

January 4, 1980

The Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian
Pastor, St. Mary Armenian Church
200 West Mount Pleasant Avenue
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Dear Father Houssig:

We wish to express to you, to the Parish Council, and to all the members of your parish our deepest gratitude for your hospitality on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our ordination to the priesthood; we appreciate very much also the generous gift of luggage on that occasion. Our Diocese is vast and our visits to distant parishes are frequent, so your gift will accompany us and remind us of your kindness.

It was also very moving to supervise the ordination of two deacons and the othersservers at the altar, for even as we are thankful that the Lord has permitted us in His infinite love to serve His Church for nearly two generations, we are keenly aware of the immediate need of this generation for spiritual leadership and dedication. Our Church is desperately short of clergy at a time when our membership and programs are expanding at unprecedented speed. We therefore welcome those who with serious devotion and good qualifications heed the calling of their Church and people and step forward to shoulder the great responsibilities we face.

On this joyous occasion of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord, we pray that God grant health, joy, prosperity and peace to all our Church family, and that He bless you always with the light of His love and wisdom.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

ATM/vv