

1976 Elberon  
April 26, 1976

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian,  
Primate, and Members of Diocesan Council  
Diocese of the Arm. Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York, 10016

Gentlemen:      Re: Protest for Special Parish Assembly  
                            scheduled June 13, 1976, for the  
                            election of a Parish Council for St.  
                            Mary's Arm. Church in Elberon, N.J.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity given us to express our feelings regarding a Special Parish Assembly for the purpose of electing a Parish Council.

- 1) The undersigned emphatically object to this meeting inasmuch as the community has never recognized nor accepted the resignation of our Parish Council. They were elected for a period of two years and their term does not expire until January 1977. The election of a "new" Parish Council at this time is therefore irregular and out of order.
- 2) After 6 to 8 months of meetings, as well as documents and papers back and forth between the Parish Council of Elberon and the Diocesan Council in New York, members of our Parish Council were made to resign, which they did under duress. The Parish Council is accountable to the people; their resignation without the knowledge and consent of the people who elected them is also irregular and out of order.
- 3) In perusing the church by-laws word by word, and in defining its meaning through attorneys and knowledgeable people we find no ruling where it states the Primate and the Diocesan Council have authority to disband a Parish Council. This is entirely contrary to the by-laws, particularly since the Primate himself confirmed the election.
- 4) Any dispute arising between the Parish Council and the local priest could certainly have been resolved by other means; not by the removal of the Parish Council. Appointees comprised of non-church-members and those defeated during elections took their place. All this was accomplished under the guise of "emergency." Any "emergency" could have been solved by the removal of the priest for

which petitions were signed by 80% of the membership and presented to the Primate through our Parish Council.

- 5) Moreover, the article in the Reporter by Mr. Nubar Dorian "Tears for Elberon" is distorted and misleading to the people who are not aware of the facts prevailing in the community and who believe what they read.

The undersigned who represent the views of 80% of dues-paying members of St. Mary's Armenian Church in Elberon strongly object therefore to the convening of a Special Parish Assembly at this time for the purpose of electing a new Parish Council.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>Matthew Sahagian</u>	<u>Hagos Alexanian</u>
<u>Ashgen Beulet</u>	<u>Eleeza Alexanian</u>
<u>Satenip Nalbandian</u>	<u>Aradi Gokberk</u>
<u>Dioran Nalbandian</u>	<u>Aray Gokberk</u>
<u>Hagos Kesici</u>	<u>Alice Sulahian</u>
<u>Sonia Kesici</u>	<u>Sally Yernian</u>
<u>Zabelle Sahagian</u>	<u>Kayak Boyajian</u>
<u>Bruce Pocradone</u>	<u>Ronald Yernian</u>
<u>Hripsime Pocradone</u>	<u>Serpukh Narujiz</u>
<u>George Kazanjian</u>	<u>Vartanush Zadjjian</u>
<u>Mary Babakurians</u>	<u>Elsa Kazanjian</u>
<u>Hagos Zadjjian</u>	<u>Beatrice Lambis</u>
<u>S. Bagdasarian</u>	<u>James Lambis</u>
<u>Bertram Parskanyan</u>	<u>A. D. Levon Hekimian</u>
<u>Martha Dadourian</u>	<u>Shoukran Hekimian</u>