

December 12, 1958

Mr. Harry Chirkinian
2715 La Salle Street
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Chirkinian:

It has been reported to us that your parish council allowed itself to reduce the salary of your parish priest, Fr. Mesrob from \$65.00 to \$55.00 a week. The reasons given were that he does not know the English language and that his administrative abilities are limited. We are very much disappointed for this action and would like to point out the fact that it is not fair to reduce the assigned salary of the church servant within any circumstances. It should also be noted that the recognized minimum salary of our clergy is \$75.00 per week. However we did not, at the time, comment to your paying Fr. Mesrob \$65.00.

The Clergy Assembly of our Diocese which convened on November 13th & 14th heard of the case with concern, and found that it was an act of injustice. It should, moreover, be noted that in the event of Fr. Mesrob resigning from his position, it may take years before we shall be able to appoint another clergy for your church, because 18 parishes out of a total of 42 in our diocese, are without a clergy today.

We have had the opportunity of meeting some of your parishoners who, not only did not complain of your priest, but on the contrary, expressed their satisfaction in the performance of his duties. We are sure you realize that the duties of the parish council are to preserve peace and harmony in the community. With this in view we instruct you to settle the matter of Fr. Mesrob in a satisfactory way and keep us informed.

We take this opportunity to remind you also that in our Circular No. 29 dated February 13, 1957, we had instructed our parishes that deacons should not be elected as members of parish councils. Your parish assembly failed to comply with this instruction and elected some deacons for your parish council. During the next few months

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you will call for a parish assembly to elect some parish council members. We advise you to bring this matter to the assembly's attention, in order to carry out the instructions of the above circular.

With my paternal blessings,

**Hampre Archbishop Calfayan
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America**

December 18, 1959

Mr. Albert Mardirossian
25 Lenox Avenue
Clifton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Mardirossian:

As per our telephone conversation, we would like to have an application for the admittance of Yeretskin of late Rev. Fr. Mesrop Avedian to your institution.

At the present Yeretskin lives in the Parish House of our St. Mesrob Church, 1326 State St., Racine Wisc. and it is our duty to transfer her from the present location and provide her board and living quarters. Therefore it will be highly appreciated if you would kindly consider the application that will be submitted by the Diocese reference to Yeretskin Avedian.

The name and the address of the Chairman of our Racine Parish, where you have to send the application form is: Mr. Harry Cherkinian, 2715 La Salle St., Racine, Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours,

Sooren Manuelian
Diocesan Secretary

March 30, 1960

Mr. Eghia Topalian
Chairman, Parish Council
1411 Goold St.
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Cherkinian:

Considering that your parish is still remaining without a permanent pastor and the Very Rev. Varoujan Kabaradjian can perform Holy Badarak, in your church once in a month only, we hereby inform you that, we have appointed, newly ordained, Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian to visit your parish one Sunday of each month to comfort the faithful.

Rev. Fr. Arsen has been assigned the pastor of St. George's Church of Waukegan and will resume his duties from 1st of May, 1960. We advise you to consult the parish council of Waukegan and make the necessary arrangements for the schedule of Fr. Arsen's services for your parish.

With paternal blessings
and prayers,

Sion Archbishop Manoogian
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America

December 29, 1960

Mr. Eghia Topalian
Chairman, Parish Council
1411 Gould Street
Racine, Wisc.


Dear Mr. Topalian:

We would like to inform you that, we have appointed Very Rev. Varoujan Kaparadjian, as a visiting clergy to St. Shoghogat Church of East St. Louis and considering, that Fr. Vertanes Papazian, who is the visiting clergy of St. John the Baptist Church of West Allis is closer to your church, we have appointed him, on a temporary basis to visit your Parish.

We hereby advise you to contact the Parish Council of West Allis and Fr. Vertanes and come to an understanding regarding his weekly salary.

In accordance with the previous arrangements, Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian, the Pastor of St. George Church of Waukegan, will continue to visit your Parish, once a month and will perform holy badarak in your church. This is a temporary arrangement, we hope to be able to assign a permanent pastor for your church in the near future.

With paternal blessings,



ARCHBISHOP SION
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America