



Saints Joachim & Anne
Armenian Apostolic Church

17 August 1993

The Most Rev. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Eminence Surpazan Hayr,

Sts. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church of Palos Heights, IL will be celebrating ten (10) years of service since its consecration on November 21, 1993. We, as a parish, would be most honored if you would join us on this special occasion.

Subject to your schedule, we have planned a dinner in your honor on Saturday evening, November 20th to be attended by members of the Parish Council, Sunday School, Women's Guild and members of other auxiliary organizations. This can be a time for you to meet those members of our Church who have stepped forward to perpetuate our place within the community.

Sunday morning service would be an opportunity for you to present a special service. This could be in concert with the celebration of the day or possibly a call for the re-dedication of our parish to provide a foundation for our children in the future. Would a re-dedication of our Godfathers be appropriate? This could be a time of healing and re-commitment to our future.

We will have a special dinner following the service at a banquet facility that can accommodate up to three hundred (300) people. Certainly, any special guests you would deem appropriate would be welcomed and could be included in our initial list of dignitaries. The dinner will provide another opportunity for you to speak to a more diverse and broader group of Armenians. Any special requests you may have for this occasion can be accommodated.

During this time, we would like to set aside some time to recognize and honor Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian's thirty five (35) years of service to the Armenian Church. This will be a "surprise" and wonder if there is an appropriate gift with which to honor him. Any help or direction you could give us with this would be greatly appreciated.

Also, please send a message to be printed in our ad booklet along with a current photo of yourself.

The Anniversary Committee has chosen the theme "If You Believe" for our dinner. It gives us an opportunity to build upon our premise that our children are going to be our Church's future. If we can take this thought beyond the anniversary dinner, then the dinner will be a building block for the future of our Church. We do not want our efforts to end when the dinner is over. As a special effort, we are incorporating a song into our program that is titled "If You Believe" and will be sung by our Church Choir. More importantly, we are going to have our children sing this song to add more emphasis to our vision for the future. For your information, included with this letter is a July/Aug./Sept. "Ani" newsletter page concerning the Anniversary and the article "If You Believe" which will appear in the Oct./Nov. issue.

I know your vision for the Church is centered around progress and preservation of our children as we move into the 21st century. I want our Church here in Palos Heights to be at the forefront of that movement. I look forward to your arrival and the opportunity to chart a course that will secure the future of our children within the context of a strong religious foundation.

Your Grace, I appreciate your indulgence in a letter of this length and would expect a member of your staff to contact us with any requests, itinerary, or suggestions you may have. Feel free to contact me at my home, 708/448-6007 or at my office, 708/955-8533. We look forward to having you back in our community this November.

Faithfully,

Dennis Vander Meer

Dennis Vander Meer
Chairman
10th Anniversary Committee

DVM/as