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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



File

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAPKEN ANOUSHIAN
STUDENT PRIEST

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

May 27, 1982

His Eminence, Archbishop
Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

The Parish Council is very disturbed over the courtesies that were extended to the St. John's A.C.Y.O.A. Men's Basketball Team for the Annual Archbishop's Tournament held in New York, April 17, 1982.

Our team was not notified in advance that they would have to play 4 games in one day while other teams drew a bye and played only 3 games. Our team was told that someone was trying to get in touch with them on Friday, April 17, 1982 to inform them that they had to play 4 games in one day. Our team was in route when this person was trying to get in touch with us the day before the tournament. In all other tournaments that we have participated in all byes and other courtesies were extended to the defending champion. The St. John's A.C.Y.O.A. had won the Archbishop's Tournament in 1980 and 1981.

Some of the players on our mens team suffered severe injuries due to the fact that they had to play games at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Basketball is an extremely physical and demanding sport and having to play 4 games in 8 hours is ludicrous.

Our team was told that the schedule and byes were determined by the date that the entry fees were received. I have never heard of this criterion for determining a schedule. St. Gregory of New York is next door to the Diocese and Detroit is 4 days by mail, and then there are always delays in the mail.

We believe that the A.C.Y.O.A. did a terrible job in preparing for the tournament. If the foremat and rules governing the tournament are not revised so that everything is finalized at least one week before the tournament, we will have to take a long and hard look before we allow our teams to participate in the tournament again.

We must question the leadership of the A.C.Y.O.A. in the planning of their activities. It does not seem possible that this organization with a full time director would not consider all factors before making their final decisions. If the A.C.Y.O.A. is to be a vital integral function of the Armenian Church there must be a drastic improvement in their thinking and presentation of the events that involves all chapters within the Diocese.

Very truly yours,


Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/rb

March 22, 1982

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Swidersky
20474 Hanna
Detroit, Michigan 48203

Dear Jerry and Blanche:

We extend our thanks for the photographs you have taken on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of St. John Armenian Church of Detroit, Michigan, and appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending them to us. You have been thoughtful in many ways and on so many occasions, and all your kindnesses are truly cherished. We will keep these photographs as a memento of that day.

May God bless you and your loved ones always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

March 3, 1982

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of St. John's. The Badarak and your sermon were beautiful, as were the Dedication Service at the Recreation Center, the Candle Lighting Ceremony and your inspiring address following the Banquet. We sincerely appreciate your care and concern for us, and the praise that you gave our Parish. I have enclosed a copy of the publicity for this occasion for your file. Please feel free to use it for publicity purposes if you desire.

As per your request, I am also enclosing the address of Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Swidersky, who were responsible for the pictures which I delivered to you.

I have enclosed two checks: one is payable to the Diocese in the amount of \$200.00 to cover Your Eminence's air fare to Detroit; the other check reflects an achahampooyr in the amount of \$300.00 made payable to Your Eminence.

Again, I thank you for sharing in this glorious occasion with us.

Respectfully,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

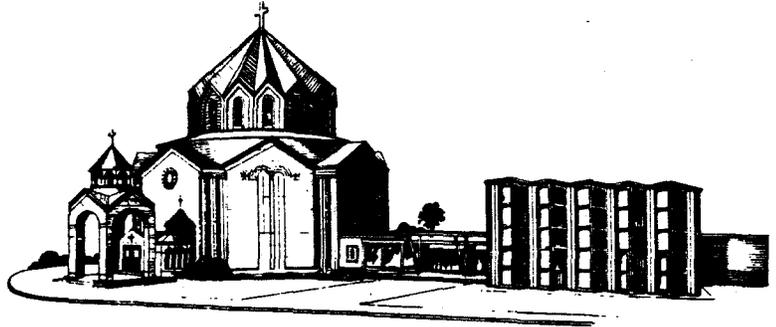
Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

Enc.

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STUDENT PRIEST

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

July 23, 1982

His Eminence, Archbishop
Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of **America**
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

The Parish Council received the response to our letter dated May 27, 1982, which was addressed to Your Eminence. Again we were very disturbed; the response is from James Magarian, the Executive Secretary of the ACYOA. If we wanted a reply from him we would have written to him.

Mr. Magarian's letter of June 17, 1982 states that we were the only Parish to offer any negative criticism of the sixteen teams that participated. May I remind Your Eminence that St. John's has participated in every tournament since 1972. In 1981, the tournament was held in Chicago and all other tournaments were in the East. The teams that participated in Chicago were Wisconsin, Palos Heights, Chicago, and Detroit. There were no teams from the East.

Mr. Magarian also states that in planning such tournaments, we assume very little. I am surprised at such a statement concerning an event that involves the entire Diocese. May I suggest that announcements and registration forms also be sent to the Parish Priest and the Parish Council Chairman to make sure that deadlines are met.

Mr. Magarian continues that there are Official Rules and Regulations concerning the tournament. St. John's is requesting a copy of all Official Rules and Regulations concerning the ACYOA.

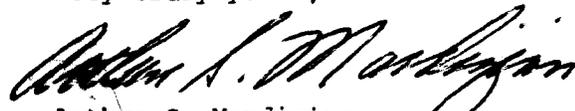
Mr. Magarian also says that we were fortunate to have a chance to play in four games; what has this to do with the tournament? I resent the reference to the size of our Parish and that we can produce only seven players.

As far as the schedule of playing all the games on Saturday is concerned, I would like to point out the fact that in some of the previous tournaments games were played on Friday evening and the tournament was concluded on Saturday.

We have always encouraged our teams to participate in the activities of the ACYOA. The members of our ACYOA Chapter have borne the brunt of the expenses in participating in the tournaments.

We will wait for your response before we make any final decisions concerning our future plans.

Very truly yours,

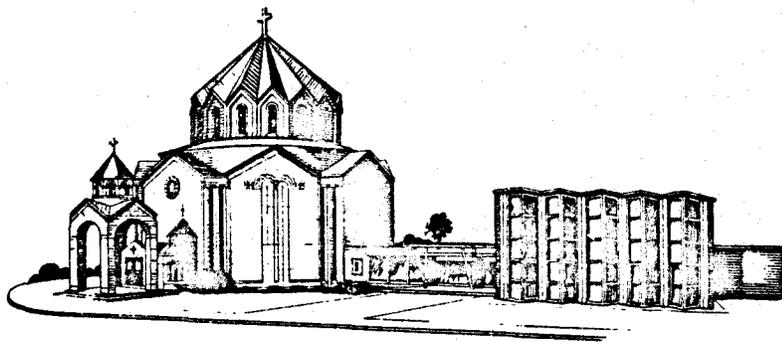


Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/rb

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PHONE: 569-3405

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

February 10, 1983

Mr. George Marifian, Chairman
Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
P.O. Box 1187
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Mr. Marifian:

I am in receipt of your recent letter on behalf of Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church. Had your letter not been a request from the Holy Shoghagat Parish, I would not have given it any consideration, whatsoever. Since it is the Holy Shoghagat Parish that St. John's is dealing with, and not you, I am responding to the request. You should not have written a letter to me with copies to the Assistant Pastor of St. John's or the Primate of the Diocese. From now on, please refrain from sending copies of letters addressed to me to anyone else. If you thought that the Primate had to be informed of your Parish's request, you could have written to him directly, and made your request from the Diocese, then the Primate would have made some arrangement either with St. John's or any clergyman of our Diocese.

Now I can respond to the requests of Holy Shoghagat Parish, and share which of her requests St. John's will be able to comply with. St. John's is always happy to assist a Sister Parish in her time of need for a clergyman, and will provide the services of a priest on the following dates: February 20, April 3, May 15, June 19, September 25, and October 23. However, we are unable to fulfill your requests for July 17 and November 27. We can assist you on Sunday, July 10 or 24, and on Sunday, November 20. Please inform me as soon as possible if any of these dates will meet your needs. On each occasion, we will notify you by letter regarding the time of the arrival and departure of the clergyman.

St. John's clergymen will be available to celebrate the Badarak on Sundays and make Saturday afternoon or early Sunday afternoon visits to parishioners when the occasion arises. Our

February 10, 1983

clergymen will arrive in your Parish on Saturday, with the stipulation that they return to St. John's by Sunday evening.

I consider your request for a specific priest as interference in St. John's business. We shall make the appropriate assignments that we deem necessary according to St. John's responsibility to her own parishioners.

Wishing Holy Shoghagat Parish success in her endeavors, I remain,

Prayerfully,



Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

cc: His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

August 1, 1984

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor, St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

We received your letter of July 25, setting the date for our visit to your parish and the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, Michigan.

We will be pleased to be with the Detroit parish the weekend of May 18-19, 1985.

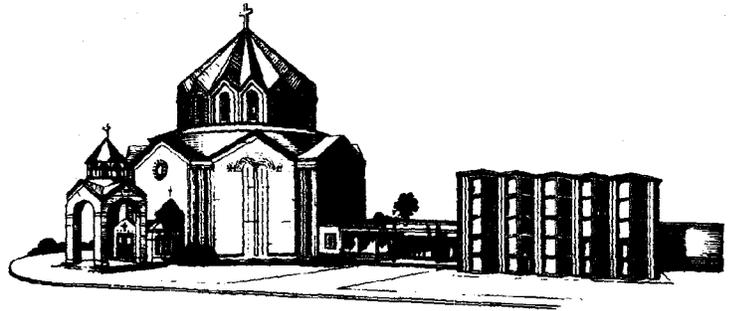
May the Lord bless you and your loved ones, always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manougian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★

PHONE: 569-3405

★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

July 25, 1984

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

On behalf of the Parish Council and myself, I extend our sincere appreciation to Your Eminence for accepting our invitation to visit our Parish and celebrate the Divine Liturgy at St. John's.

In reference to the two dates which you indicated are convenient for you, we have selected the weekend of May 18-19, 1985 to host your visit.

Again, we thank you for your consideration and look forward to spending time with you in our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Paren Avedikian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

September 12, 1984

The Very Reverend Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor, St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Paren:

I received your correspondence dated August 13, 1984 concerning some of the problems to be dealt with as a result of St. John's recent Oriental Rug sale.

It is most unfortunate that the situation with Mr. Hagopian has reached such distasteful proportions.

In reading the correspondence, I agree that many of the claims are totally inaccurate, but again I understand they are being made in anger.

It is strange how we can get people to react both favorably or unfavorably when their finances are being effected.

I hope with God's will we can appease Mr. Hagopian and not forfeit St. John the opportunity to raise funds through this successful method.

If I can serve you in any way please contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Director of Finance

FAS:mb

September 12, 1984

The Very Reverend Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor, St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Paren:

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Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Director of Finance

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

August 13, 1984

Mr. Frank A. Stoneson
Director of Finance
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Stoneson:

I am enclosing all up to date correspondence regarding the problems incurred in conjunction with the most recent Rug Sale held at St. John's. The only material missing is a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at which Mr. Edgar Hagopian, Mr. George Nigoghosian, and Mr. Papazian, an assistant to Mr. Hagopian were present. Since nothing of importance transpired during their presence, the omission of the minutes does not in any way deprive you of any information of vital importance.

I hope that the enclosed information will be of assistance to you.

Prayerfully,

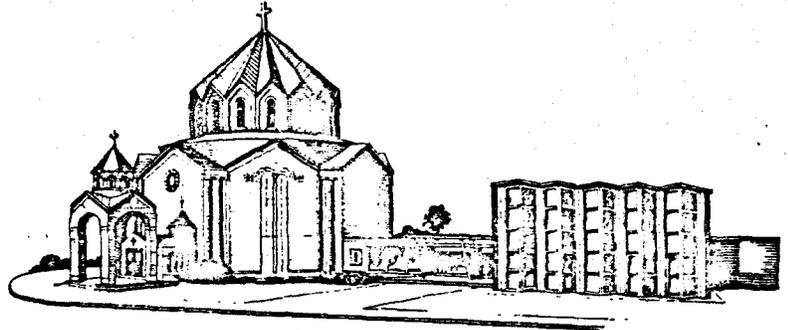
Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

Enc.

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★

PHONE: 569-3405

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

August 10, 1984

Mr. Jack C. Chilingirian
Berschback, Kerwin, Locicero
Chilingirian & Brennan
Lakeshore Office Building-Suite 200
24055 Jefferson Avenue
P.O. Box 319
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Dear Mr. Chilingirian,

Your letter dated August 1, 1984, regarding Oriental Rug Sales was reviewed and discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on August 7, 1984.

The Parish Council does not believe the Oriental Rug Sales violated any laws, State or Federal.

However, if you and your clients believe we have violated any law or laws, please advise us as to what acts we committed, and specifically, what section of what law or laws we violated.

Very truly yours,

Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/rb

BERSCHBACK, KERWIN, LOCICERO
CHILINGIRIAN & BRENNAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
LAKESHORE OFFICE BUILDING-SUITE 200
24055 JEFFERSON AVENUE
P.O. BOX 319
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICHIGAN 48080

(313) 777-0400

DON R. BERSCHBACK
FRANK J. KERWIN
VINCENT F. LOCICERO
JACK C. CHILINGIRIAN
J. MARTIN BRENNAN, JR.

August 1, 1984

THOMAS V. LOCICERO
OF COUNSEL
LAW OFFICES OF
JOHN P. CUSHMAN

St. John's Armenian Church
Parish Council
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

ATTENTION: Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian, Chairman

RE: Oriental Rug Sales

Dear Mr. Mardigian:

Please be advised that the undersigned represents Nigosian Carpet Company, Hagopian and Sons, Inc., and Tadross and Zahloute, retail oriental rug merchants located, and doing business, in the greater Detroit metropolitan area.

The undersigned has received copies of the correspondence directed to your offices on May 23, 1984 by Mr. Edgar Hagopian.

Further, we have reviewed certain other materials as it relates to the sale conducted by your Church on May 17, 1984 through May 20, 1984.

Without prejudice to any of the rights of the parties involved, this letter shall constitute a demand by the above noted merchants that the sale practices, as well as the rug sales themselves, which are apparently contemplated by the Church in the future, cease and desist.

The manner and practice as recited in the above noted correspondence is in violation of State and Federal law. Further, they prejudice the rights of the merchants that the undersigned represents as well as creating false advertising to the public, contrary to the Consumer Protection Act of Michigan.

St. John's Armenian Church
Parish Council
July 25, 1984
Page Two

RE: Oriental Rug Sales

If you wish, we are prepared to meet with your Council, legal advisor, and all interested parties to discuss this matter in detail.

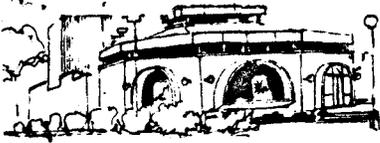
Unless a response is forthcoming on or before August 13, 1984, we will proceed with whatever legal remedies are available in order to protect those rights noted herein. Thank you for your immediate attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,


Jack C. Chilingirian

JCC:yjt

cc: Mr. Edgar Hagopian
Mr. George Nigosian
Mr. Robert Zahloute



HAGOPIAN

June 7, 1984

file

St. John's Armenian Church
Parish Council
22001 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Attn: Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian, Chairman

Dear Mr. Mardigian,

This letter is to confirm my appearance before the church council
June 26, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.

The topic of discussion will be the letter sent to the church
council May 23, 1984.

Very truly yours,

E. Hagopian
Edgar Hagopian
President

EH:ms

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

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PHONE: 569-3405

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

June 5, 1984

Mr. Edgar Hagopian, President
Hagopian and Sons, Inc.
14000 West Eight Mile Road
Oak Park, Michigan 48237-3093

Dear Mr. Hagopian:

I telephoned your office at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 4, 1984, concerning a letter dated May 23, 1984, that you had written to me as the Chairman of the Parish Council. I spoke with Mandy, your secretary, and she informed me that you were out of town. I told your secretary that I did not receive the letter and that it was embarrassing to me that persons who had received copies of the letter were telephoning me about the letter and I did not have it. Your secretary said that she was surprised that I did not have the letter and that she would check the file. She then told me that the original letter was in the file and that she would send me a copy.

I informed your secretary that I was inviting you to the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 1984, at 7:30 p.m. to review and discuss your letter. I was told that you would be out of town on that date; therefore, I am inviting you to the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 1984, at 7:30 p.m. to review and discuss your letter with the entire Parish Council. I asked your secretary to telephone me at work (853-1389) or at home (353-3394) to confirm my invitation to you.

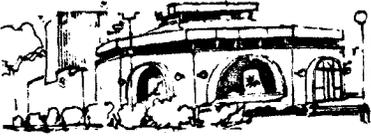
I hope to see you at the Parish Council Meeting on June 26, 1984.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Arthur S. Mardigian".

Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/jh



HAGOPIAN

May 23, 1984

file

St. John's Armenian Church
Parish Council
22001 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Attn: Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian, Chairman

Dear Mr. Mardigian:

I have delayed in writing this letter because of my ambivalent feelings with regard to the sale of oriental rugs by the Church. On the one hand my Church, which has always stood as the pillar of integrity and the unifying force in the Armenian community, and on the other hand these sales which consist of misrepresentation, commercialism, and as a divisive effect on our community.

I told Hysoorp, when he asked me if I would run these events, that the Church would provide the credibility for the persons running these sales, and that the primary reason people would be buying rugs would be to cheat on their taxes. His comment was that he would not compromise the Church's name.

Unfortunately, the Church's reputation has already suffered, and if these sales are allowed to continue, the resulting notoriety and scandal as well as the legal ramifications would be of such magnitude that St. John's will regret having lent their name for oriental rug sales.

I suggest the Parish Council and the Church Elders consider the following problems:

1. The Federal and State Tax consequences of unrelated business income.
2. State Sales Tax ramifications.
3. State Single Business Tax ramifications.
4. The State Attorney General's position on falsely advertising wholesale prices, when in fact they are not. (This has already been documented.)
5. The Postmaster General's position on the use of the Church's free postal permit to solicit business for profit.

6. Since only that portion of a purchase from a charitable organization that exceeds FAIR MARKET VALUE is deductible from personal income tax, and since the ads claim WHOLESALE PRICES, no part of the purchases are tax deductible, by your own definition. What obligation does the Church have to clarify this fact? Further, can the Church when it knowingly deceives by implication, be held liable for the consequences?
7. How can the same Church that does not allow Turkish music to be played at any function, morally justify Turkish rugs being sold on their premises? Certainly, I can create a better argument to justify the music, which is part of our culture and profits no one, than I can for selling new Turkish rugs which supports the economy and government of Turkey today. (By the way, good timing with Martyrs Day.)
8. On Saturday, May 19, 1984, a customer who had purchased a 6.0 X 9.0 Indo-Sarouk rug from us on October 5, 1980, was told by one of the "experts" at the sale that the rug was only worth \$300.00, and that we had cheated her when she paid us \$945.00. This rug was purchased by us from:
Wm. Cherkezian and Son, Inc.
15 E. 30th. Street
New York, New York
We paid \$810.00 for the rug. We have the entire transaction documented including the purchase. I might add that the Cherkezian's are now the third generation of the family-owned business established in 1921, and among the most respected oriental rug importers in America. The question is: What responsibility does the Church have when their agents make malicious, false, and defamatory statements against reputable dealers and importers?
9. What is the impact on the Armenian and Non-Armenian communities? My friends, both Armenian and Non-Armenian, are shocked at the crass commercialism of our Church. The next logical question is why only rugs? How about toasters, televisions and automobiles?

If it sounds like I am angry, I am. I am angry and frankly ashamed that my Church has to reduce itself to this level to raise funds. This is not the yearly fund raising bazaar, that we participated in the past. This is big business. I had always had a more idealistic and nobler view of my Church.

Whenever I have been called upon to make donations for raffles and prizes for the Church, I have done so freely and willingly. I have never refused a request. In fact, I have encouraged them knowing how difficult it is for the same people to ask me over and over again. Whenever I have

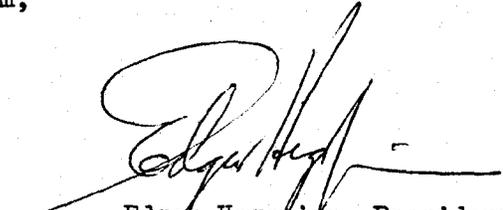
been asked to supply carpet or cleaning services, it has always been at my cost, or many times at no charge. My father did the same. I have always felt it was wrong to profit from the Church. Now my Church feels that it should profit at my expense.

I am angry because if anyone should teach by example it should be the Church. What lessons are we communicating to our congregation and the younger generation? Are we so totally consumed by the profit motive that we forget our purpose in life and the purpose of our Church. Whatever generosity I have extended to the Church was for the unification of Armenians, not because of any advertising benefit. Armenians are a small part of my customer base. I think that most Armenians feel that the Church is the most powerful unifying force in our community. How can it maintain this position without being above reproach? Is it morally right to earn money from Bingo, just because most of the players are Non-Armenian? How can the Church teach right from wrong when you the leaders condone such practices as rug sales and Bingo?

I am angry because you have caused me to take an adversarial position against my Church. How can I squeal on my Church and attend Sunday services or social events with my family?

I think it is about time that we take a good hard look at ourselves and our actions. Our youth is looking at us, and frankly from their perspective, I am not impressed.

Awaiting your reply, I am,



Edger Hagopian, President
Hagopian and Sons, Inc.

P.S. Copies of this letter are being sent to many other interested, concerned and involved parties.

EH:ms

February 4, 1985

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Paren:

We are in receipt of your check for \$5,000 towards Armenian
Patriarchate of Istanbul fund.

Your donation will be reported to His Beatitude in an
appropriate occasion.

Thank you and best regards,

Michael M. Kermian
Director

MMK:mb

RECEIVED JAN 28 1985

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

January 23, 1985

Mr. Michael Kermian, Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Kermian:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 (five-thousand dollars) which is earmarked for the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. Please acknowledge receipt of the check to His Beatitude.

Thank you for your assistance in the above regard.

Prayerfully,

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

Enc.

March 19, 1986

Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Paren:

Thank you for your letter of March 12, regarding the 55th anniversary celebration of St. John Armenian Church of Detroit

We will be pleased to begin the ordination services at any hour that may fit your schedule. We hope that by now you have already received the ordination requirements from Fr. Garabed Kochakian.

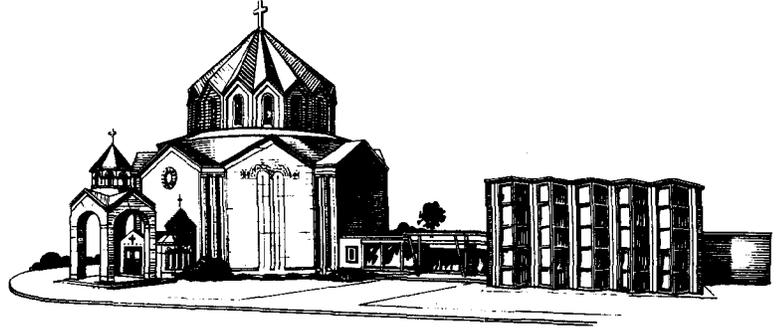
May the Lord bless you with His love and wisdom.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

ՍԲ. ՅՈՎՀԱՆՆԷՍ ՄԿՐՏԻԶ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

March 12, 1986

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

As I discussed with Your Eminence on the telephone in conjunction with the 55th Anniversary Celebration of St. John's, I will be submitting names to you from my Parish for the ordination of Tbir, Clerk; Ouraragir, Stolebearer; and Sargavark, Deacon.

Also, as we discussed, we may be able to utilize this opportunity to bless the veils of the ladies in the choir. Since you have no objection to having these ordinations take place on Saturday, December 6, may I suggest that we begin the service at 5:00 p.m. because the Women's Guild of our Church will have their annual Dinner-Dance that same evening. If you prefer, we can schedule the ordinations for 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. Please notify me of your selection for the time of service as soon as possible so that we can proceed with plans for the occasion. Also, I would appreciate if you would send me the requirements for ordination so that I may prepare my candidates accordingly.

Yes ✓
S. Manoukian ✓

I look forward to hear from you soon.

Respectfully,

F. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

April 22, 1986

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Thank you for your letter of April 15. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as well as the parishioners for your kind hospitality when I visited Detroit recently.

I hope that the discussions we had regarding the DRE work were helpful to bring a better understanding to the matter.

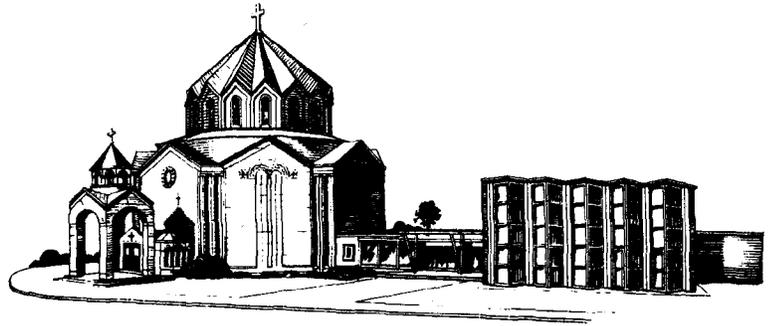
Again, thank you for your hospitality and may the Lord bless you all.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

April 15, 1986

Very Rev. Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Father Khajag:

On behalf of St. John's Armenian Church and myself, I extend our appreciation to you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy and delivering the sermon at St. John's on Sunday, April 6, 1986.

It was a pleasure for our parishioners to have you here among us. As a token of our gratitude, I have enclosed an honorarium in the amount of \$150.00 (one hundred fifty dollars).

I hope that you found your stay in Detroit to be a pleasant one. Wishing you success in your endeavors, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

Enc.

May 25, 1984

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Hayr Soorp:

It was recently brought to my attention that a member of your parish had expressed concern that Southfield was not included in the recent Public Relations Workshop which was hosted by Racine on May 19. The person mentioned that a newspaper item said the workshop was for the midwest parishes, but excluded Southfield.

As you are aware from our monthly PR memos, I have broken the midwest into two separate workshops. The first took place on May 19 for the Illinois and Wisconsin parishes. The second, which we have yet to confirm any dates for, will be for Southfield, Cleveland, Toronto and North York parishes.

I would like to set up a Saturday date for this workshop in the fall, and would like to ask your parish to host it. Southfield would be the best host for several reasons -- you have the best facilities, are centrally located for those parishes, and are the largest parish and would do the best job with attendance and planning.

If you are willing to host this workshop, here are some possible dates:

(all are Saturdays): October 6, 13, November 3, 10, December 1.

I've enclosed a tentative format for the workshop as well, to give you an idea of the schedule. The Racine workshop had 14 people which was an excellent number to work with. Anywhere between 12 and 24 people would be a good working number. These would be people who represent the parish and organizations and are involved in publicity, promotion, or parish publications.

Please advise me of your decision, so that we can begin definite plans. Also, should you have any suggestions on any aspect of the workshop, I'd appreciate your input.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. Continued success with your efforts in Southfield.

Yours,

Michael Zeytoonian
Director of Public Relations

Encl.

MZ:mb

January 10, 1986

Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Paren:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letters of December 26, 27 and 30, with the enclosed checks as follows:

\$2,000.00 for Etchmiadzin Looma
\$250.00 for travel expenses
\$1,000.00 Holly Cross fund of Istanbul
\$1,028.89 Mexican Earthquake and Columbian Volcano
victims.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the various Diocesan appeals for assistance, as well as for your other contributions.

We shall advise the Patriarchate of Istanbul of your donation in due course.

My best wishes to you for the New Year.

Very truly yours,

Michael M. Kermian
Director

MMK:vk

RECEIVED JAN 1 1986

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★

PHONE: 569-3405

★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

December 26, 1985

Mr. Michael Kermian, Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Kermian:

I am enclosing two checks in the amounts of \$2000.00 (two thousand dollars) and \$250.00 (two hundred fifty dollars). The first one is St. John's annual contribution of \$2000.00 as Etchmiadsin Looma and the other check is to defray the travel expenses of His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian for his most recent visit to St. John's.

I hope all is well with you. Wishing you a Happy New Year and a Blessed Theophany, I remain,

Prayerfully,

F. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

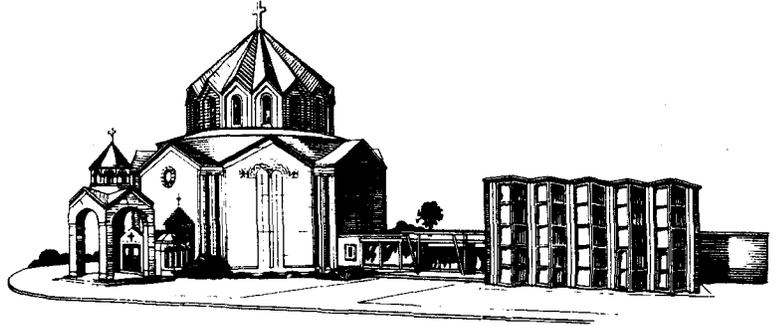
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Enc.

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405

★ SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

December 27, 1985

Mr. Michael Kermian, Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Kermian:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$1000.00 (one thousand dollars) as a transfer to the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. This represents St. John's contribution in support of the mission of the Istanbul Patriarchate for the year 1985.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge the transfer of this gift to His Beatitude.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and a Blessed Theophany,
I remain,

Prayerfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Paren Avedikian". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

Enc.

RECEIVED JAN 3 1986

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

December 30, 1985

Mr. Michael Kermian, Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Kermian:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$1028.89 (one thousand twenty-eight dollars and 89/100) which represents the contribution of St. John's Parish for the Diocesan Fund for Mexican Earthquake and the Columbian Volcano victims.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and a Blessed Theophany, I remain,

Prayerfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. Paren Avedikian". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

Enc.

August 14, 1986

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 49075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Thank you for your letter of August 7. We regretfully accept the resignation of Mr. Alex Keurejian from your parish council, and approve the appointment of Mr. Richard Torigian, a candidate from the 1986 elections to fill the vacancy.

We appreciate the service of Mr. Keurejian as a member of the Southfield parish council, and wish Mr. Torigian a successful term.

May the Lord bless you and the members of the parish council with His love and wisdom, always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

August 7, 1986

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

St. John's Parish Council member, Alex Keurejian, elected in February, 1985 has resigned for personal reasons effective August 1, 1986. In accordance with Article 27 of the By-laws, to fill a vacancy created on the Parish Council from among the 1986 candidates short of election, I have invited Mr. Richard Torigian to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Keurejian.

Herewith, I am providing you with Mr. Torigian's address and phone number for both your records and those of the Diocese: Mr. Richard Torigian, 25516 Lyncastle Lane, Farmington Hills, MI 48018; Home phone: 313-476-8399, Business phone: 313-956-6541.

To fulfill all of the requirements of the By-laws, I look forward to your confirmation of the above choice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Paren Avedikian". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

June 10, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Thank you for your letter dated June 2, informing us that Mr. Arshavir Yeghissian has tendered his resignation from the parish council of St. John of Detroit, due to illness.

We approve Miss Sirvart Merzian to complete the balance of Mr. Yeghissian's term of office.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with His love and wisdom, always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

June 2, 1988

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

This letter will inform you that because of illness,
Mr. Arshavir Yeghissian has tendered his resignation from the
Parish Council of St. John's Armenian Church effective immediately.

Pursuant to Article 27 of the Diocesan By-laws, I have
invited Miss Sirvart Mezian to complete the balance of his term.

Bringing this information to your attention, I remain,

Respectfully,

F. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

July 1, 1988

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

I am in receipt of a copy of a June 12 letter to you regarding the needs for a clergyman by the Cleveland Parish from St. John's Armenian Church. I should first point out to Your Eminence that I resent the fact that the Cleveland Parish has chosen to write to you in regards to their need for a clergyman, hoping to bear pressure on me to comply with their request.

Second, in the same vain, the signatures of all of their Parish Council members does not mean anything more to me than the signature of any officer who might have written. If this is the manner in which the Cleveland Parish officers will conduct themselves in the future, I do not have to put myself out so that a clergyman from St. John's can be made available to them. I have not made any promise to anyone that St. John's Parish will provide a clergyman for the Cleveland Parish consistently on a once a month basis. I have said that whenever possible, St. John's will provide a clergyman to the Cleveland Parish.

The experience of the present or the past Chairman of the Cleveland Parish Council in securing a clergyman from St. John's does not phase me. St. John's is trying to accommodate its own needs by utilizing the services of two full time clergymen. St. John's parishioners are the ones who pay the salaries of their clergymen, and they are entitled to two full time clergymen at all times.

May I remind Your Eminence that twice in the past St. John's has had the services of three clergymen. I should not have had to bother you with this problem, but since the Cleveland Parish officers saw fit to involve you, then it was only proper for me to contact you as well.

In reference to the request of the Cleveland Parish, the following are the only days when St. John's can share a clergyman with the Cleveland Parish

*make a copy
1 to Cleveland
1 to Detroit
file under Parish.*

July 1, 1988
Page 2

for the balance of the year: Sunday, August 14, Sunday, October 9, and Sunday, December 18.

If the Cleveland Parish will be without a pastor in 1989, I would like to hear from them in writing by the 15th of October, 1988; so that by December 1, I will be able to let them know on what days St. John's can share a clergyman with them for the first six months of 1989. Let me take this opportunity to state, as well, that the June 5 visit of Fr. Haik to Cleveland, arranged without prior authorization by ~~me~~, between the Cleveland Parish and Fr. Haik, caused undue inconvenience to our Parish.

Informing this to you, I remain,

Respectfully,



Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

cc: Parish Council Chairman, St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church

August 19, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of St. John's Women's Guild on Saturday, September 24, 1988.

Much as we would have liked to attend this anniversary celebration, we regret that it will not be possible for us as we will be in Etchmiadzin during the second half of September until mid-October.

May the Lord bless you all for your devoted service to His Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

August 12, 1988

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

As the Pastor of St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit,
it gives me great pleasure to officially invite you to attend the
50th Anniversary Celebration of St. John's Women's Guild on Saturday,
September 24, 1988 at 7:00 p.m.

We would be pleased if your schedule will permit you to remain
in our community on the following day, Sunday, September 25, to
celebrate the Divine Liturgy and deliver the sermon at St. John's.
I would appreciate it if you could contact me regarding your plans
at your earliest convenience so that the appropriate arrangements
can be made.

Looking forward to hear from you soon, I remain,

Respectfully,

F. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

44

December 21, 1988

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

We have received your letter of November 1, 1988, concerning the impending retirement of Reverend Father Haik Donikian effective January 1, 1989, and the terms of his proposal as was outlined in his letter to you dated October 18, 1988.

Within our Diocese there are several parishes that are without the services of one full-time pastor. Therefore, at this time we are unable to assign an assistant pastor for St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit.

By means of this letter, you have our consent to proceed and explore the possibilities of securing a suitable assistant for your parish, noting that our office must be kept informed of all persons being considered.

May God bless you and your community and may He grant special courage and hope to our suffering homeland and to us all.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405

★ SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

November 1, 1988

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

At the October 25, 1988 meeting of the Parish Council, we considered the enclosed letter from Father Haik Donikian, and we came to the conclusion that St. John's cannot operate with less than two full time clergymen.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, I am asking you to submit to us names of clergymen for consideration as Assistant Pastor of St. John's or give us your consent to seek a clergyman for this position.

We appreciate the fact that Father Haik has given St. John's a full year's notice of his impending retirement, and we wish to take full advantage of this time. For this reason, please give your utmost consideration to this request. We feel that we cannot afford to wait a few months to begin our search.

Bringing this matter to your attention and looking forward to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I remain,

Respectfully,

F. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/1a

Enc.

October 18, 1988

Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor of St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

I am writing to you at this time with mixed emotions--since after much prayer and reflection, I have had to make a decision regarding my position and future at St. Johns' Armenian Church.

Because of my advancing years and associated health problems and those of my wife--coupled with the extra time needed to spend with her, I feel I will no longer be able to assume the FULL responsibilities of ~~Asst. Pastor~~ of our parish.

However, because of the past eight and one half years of my pastoral responsibilities at this church and among the Armenian community have become so much a part of my life, I would like very much to remain here and to continue to serve in a more limited capacity until my actual retirement.

Therefore, I submit the following proposal to you and the parish council for your careful consideration:

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1989 IN ADDITION TO THE ONE MONTH VACATION I AM CURRENTLY RECEIVING FROM THE DIOCESE, I WILL BE RELEASED FROM ALL PARISH OBLIGATIONS FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE (3) MONTHS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE THREE ADDITIONAL MONTHS WILL BE WITHOUT SALARY--AND BY AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.

I am asking that my present benefits of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the IRA Plan remain unchanged.

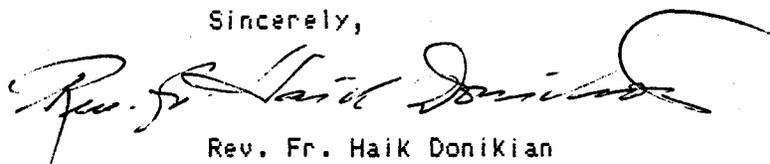
It is my sincere hope and desire that you will review this proposal in the same spirit and understanding the personal needs and situation that have prompted me to make this decision and associated request.

In the event that you and the parish council cannot or will not accept my proposal, I am asking to be relieved from my full time responsibilities as Asst. Pastor of St. Johns' Armenian Church effective October 31, 1989.

I look forward to your early and favorable response.

cc: Archbishop Tokom Manoogian
Parish Council
Diocesan Delegates

Sincerely,



Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian

April 13, 1989

Dr. and Mrs. Bedoian
2452 Coit N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Bedoian:

Of course I understand the tender feelings for children and family expressed in your letter of April 3, and it is painful not to be able to point to a practical way by which you might realize your dreams.

Armenia offers no possibilities whatever since the sense of family is strong there, and orphans are invariably cared for by close relatives. Beirut and the Middle East generally pose other difficulties that make adoption almost impossible.

The only reasonable course that suggests itself to me is through appropriate agencies in this country. The best will be to approach Child Adoption Agency in your neighborhood.

If we here can be helpful in any specific way, please let us know.

May God bless you and grant your wish.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

April 3, 1989

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Archbishop Torkom:

We send you our warmest love and greetings from two former ACYO members who were touched by your ministry. Kay and I met at a St. Nerses summer study conference back in the days when they were held at Seabury Seminary in Evanston. We have recently celebrated our 17th wedding anniversary. During our life together we have been many places and accomplished many things with God's help. One thing that has been missing from our lives is to share our love with children of our own. We have decided to try to adopt a child or children of Armenian or other middle eastern background.

We would very much like to have your help in locating an agency in the U.S. or overseas which can help us find a child to adopt. Please write to us and let us know if the Armenian Church can help us in any way with our search.

We remain Gods children together with you in the Body of Christ and His Church. We offer you our love and prayers for your ministry in the Eastern Diocese.

Sincerely,

Bill + Kay Bedolian

Bill and Kay Bedolian
2452 Coit N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

(616) 361-8189 home
(616) 364-7800 office

April 5, 1989

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Your letter of February 14 was brought to the attention of the Diocesan Council at its recent meeting.

We were all extremely pleased by the efforts being made by your parish and community organizations to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the devastated areas of Armenia; and, if your parish so desires, we can see no reason why the effort cannot be representative of the entire community.

You are right about the wishes of His Holiness; he wants very much for the Armenian-American community to concentrate its rebuilding efforts on Stepanavan, which offers abundant opportunities for our energies and resources.

In fact we have been asked to furnish plans for our projects, which will of course be subject to their approval. Once approved, a formal agreement will be made that will detail and assign responsibilities; then implementation will be initiated.

Everything you propose in your letter is possible. All contacts however, all communications with Etchmiadzin are to be made through the Armenian Relief Committee established by our Diocese.

If there are any further questions, please let us know. Meanwhile continue raising funds even while your group selects a project. The sooner we come forward with specific construction plans the better.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

February 14, 1989

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

Now that His Holiness has returned home, and you may have a few moments, I would like to bring forth an important matter for your consideration. As a consequence of the Earthquake, a meeting was convened on Thursday, December 8, 1988 at St. John's Armenian Church to organize the relief efforts in our community. The meeting was attended by St. John's Parish Council members; Diocesan Delegates of our Parish; the A.G.B.U. Mid-West Coordinator; A.G.B.U. School Board Chairman; Representatives of the A.G.B.U.; Representatives of the Armenian Democratic League; Representatives of the Tekeyan Cultural Association; Representatives of the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul; Representatives of the Detroit Armenian Komitas Monument Committee; Representatives of the Detroit Area Armenian Jewelers (primarily from the Middle East); other active members of the community; and an observer representative from St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church affiliated with Antelias.

It was decided at the meeting, on behalf of all present, to establish a Fund in the name of the Armenia Earthquake Fund c/o St. John's Armenian Church. Our reason for inviting all of these representatives was to insure that our community did not organize many different fund raising and relief committees, so that for our own people and for the non-Armenian community, we presented a united front.

Thus far we have proceeded with this united front and to date have raised over \$850,000.00. There are only three large donations in this total, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mardigian, \$100,000; Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kojanian, \$40,000; and Mr. Raymont Paul, \$25,000. The Earthquake Committee had been waiting for the visit of His Holiness, since the visit was announced in early December, to learn of his plans for the use of the funds collected by our Committee.

We understand from the Armenian Press that His Holiness would like to see the reconstruction of the city of Stepanavan to be adopted as a project to be undertaken by the Armenians of America. At this time, I am asking Your Eminence's approval for our Committee to proceed to adopt a specific project within this

plan and work towards its accomplishment. I understand that His Holiness stated at his meeting with representatives of the American Armenian Community, that individual groups ought to embark on specific projects. My personal feeling is that we, in Detroit, as well as all other Armenian Churches and Armenian Organizations in the United States failed in raising sufficient funds which would enable us to participate in the reconstruction of our homeland in a meaningful way. If it is permitted for communities to pursue specific projects, then we could be more successful in assisting His Holiness and the Government of Armenia with their reconstruction plans.

We are aware of your directives regarding funds collected. If we proceed according to Your Eminence's directives, I am of the opinion that we will be obligated to divide the funds we have collected between the Diocese and other Armenian Organizations' Centers. If we do not divide the money as indicated above, it will be the cause for a major upheaval within the Armenian community of Detroit. On the other hand, going ahead with the adoption of a specific project and to continue raising funds for that project, will please every segment of our community and will be the impetus for a renewed effort which otherwise is breathing its last breath.

Bringing this to your attention and asking for your blessing and approval, I remain,

Respectfully yours,



Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

PA/la

October 6, 1989

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor,
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

I am sorry I have been unable to be in touch sooner; it certainly was not my intention to keep you in awkward suspense. But things have been somewhat of a state of flux, with conditions and arrangements shifting. Perhaps I should at least have apprised you of this, but it seemed too little to say. Now some real shapes are emerging.

Since August two trips have been made to Armenia, one by a group of construction specialists who with local counterparts discussed work conditions and schedules, and the progression by which the extensive project would be achieved. More recently our committee chairman, Kevork Hovnanian, was there as well.

As you know, the community the Diocese has projected, and the Hovnanian Company has designed, comprises 500 apartment units, as well as a number of auxiliary institutions, among them a medical/dental clinic, to make it something of a self-contained entity.

These trips further confirmed the high priority of housing needs, and have convinced the Diocesan relief committee to concentrate on that, building the homes in stages, and setting in the other institutions as we go along.

An exact schedule is not yet available. The authorities there are to have the foundations of the first phase of housing done in the next two months; by the first of the year our supervisory people will be there to initiate construction. Soon after it will be possible to schedule other units and the auxiliary institutions, since the first phase will indicate just how much is possible and in what time span, in the conditions that prevail there.

So we do not anticipate any work on the clinic before next summer; we can be more definite about this in the spring. I earnestly hope this does not prove discouraging to you, your committee members or your parishioners. On my own part, I feel better about our project now than at any time in the past. We have finally overcome all sorts of inertia and bureaucratic inefficiency (some of it our own), and will be embarking on what promises to be a historic project.

I have enclosed an architectural rendering of the proposed medical/dental clinic. Perhaps some significant progress can be made between now and whenever actual construction begins, if your medical people studied and evaluated this, and made whatever recommendations they deemed appropriate, regarding not only the structure itself, but also furnishings and equipment.

It might well be desirable, following such a study, to have a representative group of your committee meet with Dr. Housepian and together come to some conclusions about what will ultimately be built.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jack Antreassian
Executive Director, Diocesan
Fund for Armenia's Recovery

Enclosure



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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

November 28, 1989

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor,
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

We fully understand the disappointment expressed in your letter of October 18, and the anxiety felt by you and your parish for the prompt realization of the project you have adopted and for which you have raised considerable funds. We ourselves have felt some frustration because of the delays that have hobbled our efforts to some extent. But now our work is beginning, and we all, your parish included, have reason to rejoice.

The medical/dental clinic and other auxiliary structures have not been put off by some arbitrary whim, but by compelling circumstances, first among which is the urgent need for housing. Both our own observations and the counsel received from Armenia accord this the highest priority by far, a priority it would be wrong to ignore. There is a further consideration. We will be building our community in stages. The entire project cannot be done at once because we cannot get all the material there at the same time, and the local authorities cannot prepare the infrastructure of the entire project at the same time. The infrastructure of the first phase is being prepared, and the others will follow in order, and the area of the first phase is exclusively apartment units. As the order progresses, and the infrastructure is made ready, the subsequent phases, among them the medical clinic, etc., will be constructed.

We feel sure your parish will understand this, particularly since the project expanded to 640 apartment units, is under way now. The materials for the first phase are being assembled and will be shipped in December, with supervisory personnel to follow immediately. That and subsequent events will be publicized, and early in 1990 drives will be undertaken for additional funds.

This is a critical time for us because the massive project we are embarking on is fraught with uncertainties, the uncertainties of working in a different world, in vastly different circumstances. But though we cannot know what to expect, we are optimistic that we will succeed, and bring this project to a wonderful realization. But we, the Diocese and the Earthquake Committee, need the support and understanding of all our parishes and all our faithful. Together we can accomplish much.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

December 26, 1989

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Thank you for your letter dated November 24, informing us that you have reserved Sunday, December 16, 1990 for the celebration of the Primate's 50th Anniversary. However, we presume that this is a typographical error and the date should read September 16, 1990. Please confirm.

The following is a list of the celebrations planned by three regions:

1. New York and New Jersey area parishes:
January 28, 1990
Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Cathedral
Banquet in Kavookjian Auditorium
2. New England Region
March 25, 1990
Dinner at Our Saviour Church in Worcester, Mass.
Concert in Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass.
3. Mid West Region
April 1, 1989
Divine Liturgy and banquet

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

October 30, 1989

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor
St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, informing that St. John's Armenian Church of Detroit will sponsor a celebration in honor of the Primate on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

It will be appreciated if you will earmark September 15-16, 1990 for this celebration.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

October 30, 1989

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor
St. John's Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, informing that St. John's Armenian Church of Detroit will sponsor a celebration in honor of the Primate on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

It will be appreciated if you will earmark September 15-16, 1990 for this celebration.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

Handwritten: *Yours truly*
Handwritten: *File*
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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

October 19, 1989

His Eminence,
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

Thank you for your assignment of Fr. Samvel Aghoian as Assistant Pastor of St. John's. Fr. Samvel has informed us that he will be arriving in Detroit on November 27, 1989 to assume his responsibilities.

✓ We have made the following arrangements with Fr. Haik Donikian. On Sunday, December 3, 1989 Fr. Haik will celebrate his final Divine Liturgy at St. John's, and following the Church Services there will be a Farewell Banquet in his honor at the Church Cultural Hall. If you, yourself, or any clergy you designate wish to attend, please let us know so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. As of that date, Fr. Haik's position as Assistant Pastor of St. John's will culminate.

✓ Unofficially, I have been told that Fr. Haik will be making his home in Detroit at his present address. So that there are no future misunderstandings, I would prefer it if Your Eminence guides me into the future relationship of Fr. Haik with and within St. John's. I would like to receive your recommendations at your earliest convenience. However, if by the date Fr. Haik leaves St. John's, your recommendation has not been received, I will be making decisions according to the best of my ability.

Thanking you again for your care and concern for St. John's Armenian Church, I remain,

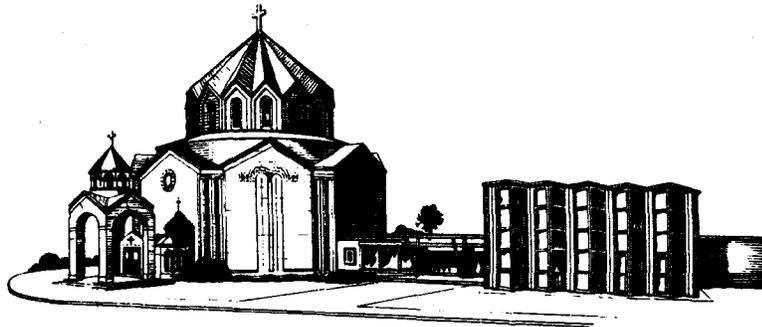
Respectfully,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

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VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
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ASSISTANT PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★

PHONE: 569-3405

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

October 18, 1989

Very Rev. Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Fr. Khajag:

I conveyed your suggestion of sponsoring a celebration in honor of the Primate in February, 1990 to the Parish Council, who reviewed your suggestion and made the following decision.

Since St. John's will be sponsoring a series of events in conjunction with the opening of our Museum and Library in February and March, 1990, we propose the date of the Primate's Celebration Day to take place sometime after September 1, 1990.

Sept. 15-16

Please check with the Primate's calendar and let me know of his availability at your earliest convenience so that we may secure a date on our Church calendar, accordingly.

Bringing this to your attention, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY



PHONE: 569-3405



SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

November 24, 1989

Very Rev. Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Fr. Khajag:

In response to your most recent communication on the subject of the celebration of the Primate's 50th Anniversary of Ordination, as per your letter we have reserved Sunday, December 16, 1990. We are planning to have a Banquet in honor of His Eminence on that day.

If you could share with us plans of other celebrations of the event, we would be most appreciative.

Thank you very much.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

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