

June 29, 1976

Deacon Manoog Kelegian
Deacon-in-Charge, Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
3600 West Main Street, Apt #2
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Deacon Manoog:

We are pleased to inform you that the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees have approved the sale of parish property to the State of Illinois Highway Department, according to the terms and conditions outlined in your letter of May 12, 1976.

Please keep us informed of any new developments.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc. Parish Council Chairman

st

January 17, 1978

3600 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62223

The Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate
Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York City, New York 10016

Dear Srpazan Hayr,

I have enclosed a flyer announcing a Lenten Retreat for the Midwest area. The Mid West Regional Council of Armenian Churches had asked that I plan a retreat for the area. Some might be "put out" that I'm having it in my area rather than more conveniently in the Northern part of the State. If you do hear anything like this please know that it is not impossible for their youth to come here (mine have gone up there many times for retreats etc.). Secondly, I mentioned in my letters to Fr. Varoujan and Fr. Shnork that, if they can't work up enthusiasm in the youth to come here, then I will try to do a retreat in their area in the Summer.

Perleman [I noticed that nothing on the ordination was in the last of Armenian Church. Hopefully, pictures and an article will be in the next issue about the several ordinations we had here in August.

Madcheem i hampooyr tzer Soorp achooyn,

Fr. Y. Kelegian
Fr. Yeprem Kelegian
Pastor
Holy Shoghagat
Belleville, Illinois

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Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church

July 21, 1978

Very Rev. Sooren Chinchinian
2290 N. San Antioio
Pomona, California 91767

Dear Hayr Sooren:

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, we have been given permission to contact you regarding your possible assignment as Pastor of Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois.

After five years of service to Holy Shoghagat, our Pastor, Father Yeprem Kelegian, is being reassigned to another parish. Naturally, we are anxious for an immediate successor to Father Yeprem and are pleased to learn that you may be available.

Accordingly, we are pleased to invite you to visit our parish soon after Father Yeprem's departure. If your schedule permits, we would hope that you could visit us during the week of August 21 and to celebrate Holy Badarak on Sunday, August 27. Of course, we shall provide for your transportation and lodging expenses and make the necessary arrangements for your visit.

Briefly, we are a small parish located in a suburb of St. Louis. We are presently engaged in the construction of a new Church and Cultural Hall, which will be consecrated November 25 and 26. As the exterior of the structure is nearing completion, we anticipate limited use of the facilities by mid to late September. Our construction project has generated much interest and enthusiasm in our community and we believe our situation affords a unique opportunity and challenge for our new pastor.

We hope this letter finds you well and that you will accept our invitation. We shall be communicating with you shortly to learn of your decision and to answer any questions you may have.

Yours very truly,

George E. Marifian
Chairman, Holy Shoghagat Parish Council

cc: Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Rev. Yeprem Kelegian

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**Holy Shoghagat
Armenian Church**

Box 1187

Belleville, Ill. 62223

March 19, 1978

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

Thank you very much for your detailed letter of March 7, 1978 which informed us of the many things we should know regarding the Consecration of our Church. There were a few things which were unclear however:

1. In the service I see only 12 apostles and Gregory and Paul remembered. I do not see mention of St. Mark and St. Luke the Evangelists. I also do not see any mention of the consecration of the "bema".
 - a. Where in the service would each of the above be if we were to put them into the service.
 - b. Where would we put the crosses for SS Luke and Mark.
2. Are the crosses for SS Peter and Paul to be place in to apse area over the niches since we have no pillars?
3. Is it possible to have more than one Godperson for the Main altar. Since this is obviously the greatest honor there may be more than one person to desire that honor.

We would appreciate an answer as soon as possible since it is necessary to begin the Consecration preparations.

Regarding suggestions for topics for the Clergy Conference: I would suggest that copies of the work that Fr. Semerjian was going to do regarding Abortion, Birth Control, etc., be sent out immediately if we are to have any intelligent conversation on these pressing social and moral problems.

Madcheemk i hampoorgr tzer Soorp achooyn,

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian

Pastor

Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Belleville, Illinois

P.S. Regarding the Consecration. When the words "copes" and "vestments" for the altar are used, do they mean the same thing?

Bank of Belleville

August 25, 1978

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

RE: Holy Shoghagat Armenian
Apostolic Church

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

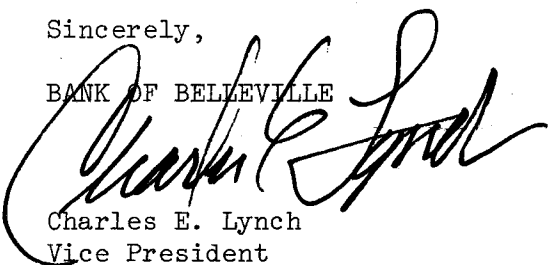
In an effort to complete the required financing for the new church in Belleville, the local title insurance company is requiring your signature on the enclosed documents. This requirement is due to article 94 of the By-Laws of the Armenian Church of America.

Please note that current financing is for the construction period only and when the construction is finished we will prepare new documents for permanent financing, at an amount to be set at that time.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

BANK OF BELLEVILLE



Charles E. Lynch
Vice President

CEL/eb

Enclosure

cc: Mr. George Marifian, Parish Council Chairman
8300 West Main Street
Belleville, IL

November 17, 1978

The Very Reverend Father Souren Chinchinian
Pastor, Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
3600 West Main Street, Apt. 2
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Father Souren:

This is to inform you that His Eminence Archbishop Torkom
Manoogian will be arriving in St. Louis on November 24, 1978
at 3:30 p.m. on TWA flight 142.

His Eminence will be leaving St. Louis on November 27, 1978
for New York City on TWA flight 56 at 12:05 p.m.

Please make the necessary arrangements to meet His Eminence
at the airport, and the necessary reservations for his accommodation.

Yours respectfully,

Syraun Palvetzian
Director

c.c. Parish Council Chairman
Mr. George Marifian

August 9, 1979

Mr. Hrant Norsigian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Post Office Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Norsigian:

We are anxious to resolve the Diocesan dues obligation of the Holy Shoghagat Church as quickly as possible. As per a resolution of the Diocesan Council, a \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) loan requested by the Belleville parish was approved. The Diocesan Council also confirmed that all dues obligations should be cleared within thirty days.

Your current assessment balance, noted in the August statement just forwarded to you, is \$1,288.00.

We would appreciate your prompt remittance. If there are any questions in this regard, please be in touch with us.

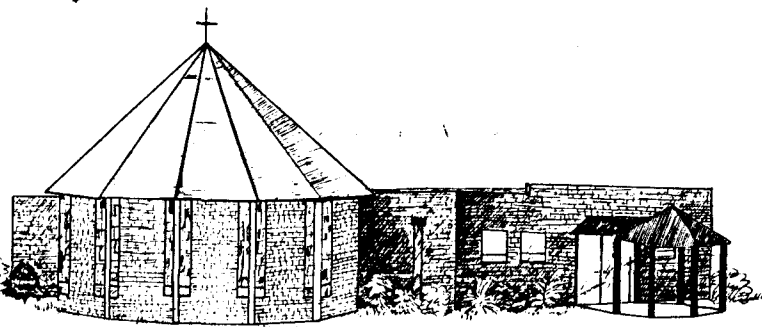
Yours sincerely,

Syraun Palvetzian
Director

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

P.O. BOX 1187 + 400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 + 618-233-9453



VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

September 4, 1979

Dear Members and Friends,

At the recent special assembly the Parish Council was directed to formulate a voluntary contributing program for the purpose of meeting the monthly mortgage payments and also to help meet the additional costs of maintaining our new church complex. This program should be on a regular weekly or monthly contributing system. This is very important.

We have a list of about 50 families and/or individuals who we think will participate in such a program. Assuming that all of them participate, the average contribution per person or family would be about \$20.00 per month. Some will voluntarily give more and others will give less. But we must maintain the \$20.00 average. This program has nothing to do with any other contributions you may make to your church. It is a completely separate program for the two purposes mentioned above. It is important to keep this in mind, otherwise we would not be able to meet a \$30,000 a year budget.

We trust you understand the situation and hope that you will extend your cooperation and contribution.

Parish Council

Rev. Fr. Sooren Chinchinian

Pastor

b1

File

S. S. Joachim & Anne Armenian
Apostolic Church
Palos Heights, Illinois

September 26, 1979

Miss Syraun Palvetzian
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Re: SS Joachim & Anne
1979 Assessment

Dear Miss Palvetzian:

On August 27, 1979 we telephoned the Diocese to question the high assessment levied to our church. In our conversation with Ms. Elise Antreassian we were told that the bulk of the assessment was based on our pledge figure of \$23,783.00. During our conversation it was learned that you interpreted the pledge as donations toward church operational expenses. This is not our case, as all of the \$23,783.00 are monies pledged toward our building fund.

Ms Antreassian explained that this should not be taxable and that we should write to you to explain the situation so that you could refigure our assessment.

We trust you will handle this matter accordingly. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Karneg Boyajian
Karneg Boyajian
Assistant Treasurer

Please direct any correspondence
relating to this matter to:

Karneg Boyajian
6250 W. 129th St.
Palos Heights, Il. 60463

January 28, 1980

His Eminence
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of North America
630 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Your Excellency:

This is to advise you of a situation which occurred after a successful Parish Assembly meeting on January 27 being conducted as you had directed. There was some disruption from non-members and non-active members, though minimal. However, following is what transpired after the meeting:

A parishioner who had just had Hokehankisd said asked Hayr Sooren about the manner in which he performed the service. He immediately pointed his finger at a choir member (me) and said that he had told the choir to do this and we had "defied" him. I answered him by saying that he had never told the choir to do this. I'm sure other choir members will avouch to this. He then said to me, "You lie like you drink water" and then pointed to my husband who is a Parish Council member and said, "I told your husband this in a Parish Assembly meeting, too". I want to point out to you that Hayr Sooren has not participated with the choir at all this year until he had to for Christmas service; and then he only started two weeks before. We have had no other assistance from him. He has said that there can be no choir practice because we have no organ or piano.

This incident, alone, did not precipitate the chaos that occurred, however, due to the fact that everyone's feelings and emotions were high, everyone started yelling and the group was in complete disorder. The main point is that Hayr Sooren, after what he said, left in the midst of all this and could not be found. He did not attempt to calm down anyone or correct the damage he had done. He disappeared, later to be found hiding in the car of a non-member of the church.

The primary purpose of this letter, however, is to implore you to send your emissary at once to attempt to resolve the obvious serious situation created by outsiders of the church. Also, we feel someone should be present -- preferably Your Excellency -- at the next Parish Assembly meeting scheduled February 17. This is imperative. We have worked too long and hard to allow non-members and non-active members to create this situation in our church.

Respectfully yours,
Ron & Bea Leap
Ronald and Beatrice Leap

File

January 28, 1980

His Eminence
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of North America
630 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Your Excellency:

I'm happy to report that the special Parish Assembly was conducted as you directed, and the disruptions were minimal. However, again, as usual, during and after the meeting Hayr Sooren made some inflammatory remarks and also some untruths. After the meeting the Church Hall was in complete chaos. There was yelling, ranting, and accusations persisting for a long time. Hayr Sooren could have prevented it, unfortunately he chose not to.

The reason I'm reporting these events is to stress the urgent need to settle this problem quickly. The sooner our problems are resolved, the better it will be for Hayr Sooren and for our parish.

Our Parish Assembly is set for February 17. We respectfully urge you to be present or send a representative before this date.

Respectfully yours,


Hrant Norsigian
Parish Council Chairman

b1

March 23, 1981

Mr. Lenny Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Post Office Box 1187
Wetkeville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

Mr. Michael Ohanessian, an able and energetic young man who resides in the Detroit area, has expressed an interest in serving our church in some capacity, particularly where our parishes are small and unable to retain people to perform needed organizational tasks.

Mr. Ohanessian is a Deacon of our Church, and a graduate of St. Nersess Seminary, with a fine background in our church rituals and history.

He is prepared to make weekend trips to parishes that can use his service as his gift to the church. Only the costs he incurs may have to be paid.

He works as a computer programmer at the present time, and can be helpful in working with young people, with religious education programs for children and adults, as well as with other areas of church work.

If there is any possibility for utilizing these offered services, please contact Mr. Ohanessian directly.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

Deacon Michael Ohanessian
18551 Snow
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

June 11, 1981

Mr. Len Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Post Office Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

The approved 1981 assessments must be completed and sent out to each parish within the next 10 days. However, as there is a discrepancy on your financial report and summary, it would be appreciated if you will send the following information as soon as possible:

1. Total number of church membership?

We tried to reach you by phone several times but were unsuccessful. Please return the above information immediately by phone or mail not later than June 17th, 1981.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

June 25, 1981

Mr. Len Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Post Office Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

One June 11, 1981 we sent you a letter regarding a discrepancy on your financial report and summary, a copy of which is attached.

We asked for an answer no later than June 17, 1981 and as of today have received no response.

The information requested is necessary to complete our 1981 assessment breakdown for each parish. A delay in notifying each parish of their new assessment may create a financial hardship to them as well as the Diocese.

Your prompt reply would be most appreciated.

Yours truly,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

Enclosure
vv

January 22, 1982

Parish Council Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Ill. 62223

Dear Sirs,

The fifty (50) Khatchkars ordered by Miss Lisa Mouradian were dispatched by U.P.S. on January 21, 1982.

Our Invoice No. 2864, pertaining to this purchase has been sent separately. The price of each Khatchkar is quoted at \$5.00 being the sale price of this item from our bookstore and as stated in our current catalog.

Yours truly,

Hourig Messerlian
Bookstore Manager

C.C. Lisa Mouradian
Suite 918, 818 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo.. 63101

Mr. Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

June 18, 1982

Mr. Lenn Mooradian
31 Kingston Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian asked me to send you
the address and telephone number of the architect, Ramon Hovsepian:

Mr. Ramon Hovsepian, Architect
446 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608
Tel: 617-799-5215

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

May 26, 1982

Mr. Lenn Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
31 Kingston Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

This is to inform you that His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will arrive in St. Louis airport on TWA flight 501 at 11:04 a.m. on Saturday morning, June 5th 1982 for his annual visit to the Belleville parish. His Eminence is scheduled to depart for New York City on June 7th, Monday, on TWA flight 140 at 9:45 a.m.

Please meet His Eminence at the St. Louis airport and make the necessary arrangements for his accommodation.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

March 29, 1983

Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church
P.O. Box 1187
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Ill. 62221

Attention: George E. Marifian

Dear Mr. Marifian:

We received a set of your Parish Annual Assembly Minutes and some other reports on March 18, 1983.

Unfortunately, we failed to uncover the 18 page report form sent out from the Diocese on December 1, 1982 which must be submitted to us in addition to the other material sent by you.

If you do not have this form we are enclosing an additional copy for your convenience.

Please include a copy of the sample ballot form for elections with the election results and also your 1983 budget.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

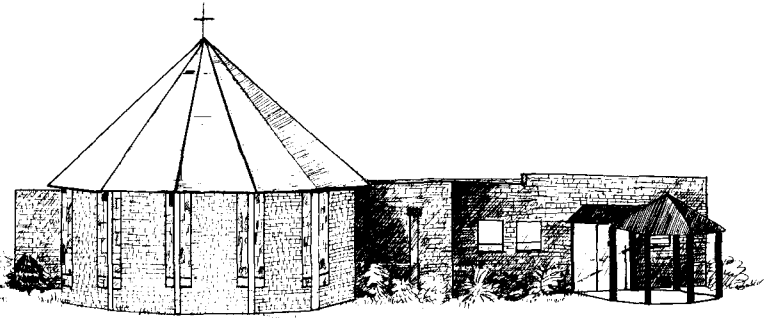
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Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

P.O. BOX 1187 + 400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 + 618-233-9453

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR



May 31, 1983

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

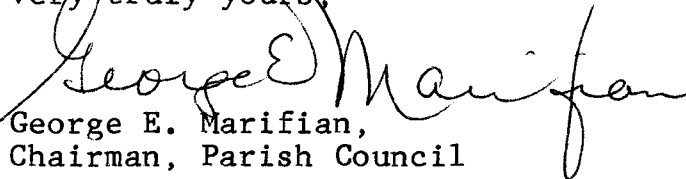
Dear Srpazan Hayr:

We are pleased to inform you that construction of our new altar has begun and we except delivery and installation in the latter part of June or early July.

We recall from a prior conversation with you that you will be traveling to Vancouver, British Columbia on the weekend of July 29-31. If possible, we would like very much for you to stop in St. Louis to consecrate the altar while in route to Vancouver. We could schedule a mid-week consecration to cause as least inconvenience to you as possible.

We hope that you will consider our request and we hope that it falls within your travel plans.

Very truly yours,


George E. Marifian,
Chairman, Parish Council

GEM:jh:R.64

July 20, 1983

Mr. Charles Merzian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
313 Country Club Acre
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Merzian:

Following my recent telephone conversation with Mr. George Marifian, this is to confirm that His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will visit Belleville in August 1983. He will arrive in St. Louis on August 11, 1983 at 6:40 p.m. from San Francisco on TWA flight 502. His Eminence will leave for Chicago on August 13, 1983 at 12:20 p.m. on United Airlines flight #742.

Kindly make the necessary arrangements to meet him at the airport and his accommodation in Belleville, Illinois.

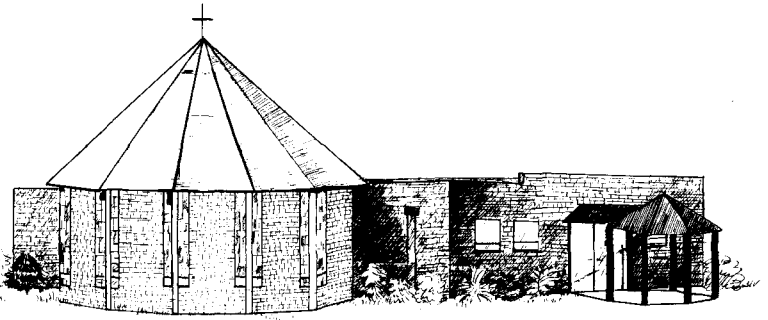
Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

P.O. BOX 1187 + 400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 + 618-233-9453



VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

March 7, 1984

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

Last month when we last spoke, you indicated that the Diocese has available to it artists who can be commissioned to do a painting of the "Madonna and Christ Child" suitable for display in an Armenian Church. As you may also recall, we expressed the desire to obtain more information regarding the cost and estimated date of completion.

Following your advice, we have made the enclosed measurement of the opening in our main altar for which such a painting is needed. We ask that you share this information with the artists you have in mind and advise us regarding the cost and estimated time required to complete such a painting.

Also, if possible, we would like the artist to send us a picture or sketch of the proposed painting so that we may use it in connection with our fund raising efforts.

We look forward to seeing you in June and sincerely hope that we can promptly reach an agreement with the artist so that you can consecrate the painting in June.

We hope to hear from you or the artist soon.

Very truly yours,

George E. Marifian

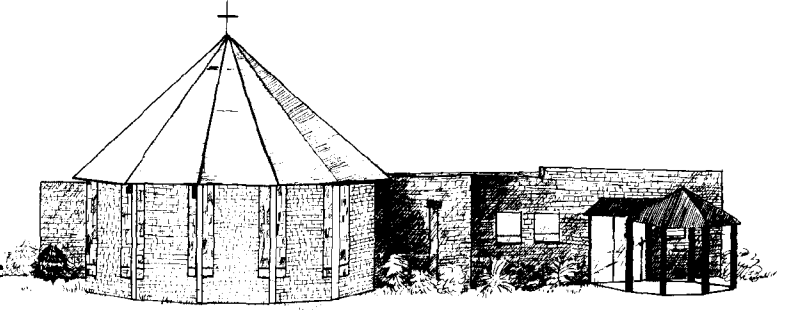
George E. Marifian
Treasurer, Parish Council

GEM:vu

7/10/84

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH



P.O. BOX 1187 + 400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 + 618-233-9453

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

March 16, 1984

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

As we discussed today, enclosed are the following:

1. blueprint
2. artist's sketch

of our new main altar. We hope this information will be of assistance to the artist you have contacted.

Again, we look forward to seeing you in June and sincerely hope that we can promptly reach an agreement with the artist so that you can consecrate the painting in June.

We hope to hear from you or the artist soon.

Very truly yours,

George E. Marifian
Treasurer, Parish Council

GEM/jan

April 19, 1984

Mr. Charles Merzian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
P.O.Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Merzian:

H.E. Archbishop Torkom Mancogian has reviewed your 1983 annual parish report, and enclosed is his letter of approval.

Please note the following points for future consideration.

- a) According to the minutes, your Nominating Committee has been reduced to one person because of the unavailability of the other two members. Hence, no preparation of a slate of nominees for election of annual assembly officers, and only single slate for the rest of the elections.
- b) There was no parish council report in your package.
- c) The questionnaire report was not fully completed.

Thank you for your reports.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Kermian
Director

June 7, 1984

Mr. Len Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
31 Kingston Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

This is to inform you that H.E. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will visit Belleville parish on Saturday, June 16 and will arrive at St. Louis Airport at 11:00 a.m. on TWA flight 419 from La Guardia Airport in New York.

His Eminence will leave for New York City on Monday, June 19 at 10:00 from St. Louis Airport on TWA flight 140 and will arrive at La Guardia Airport at 1:16 p.m.

Kindly make the necessary arrangements to have a parish council meeting with His Eminence and any other meetings with church organizations or programs you may think it necessary while His Eminence is in Belleville.

Kindly make the necessary arrangements for his accommodation and meet him at St. Louis Airport.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

October 1, 1986

Mr. Henry Nercessian
Treasurer
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Rd.
Belleville, IL 62221

Dear Mr. Nercessian:

The parish assessment account of Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church shows an outstanding balance of \$187 for the month of September, 1986.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

With prayers,

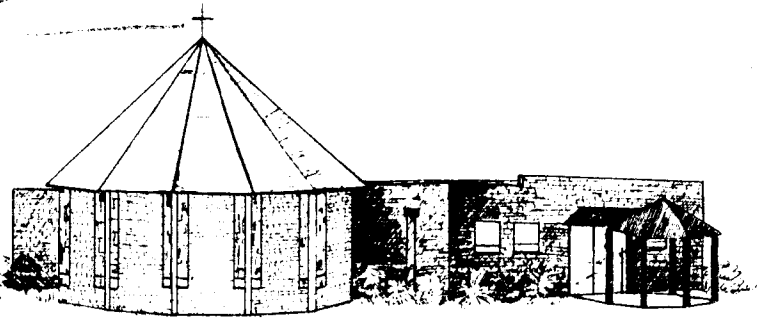
Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

Diocesan Council

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

September 8, 1987

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

In your absence last week I spoke with Siran regarding the 1989 Diocesan Assembly which is to be hosted by the Holy Shoghagat Parish. I told Siran that the first weekend in May is unavailable at the premier hotels in St. Louis; but that the second (Mother's Day) weekend is available.

Although we are more than eighteen months away, we believe it important to confirm the date as soon as possible. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you and the Diocesan Council approve the dates of May 11 through May 14, 1989, for the Annual Diocesan Assembly.

Sincerely,

George E. Marifian

GEM/mw

May 4, 1987

Mr. George E. Marifian
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Marifian:

Thank you for your letter of April 20 extending me an invitation to participate in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the ordination of The Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian to the Holy order of Priesthood.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this big event, because of my commitments ~~at~~ St. Mary's Church in Elberon.

I am glad that your parish has taken such a step to honour Father Kasparian. Some 15 years ago I came to know Father Shnork as my Dean at the Seminary of Holy Etchmiadzin. Since then I have known him as a devoted person with a strong character and deep spiritual insight, a man who is ready to help others even by sacrificing himself. Some of us young students did not at the time understand or appreciate thoroughly the values he taught to us. Not always do we see the fruit of what we plant; as christians we act according to God's will, ultimately God knows what He is doing through us.

On this happy occasion I pray that Father Kasparian may carry on his good work as a true shepherd for many fruitful years for the consolation of his flock and for the glory of God.

With prayers,

Fr. Haigazoun Najarian
Acting Vicar General

February 2, 1988

Mr. Charles Merzigian
Computer Micrographics, Inc.
915 Olives Street, Suite 206
St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Mr. Merzigian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian asked me to send you the enclosed microfiche of the Tekor Church, St. Sarkis, which you will transfer into microfilm, if possible.

Kindly return the microfiche to the Diocese as it is part of volume I of the Armenian Architecture series.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

Enclosure

June 9, 1988

His Eminence Torkom Manoogian
Primate Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016-4885

Your Eminence:

We have always considered ourselves fortunate that the financial improprieties and moral lapses that have become so evident in the Protestant Christian churches have not occurred in the Armenian Apostolic Church. However, we were recently shocked to see a situation with one of your clergy that we regard at the very least as an ethical impropriety.

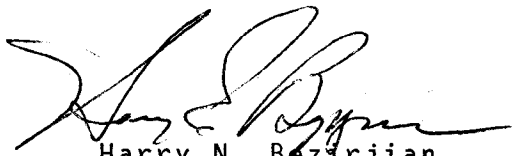
Mrs. Vartanoush Vartanian of Belleville, Illinois, recently died at the age of 85. We are her closest relatives. She has been in declining health and mental awareness for several years. Father Gregory Kasparian helped greatly during these years. He has counseled her, kept us informed of her condition, and in this last year, took over the management of her financial affairs.

We are grateful for his help; however, we were shocked to discover after the funeral that our aunt, Vartanoush, named Father Kasparian as the sole beneficiary of her estate. In our discussions with Father Kasparian after the funeral, we discovered that in 1986 she declared her intent to Father Kasparian to leave him all of her estate; that he fully knew the provisions of the will; and in 1987 he even took her to a lawyer to redraft the will in legal form.

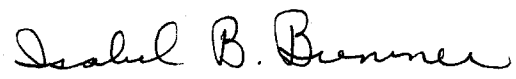
We have no objection to our aunt leaving her entire estate to the church. We strongly object to Father Kasparian permitting her to leave her estate to himself. It seems patently evident to us that in order for a priest to lead his congregation morally, his actions must show moral and ethical correctness. Ethical correctness for a priest must stem from duty, religious conviction, and love, not personal benefit. If a priest assists parishioners for his own personal gain, where does someone turn for moral guidance?

We know this matter will concern you as much as it does us. We also would appreciate knowing what actions you have taken to insure this situation does not occur again.

Sincerely,


Harry N. Bezirjian
2808 Quail Lakes Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

702-254-0028


Isabel Bezirjian Bremner
1671 Elstow Court
Westlake Village, Ca. 91361

805-497-4948

June 26, 1989

Mr. Peter C. Merzian
Assistant Comptroller
Magna Bank of Belleville
4800 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Merzian:

Miss Palvetzian was pleased to receive your letter of June 25, and asked me to have our records checked and respond on her behalf.

The listing of remittances as recorded on her earlier letter is accurate, as confirmed by the photocopies of the receipts you appended.

There are seven remittances referred to, the first five of which were listed in Miss Palvetzian's letter, totalling \$24,959.18 as indicated.

Of the remaining two, one (\$951.87) was remitted in May, weeks after Miss Palvetzian's letter; and the other (\$7,565.35) was received from friends of Peter Merzian, and not credited to the church. It will be done so now, since that apparently was the intention.

We are most grateful to you for your personal efforts, as we are to the entire parish for its sympathetic response to this crisis.

Sincerely,

Jack Antreassian
Executive Director, Diocesan
Fund for Armenian Recovery

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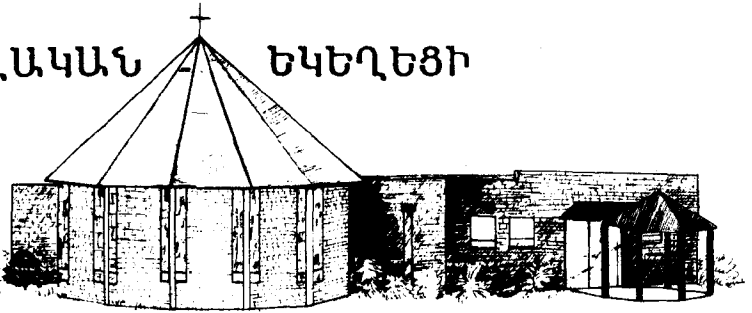
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Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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

VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN, PASTOR



August 3, 1989.

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

Your Eminence,

It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1989, together with your check No. 1236 for the amount of \$1,670.- towards the expenses incurred for the Church's automobile regarding our Pastor's attendance to the Governing Board Meetings of the National Council of Churches in Lexington, Kentucky, in May 1989.

We do appreciate very sincerely your assistance and your kind generosity in undertaking the full amount to cover this unexpected expense. One and all we remain thankful to Your Eminence for your support at all times.

Respectfully Yours,

Peter Mersian

Peter Mersian
Treasurer

Hrant Norsigian

Hrant Norsigian
Chairman Parish Council

Fr. Shnork Kasparian

Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor.