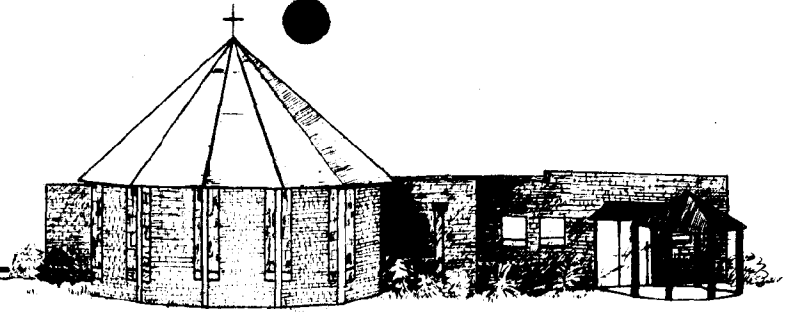


Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 + 618-277-6400



VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

February 28, 1995

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Re: Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church

Your Eminence:

We write you seeking guidance regarding an issue which is very important to our parishioners--the name of our church. Our parish is split approximately 50/50 over whether the church's name should remain Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church or be modified. Emotions are running high on both sides of this issue, and our continued debates only seem to add to this issue's divisiveness. We believe a prompt resolution of this issue is needed.

The following is a review of our parish's actions on this issue. At last year's annual parish assembly on February 13, 1994, a motion was made and seconded to change the name of our church to Holy Virgin Shoghagat Armenian Church. Ten members voted against the motion, and nine members voted for the motion. Accordingly, the motion failed.

On March 21, 1994, we had a special parish assembly for the specific purpose of discussing whether our parishioners wanted to change the name of our church. First, the church members voted 15 to 13 to change the name of our church from Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church. Second, after a series of runoff votes, "St. George Armenian Church" was picked as the new name of our church receiving a majority of the votes.

In a letter dated March 28, 1994, a copy of which is enclosed, we informed you of the results of the special parish assembly and asked for your approval. In a letter dated June 2, 1994, a copy of which is enclosed, you replied and denied the name change. In a

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Khajag Barsamian
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subsequent conversation between Hayr Soorp and your Eminence, you indicated that certain names would probably be acceptable to you, including St. Mary Shoghagat Armenian Church, St. Mary of Shoghagat Armenian Church, Holy Mary Shoghagat Armenian Church and Holy Virgin Mary Shoghagat Armenian Church.

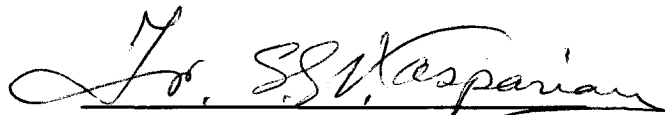
In our most recent Annual Parish Assembly held on February 12, 1995, a motion was made and seconded that the name of our church be Holy Mary Shoghagat Armenian Church from that day forward. This motion failed in a vote of 12 against and 10 for the motion. Immediately thereafter, a motion was made and seconded that the name of the church remain Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church. At this point in the assembly, a question arose as to whether this motion was proper.

We believe that your written response to the following questions/requests will clarify the situation and allow us to properly proceed on this matter:

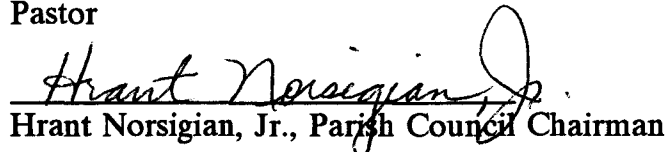
1. Must the name of our church remain Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church?
2. If not, please provide us with a written list setting forth those names which would be acceptable to your Eminence. We intend to use such list of names as an exclusive list of possible church names for our members to vote upon. Therefore, please be specific as to whether "Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church" is on such list of names.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian,
Pastor



Hrant Norsigian, Jr., Parish Council Chairman

HN
encl.