the Women's Guild. Our Executive Committee, led by Nadya Chubukian and Suzanne Haroutunian., worked relentlessly in the pursuit of success for our church and community.

Our year started with the Vesper Dinner in the church hall on February 21st that had a wonderful turn-out for the event. It was followed by the Commemoration of Saintly Women's Day on March 3rd with Sarine Zenian (Financial Advisor) as our quest speaker and a week later on, March 11th, we hosted our annual Mid-Lenten Luncheon and in conjunction we hosted a fundraiser for the FAR Ayo! Project which raised a total of \$578 for FAR Ayo! Project Game Changer. We finally closed the month with our Choreg Bake Sale on March 25th (Palm Sunday). We finally had some time away from the kitchen until April 14th when we began preparing for the Spring Food Festival – beginning with the Boreg workshop. On May 11th our Women's Guild celebrated Hampartsoum and honored the Women of St. Mary Armenian Church for their years of service and dedication to the church, Women's Guild and community. This was followed by series of additional workshops in preparation for the Spring Food Festival on May 18th 19th and 20th. In June we hosted our Summer Luncheon on June 9th at Mon Ami Gabi in Bethesda, MD to celebrate the beginning of summer. After a quiet summer, we were back to work in September preparing for the Fall Food Festival held on October 4th through 7th. Thanks to the strong dedication and hard work of our Women's Guild, the festival was once again a great success. We celebrated Cultural Month on October 21st with "Serli Hacikoglu as our guest speaker and a fabulous menu of Armenian dishes from all over the world. We hosted our annual election on November 3rd and welcomed back Nadya Chubukian and Suzanne Haroutunian as our newly re-elected Executive Committee members. This was followed by a delicious traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon and musical program after church services on November 18th. Later, on December 8th, we had a festive annual Christmas party luncheon at Fontina Grille in Rockville, MD full of joy and fellowship. We ended the year on December 9th and 16th with another very successful Christmas Bake Sale.

Through the persistent enthusiasm, meticulous planning and strong work ethic of our Women's Guild Executive Committee and members we were able to support CASP, Far Ayo!, and the Red Cross in 2018. We would like to thank Der Hovsep for his steady guidance, encouragement, and trust in the Women's Guild. We would also like to thank our members for their commitment and perseverance throughout the year. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to our church community for their continued support in our events.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristie Siroonian
Recording Secretary

ST. MARY'S GIFT SHOP REPORT 2018

St. Mary's Gift shop ended yet another successful year. The committee members for the year 2018 were: Mrs. Takouhi Hallajian, Ms. Rebecca Petrossian and Mrs. Aline Guiragossian.

As sales increased throughout the year, the store purchased a variety of inventory from Armenian vendors in Boston, St. Vartan Bookstore in New York, and Armenia. Inventory items purchased included: wooden carved Armenian crosses, paintings, religious icons, jewelry, and other religious items totaling \$2,239.07. Inventory management was also improved with higher efficiencies in both purchasing volume as well as optimum frequency.

The gift shop was open and available for parishioners every single Sunday after Badarak and participated in both the Spring and the Fall Food Festivals. Total sales for the year were \$5,510.00 with gross profit of \$3,270.93, yielding a gross profit margin of 59.4%. Expenses were minimal – mostly credit card fees.

Net profit for the year ended at \$3,177.17. In December the Gift Shop committee decided to donate \$3,000 towards St. Mary's Operating Fund, closing the year with an ending cash balance of \$4,344.03. We look forward to an exciting 2019.

Respectfully submitted: Aline Guiragossian