

**ACYOA Central Council Meeting
Diocesan Center, New York City
October 27, 2007**

Present:

Fr. Haigazoun Najarian (Diocesan Vicar), Johnny Elchemmas (Chair),
Ani Tovar (Vice Chair), Sarine Zenian (Secretary), Alex Derderian (Treasurer),
Talin Hitik (Programming), Stan Sheridan (Chapter Relations),
Danielle DerAsadourian (Public Relations), Nancy Basmajian (Executive Secretary)

Meeting highlights were as follows:

- **Administration**

- (1) *Regional liaisons* reported on the status of chapters in their respective regions. There are currently seven chapters in the New York Metro/Mid-Atlantic region, two chapters in the New England region, five chapters in the Midwest region and five chapters in the South. The Central Council officially welcomed the newly-organized chapter associated with the mission parish in Atlanta, Georgia; the chapter chair is Violet Mirzoyan. In addition, youth contacts have been appointed at the St. Sahag Church in Minneapolis, MN and in the mission parish of Nashville, TN.

- **Programming**

- (1) *Tentative* plans for the *2008 Armenia Service Program* were announced as follows: the trip, which will include two nights in Karabagh, will take place from June 30 to July 23 and participants will again serve Camp Tzizternak in Vanadzor; the airline carrier will be Austrian Airlines and participants will stay at the Ani Hotel. The cost to participants will probably be \$2500. The ASP leader and assistant have not as yet been appointed. Promotional material will be issued by the end of the year. In addition, the Central Council is investigating the cost of renovations to the guest facilities at the camp.
- (2) Because of the huge success of this year's *Holy Land Pilgrimage*, the ACYOA Central Council will sponsor a trip for college students and young adults during the summer of 2008. The Executive Secretary has been in contact with Educational Opportunities Tours which is preparing a package; as soon as details are confirmed, the Central Council will begin to promote the trip. The Primate will appoint a clergy leader/guide.
- (3) Approximately 40 people have registered to attend the *New England Regional Conference* scheduled for November 3 at Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, MA; speakers will include Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian and Yn. Arpi Kouzouian. The *Midwest Regional Conference* will be held at St. Mesrob Church in Racine, WI on December 8. The theme of both conferences is "Creating an Armenian Home in the 21st Century." The

Central Council is hoping to sponsor a third regional conference in the New York Metro area sometime in the spring.

- (4) The **9th Annual Leadership Conference** has been confirmed for March 7-9, 2008 at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY. The theme will be "The Armenian Family." The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Dean of St. Nersess Seminary, will serve as conference chaplain. Speakers will include Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian and Julie Hoplamazian. The Primate will send a directive to all parishes and chapters encouraging them to send representatives to the conference; the Central Council will offer limited financial assistance.
- (5) **PNAR 2007 and 2008.** Johnny Elchemmas reported on the success of the 3rd Pan North American Retreat for Armenian young adults, which was sponsored by the Canadian Diocese on September 28-30; 16 participants from 8 parishes, including 4 Central Council members, represented the Eastern Diocese. The 4th PNAR will be hosted by the Eastern Diocese; Central Council appointed a sub-committee to organize the event which will probably be held sometime in September or October of 2008.
- (6) Final plans for the **2008 General Assembly and Sports Weekend** cannot be finalized until the Central Council meets with the Primate, who has been out of the office because of the Pontifical visit. It is hoped that information about the weekend will be available to ACYOA membership by the end of the year.