

August 13, 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 and your Parish Council that the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees have approved the purchase of a suitable three-acre parcel of land at Huntwood Drive in Belleville, Illinois, for \$18,000.00.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc. Mrs. Liberty Tourlajian
Parish Council Chairman

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DRAFT LETTER TO DEACON MANOOG KELEGIAN

/and Your Parish Council

We are pleased to inform you that the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees have approved the purchase of a suitable three-acre parcel of land at Huntwood Drive in Belleville, Illinois, for \$18,000.00.

OK

cc. Chairman, Parish Council

NOTE FOR SERPAZAN HAYR:

We have received approval for the purchase of land from 9 members of the Trustees. ~~Mr. Dorian has not sent his yet.~~

Four are missing from the Diocesan Council, namely, ~~Very Reverend Paren Avedikian~~, Mr. Korkoian, Mr. Mekenian, and Colonel Juskalian (although he has signed one form for the Trustees).

ST

November 3, 1977

The Reverend Father Yeprem Kelegian
Pastor, Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
3600 Main Street West, Apt.2
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Father Yeprem:

We are pleased to inform you and your Parish Council that the Diocesan Council has approved the construction of the Church building in Belleville according to the plans as prepared, at a cost of \$180,000 (one hundred and eighty thousand dollars), and that work should begin immediately.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

c.c. Mr. George Marifian
Parish Council Chairman

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Holy Shoghagat
Armenian Church

PRESIDENT:

Deacon Manoog Kelegian

CHAIRMAN:

George E. Marifian

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Dan Moynihan

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Hrant Norsigian

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Aris Bogosian

TREASURER:

Charlotte Tatosian

ASS'T TREASURER:

Helen Nersesian

ADVISORS:

Mike Bohigian
Ron Leap

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

September 12, 1977

8300 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Srpazan Hayr:


A Special Parish Assembly of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church was held on Sunday, September 11, 1977, to consider the question of construction of a new Church and Cultural Center. The Minutes of the Assembly and copies of the reports presented to the Assembly are enclosed herein in accordance with Paragraph 17 (B) of the BY-LAWS of the Armenian Church of America.

Briefly, the Assembly received reports from the Parish Council and the Architectural and Finance Committees regarding our progress toward the start of construction. A full discussion of the design, the projected costs, the methods of financing construction and the projected budget for 1978 was had, after which a motion was entertained to authorize construction of the Church and Cultural Center as recommended by the Council and the Committees. The motion received the votes of 86 percent of the members present and voting, and in accordance with Paragraph 17 (B) of the BY-LAWS, the motion passed.

We have been given a deadline of October 1, 1977 as the latest date that construction may be commenced in 1977. Thereafter, the risks of adverse weather prohibit the start of construction until Spring of 1978.

We humbly request that you and the Diocesan Council approve the Minutes of the Special Parish Assembly and that the Diocesan Architectural Committee give early approval to our architectural plans.

Respectfully,


George E. Marifian, Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Parish Council

September 25, 1978

Mr. George Marifian
Parish Council Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
8300 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Marifian:

In our letter of November 8, 1977, we gave approval to the Parish Council of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of East St. Louis, to begin construction of a new Church and Cultural Hall according to the plans submitted. Although not specifically stated, our approval extended to the Parish Council arranging outside financing up to \$80,000.

Pursuant to paragraph D4-K of the Bylaws, this letter shall serve as authority for the Parish Council to execute the necessary mortgage documents related to the construction project.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

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Holy Shoghagat
Armenian Church

September 13, 1978

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10012

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

Enclosed is a suggest letter to the Holy
Shoghagat Parish Council authorizing it to execute mort-
gage documents to finance the new Church construction.

If the language meets with your approval, please
send us this letter on the Diocesan letterhead bearing your
signature.

Sincerely,

George E. Marifian, Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Parish Council

GEM:ct

Enclosure

September 13, 1978

Mr. George E. Marifian
Chairman, Holy Shoghagat Parish Council
8300 West Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Marifian:

of the Holy Shoghagat Parish Council
In our letter of November 8, 1977, we gave approval to the Parish Council to begin construction of a new Church and Cultural Hall according to the plans submitted. Although not specifically stated, our approval extended to the Parish Council arranging outside financing up to \$80,000.

Pursuant to Paragraph 94-K of the By-Laws, this letter shall serve as authority for the Parish Council to execute the necessary mortgage documents related to the construction project.

Prayerfully yours,

OK

January 18, 1980

His Eminence
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Srpazan:

We are writing you in regards to a letter you received from the Holy Shoghagat Parish Council dated January 7, 1980 defaming Hyer Soorp Sooren Chinchinian. In this letter you are told that the council has "the backing of almost all of the parishioners", which is totally untrue.

We, as parishioners, are appalled at the thought that a group of adults could write such a defaming letter about a priest and still have the audacity to send such a letter to Your Grace about one of your own clergy. We fervently pray that you take offense to such discrediting tactics.

It has been our misfortune that our parish council has repeatedly fought with almost every priest we have had at our church throughout these past 24 years. Certainly the parish council can't always be right and the priest or deacons always wrong.

We have, as parishioners, also had our disagreements with these same individuals. Therefore, we can assure you that we know exactly how Hyer Soorp feels. Most of us do not attend church regularly now because of these same circumstances. Church is a place to go for prayers, to seek solace, and to seek christian fellowship. Not being able to attain this - right or wrong - we stayed home rather than having to fight or get upset over such conditions. Yet later, when one of us try to return to our Church we are not made welcome. If we are asked to serve on committees and try to do so, we are told we have no business doing this because we do not attend church. Yet when they need financial support we are told as members and parishioners we should give.

By no means are we implying that we or Hyer Soorp are perfect, but then we think its time other individuals realize they aren't either. We have never at anytime been responsible for parishioners leaving the church.

What good is a new church - that has over-extended its finances - without a priest? A priest is the foundation of the church. Without a foundation a building will collapse and we certainly do not want to

see this happen here. Our church has always needed and wanted a priest. The priest is the individual we seek for solace - not council members, etc. As Archbishop, we beg you at this time to stop these conditions and circumstances causing this dissention, once and for all, for us and our church. Afterall are we not your children too, or are we just the forgotten children of the flock.

Respectfully yours,

Armenie Houbanian

Tamara Houbanian

Allison Kordejian

Sabille Movsesian

Rafie Annecian

Argela Taurajigian

Helen Nersisyan

Armenia Kaprielian

Henry F. Lannert

Kathryn Lannert

Harry Vartanian

Harvey S. Spalberian

Mary J. Petrosian

Dr. J. J. Petrosian

Solomon Kaprielian

Charles Taurajigian

Rose Movsesian

Gina Houbanian

January 21, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Norsigian:

We have received your letter of January 7, 1980, and have read the allegations concerning Father Sooren Chinchinian. This is the first instance of any official complaint regarding the Reverend Father, and the matter will be carefully investigated by the Primate and the Diocesan Council before any decision is reached. The Primate or his representative shall travel to Belleville at the earliest possible opportunity further to examine the case.

We hereby inform you, however, that the Bylaws of our Diocese do not empower any parish council to terminate or otherwise alter the duties of a priest, nor is the parish council permitted to issue any ultimatum to that effect. Consequently, your decision cannot be approved.

It is our prayer that this grievance will be settled amicably by the grace of God, so that love and understanding may prevail amongst all the children of our Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

P.S. We enclose a pamphlet "How to Address the Clergy" for your information and use in future correspondence.

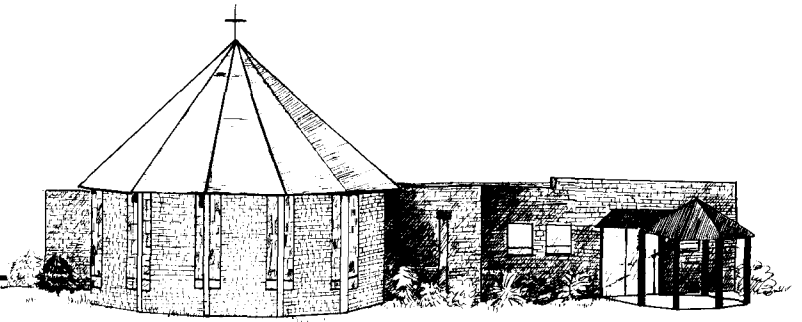
c.c. Father Sooren Chinchinian

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR



Jan. 7, 1980

Your Grace,

We hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirit.

The time has come to inform you that the Parish Council, unanimously, and with the backing of almost all of our parishioners, respectfully urges you to relieve Hayr Sooren from his duties as priest of Holy Shoghagat. We find him to be extremely unsuitable as a parish priest for a number of reasons. He is lazy and shirks his duties as a parish priest in many ways. He has created serious dissention with his words and by his actions. Apparently the result of a serious character flaw. Cooperation seems not to be a word in his vocabulary.

We have pointed these things out to him but they have fallen on deaf ears. We have reached a point where his presence in our parish is intolerable and subject to even more damage to us if he remains much longer. We have decided to terminate his salary and whatever other subsistence we have been responsible for on Jan. 31, 1980. We do not intend to inform him of our actions until you have acted on this letter.

We have been rather general in our criticisms of Hayr Soorp, but, if you wish, we can list many specific instances to back our remarks. Hopefully it will not be necessary to go into detail.

We urge you to please act on our request as soon as possible.

H. Norsigian	-	Chairman
R. Leap	-	Vice Chairman
C. Tatosian	-	Recording Secretary
R. Nersesian	-	Corr. Secretary
A. Petrosian	-	Treasurer
J. Korkoian	-	Advisor

Hrayr Norsigian
Ronald J. Leap
Charlotte Tatosian
Rose Nersesian
Ally Petrosian
Jack Korkoian

HN/rn

July 16, 1980

Mr. L.L. Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Post Office Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

In answer to your letter of July 3, 1980, His Eminence directed me to inform you on the following matters that you presented to him:

1. His Eminence gives his approval to hold a special Parish Assembly with the purpose of seeking approval to complete two classrooms. Please take note that the ultimate decision rests on the Primate and Diocesan Council whether to approve your Parish Assembly's decision and according to the By Laws.

2. Concerning your 1980 Parish Dues, as you know, the fiscal year begins in January and ends on December 31st. Father Souren Chinchinian was pastor up until May, 1980 therefore, a portion of your dues will reflect that you had a clergyman until that time.

3. You will be informed of those clergymen who will be available to perform services at the dates you requested.

4. This is to confirm that His Eminence will be visiting your parish on December 20-21, 1980.

I hope the information above is satisfactory and answers the questions you had.

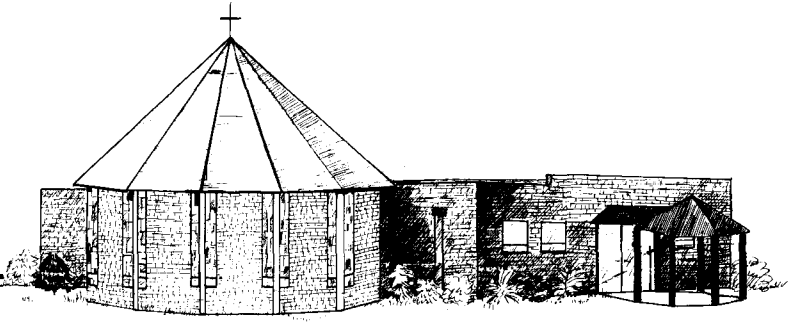
Prayerfully,

Father Houssig Bagdasian
Vicar General

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

July 3, 1980

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

Your Eminence:

We write you with regard to several subjects as follows:

- yes ✓
1. We request approval to hold a special parish assembly for the sole purpose of approving the expenditure of funds already existing to complete two of the five Sunday and Armenian school rooms. This work is outside the approvals given by previous parish assemblies.
 2. The data with regard to the 1980 Diocesan dues received from Syraun Palvetzian should be corrected as follows:

Clergy is 0 not 1

?

- [
3. With regard to visiting clergy, we would appreciate arrangements for the following dates preferably from the midwest area:

Sunday, August 10, 1980
Sunday, September 21, 1980
Sunday, October 26, 1980
Sunday, November 30, 1980

- yes
4. We wish to confirm Your Eminence's visit to our parish on December 20-21, 1980. We have set plans in motion to celebrate the second anniversary of the consecration of our church at that time.

Respectfully,

L. L. Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman

LLM/lk

September 25, 1981

MR. L. L. Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church
31 Kingston Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62223

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

We are in receipt of your letter dated September 11, 1981 addressed to His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

The Primate has reserved the weekend of January 30-31, 1982 for a visitation to Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church and will advise you at a later date of his plans.

Yours truly,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

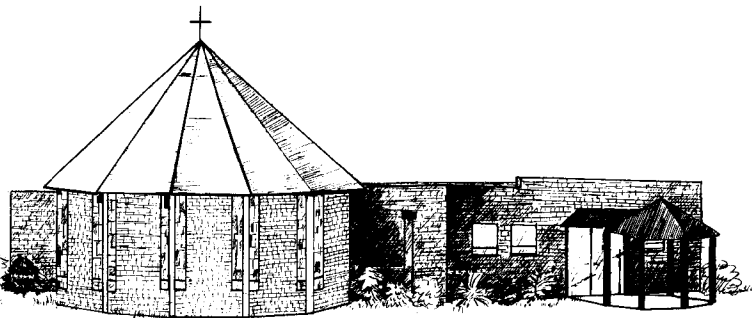
SS

cc: Mr. Ron Leap

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



September 11, 1981

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

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

Your Eminence:

After a meeting with the parish council, it was decided that the silver anniversary celebration of our parish would be delayed until Your Grace's visit on January 30-31, 1982.

This letter confirms our request that you visit our parish at this time. We hope that this letter finds Your Grace in the best of health.

Respectfully,

L. L. Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman

LLM/1k
cc: Mr. Ron Leap

9/22
Primate to
Visit on 30-31
Reserved weekend
for you will
advise you of
arrangement etc.

October 7, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

We have received your letter dated September 22, 1981 regarding the ordination of the four acolytes to Sub-Deacons.

We have written to the Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Pastor of Our Savior Armenian Church, 87 Salisbury Road, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, and asked him to send you the necessary information with regard to the preparation necessary before the ordination of the four acolytes to sub-deacons.

If you need any further information, please contact Father Kochakian directly, and he will instruct you accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

October 7, 1981

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian
Pastor, Our Savior Armenian Church
87 Salisbury Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

Dear Father Garabed:

In January 1982, the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church of Belleville, Illinois will be ordaining four acolytes to sub-deaconites, and they are anxious to have information with regard to the preparation necessary before elevation to this rank.

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manooqian will appreciate if you will kindly send the necessary information to the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Lenn Mooradian of 31 Kingston Drive, Belleville, Illinois 62223.

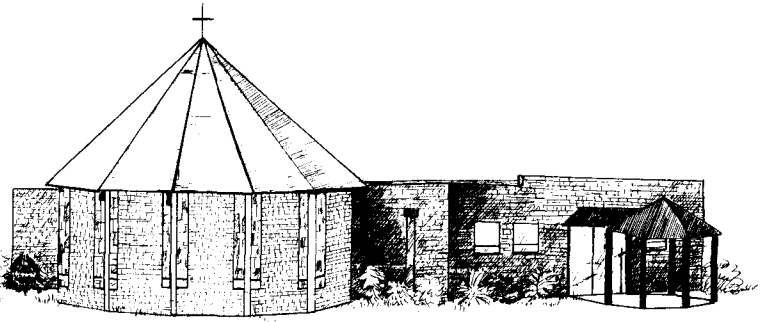
Yours respectfully,

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

September 22, 1981

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

Your Eminence:

With regard to the upcoming January 30-31, 1982, visit to our parish, we respectfully request that our four acolytes be ordained sub-deaconites during your visit. We would appreciate any information that the diocese can supply with regard to the preparation necessary before elevation.

The names of our acolytes are Hrant Norsigian, Peter Merzian, Harry Merzian and Paul Nersesian.

We hope that this letter finds your Grace in good health and we look forward to seeing you in January.

Respectfully,

L. L. Mooradian /lk

L. L. Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman

LLM/lk

CC: Mr. Ron Leap
Mr. Hrant Norsigian
Mr. Peter Merzian
Mr. Harry Merzian
Mr. Paul Nersesian

*① Ask Fr. Garabed Kochakian
to send material to Belleville.
② Ask Belleville to contact
Fr. Garabed for more information.*

December 7, 1983

Mr. George E. Marifian
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
Post Office Box 1187
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Marifian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has received your letter dated November 30, 1983 and asked me to inform you that he will visit the Belleville parish on June 16 and 17, 1984.

We will let you know details of his arrival time, etc. at a later date.

Yours sincerely,

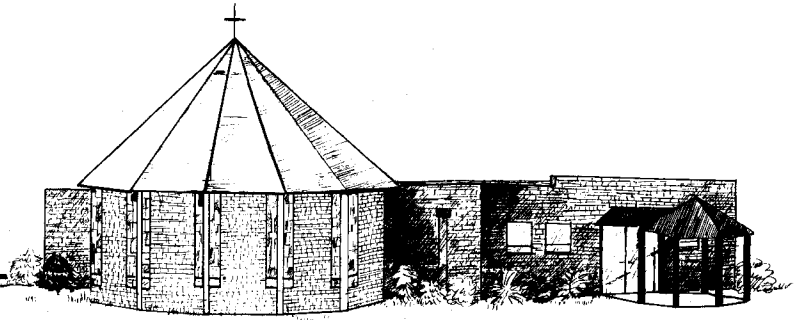
Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

c.c. Parish Council Chairman

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

November 30, 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:

I enjoyed talking with you again today, it seems that our conversations are too few and far between. As I explained to you, we are very anxious to arrange for a pastoral visit by you in 1984. You indicated that a June date appeared preferable from your standpoint.

Accordingly, we are writing to formally request a pastoral visit by you in June, 1984 at the date most convenient to you.

We anxiously await your letter advising us of the date of your June, 1984 pastoral visit to our community.

Wishing you and all of our friends at the Diocesan office warmest greetings during the holidays.

Very truly yours,

George E. Marifian
George E. Marifian

GEM/jan/P.88

June 16-17/84 ok

February 28, 1984

The Very Reverend Father Varoujan Kabaradjian
Pastor, St. James Armenian Church
816 Clark Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Father Varoujan:

This is in response to the request of the Parish Council of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois, dated January 17, a copy of which was sent to you.

We approve their recommendation to appoint you as the visiting pastor to the Belleville parish according to the stipulations outlined in their above-mentioned letter.

It is understood that your monthly visits to Belleville will not interfere with your current duties as the pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, Ill.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones always for your concern for the welfare of His Church.

Prayerfully,

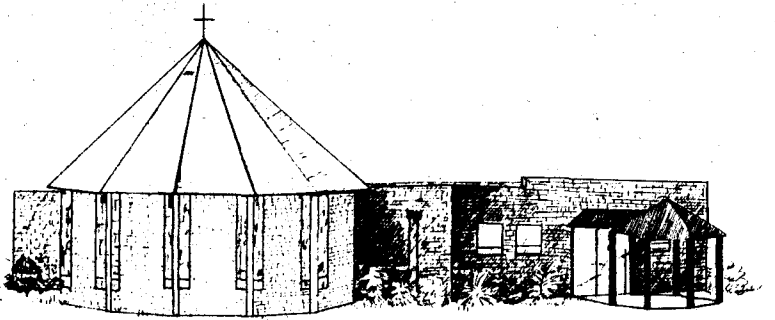
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

c.c. Chairman, Belleville
Chairman, Evanston

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



To be approved

Letter to: 1) Fr. Varoujan, copy to his parish Council
2) copy to Holy Shoghagat Parish Council

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR

January 17, 1984

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

At the most recent meeting of our Parish Council, it was decided that we should approach one of the midwest clergy men with the possibility of establishing a visiting pastor for 1984. Our Council believes that for the continued health and well-being of our Parish, it is necessary that we have a visiting priest on a regular basis.

We have approached the Rev. Fr. Varoujan Kabaradjian, Pastor of St. James Armenian Church in Evanston, Illinois regarding whether he was receptive to such invitation. We explained to him that in addition to celebrating Soorp Badarak monthly, that when possible, he would come a few days early to provide various pastoral functions such as visiting the sick and elderly, meeting with the various church organs, organizing social and cultural activities and in general, helping to improve the quality of our parish life.


Despite Fr Varoujan's busy schedule, he expressed a willingness to serve as our visiting pastor for 1984. It is for this reason that we write to you; to seek your permission and your blessing.

Our proposed arrangement with Fr. Varoujan and St. James Armenian Church would be as follows:

1. Fr. Varougan would visit our parish on a monthly baiss, with the dates being selected to least interfere with his duties as the Pastor of St. James.
2. We would reimburse St. James Church for the monthly visit in accordance with the Diocese's published schedule.
3. We would pay for all of Fr. Varoujan's travel and lodging expenses and provide him with the use of a car, if practical.
4. We would make a personal gift to Fr. Varougan of not less than \$100 per visit; but possibly more, in the event he spends more than 24-36 hours in our parish.

We sincerely hope that you will approve this arrangement and communicate your decision to us and to Fr. Varougan. We anxiously await your favorable response.

Very truly yours,


George E. Marifian for
Charles Merzian,
Chairman Parish Council

cc: Very Reverend Fr. Varoujan Kabaradjian
8293 Elizabeth
Niles, Illinois 60648

April 9, 1984

Mr. Charles Merzian
313 Country Club Acre
Belleville, IL 62223

Dear Mr. Merzian:

On Saturday, May 19, a Public Relations regional workshop will be presented for the people of the Wisconsin and Illinois Armenian Churches. The participation of the Illinois churches was discussed and decided upon favorably at our regional meeting in Chicago on March 24.

This workshop is being offered for the first time and has been designed by our Public Relations Office. Its purpose is to help train and provide for those in your parish who are working at the promotion or the publicity of any and all parish activities events, organizations and departments.

We will discuss the many facets of public relations as it applies to parish life and its practical application, given our needs and budgetary situations.

The workshop is being hosted by the St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, Wisconsin. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp and should conclude by about 4:30 p.m. It is free of charge, includes a lunch and is open to anyone in your parish who has either the responsibility or the interest in public relations. This may include those who work on your monthly newsletter, weekly bulletins, publicity committees, and those who plan events.

I hope that you might be able to attend as parish council chairman and bring at least one other member from the council with you. I also ask that you encourage the appropriate and interested people in your parish to attend. Enclosed please find a workshop format which gives an idea of the program. There will also be a guest speaker and an active working session, in which we will break into groups and design a PR campaign, and then critique it.

Please let me know, either by phone or letter, at your earliest convenience, how many in your parish will be attending so that we might make adequate arrangements for food and materials.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and support and look forward to seeing you and your parish people in Racine on May 19.

Yours,

Michael Zeytoonian
Director of Public Relations

N.B. I realize that your parish council may be in transition and electing new officers, and that you may not be the chairman in the year ahead. If so, please take it upon yourself to present this to your council or forward it to the appropriate person.

August 31, 1984

Mr. Len Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, IL 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 regarding the appointment of Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian as a permanent priest for your parish.

We have already approached Fr. Shnork on this matter and therefore, feel free to write or telephone him to set up a meeting date. You can reach him at (401) 231-4140.

As to the other items in your letter, we suggest Levon Menatzaganian for the altar painting, and Raymond Hovsepian for designing the church entrance. You can reach Mr. Menatzaganian at 11 Avon Pl., Arlington, MA 02174, tel. (617) 646-5590 and Mr. Hovsepian at 446 Main Street, Worcester, MA.

For your reference and guidance, we enclose the blueprint section of the Holy Resurrection Church of New Britain, CT, as rendered by Mr. Hovsepian.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones always for your concern for the welfare of your church and community.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

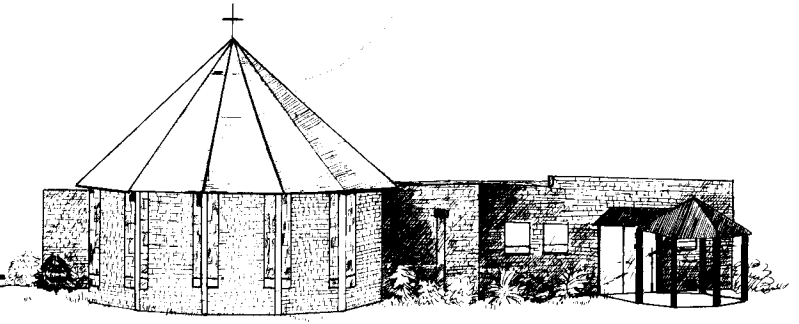
Encl.

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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

VERY REV. SOOREN CHINCHINIAN, PASTOR



July 30, 1984

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

Dear Serpazan Hayr:

During your recent visit we discussed the possibility of the assignment of the Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian to our parish as a permanent priest.

As indicated by the Parish Council at that time, we look upon this suggestion in a most favorable way and request that Your Grace make the preliminary communication necessary for Father Kasparian to visit our parish so that the Parish Council may further discuss with him your suggestion.

In addition, the following items were discussed:

1. Acceptable artists for an altar painting. *Raymond Hovsepian*
2. Suggestions for an architect to design the Church entrance. *Raymond Hovsepian*
3. Possible American translations that can be used concurrently with our present Church name.

All of us found your visit to be most refreshing and encouraging, and we hope this letter finds Your Grace in good health.

Respectfully,

Len Mooradian
Len Mooradian
Parish Council Chairman

*From Tel. # 50 Hov
they can contact him
we have spoken to him
he is away
yourself*

March 3, 1987

Mr. Len Mooradian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Mr. Mooradian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian asked me to thank for your letter of February 25, regarding his visit to the Belleville parish.

His Eminence will be pleased to visit Belleville on the weekend of May 15-17, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the ordination into the sacred priesthood of the Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian.

We will keep you informed of travel arrangements at a later date.

Sincerely,

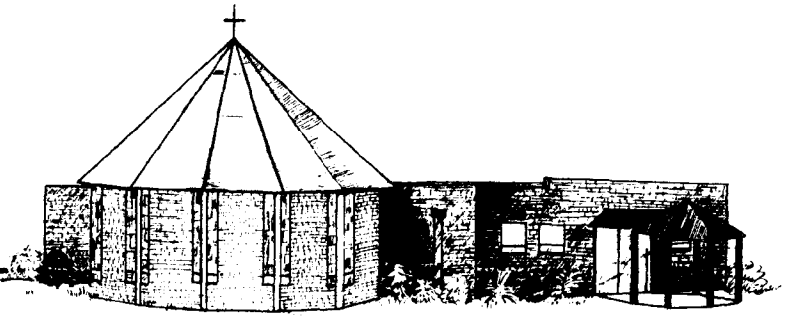
Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

cc. Mr. George Marifian

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

February 25, 1987

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

We are delighted to learn of your plans to visit our parish on the weekend of May 15-17, 1987 to lead us in worship and celebration on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination into the Sacred Order of Holy Priesthood of our pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian.

Kindly confirm your pastoral visit so that we may begin our publicity efforts.

Sincerely,

Holy Shoghagat Armenian Apostolic Church

George E. Marifian
By: George E. Marifian,
Secretary

Yes

GEM/sa

July 13, 1987

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

We enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated June 17, received from Mr. Zaven Hatutian of Kansas.

Kindly let us have your comments by return of mail, and any explanations you may have against certain statements raised in the letter.

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

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

Enclosure

Zaven G. Hatutian
12606 Ensley Lane
Leawood, Kansas 66209
June 17, 1987

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016-4885

Your Eminence:

I Have received your letter dated June 5, 1987 for which I thank you. Your short presence among us was of great significance and spiritual enlightenment for all of us here in Kansas City; an awareness of belonging, and enhancement of our Armenian heritage.

Allow me, Your Eminence to go through the events of the past few weeks, here in Kansas City, in particular since the visit of Father Kasparian on June 3, 1987.

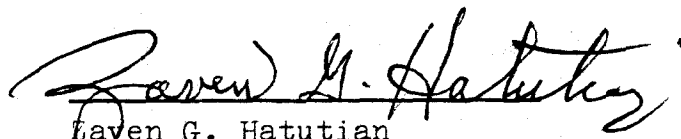
All of us are aware of the rift of the Armenian churches in the United States, a sorrow chapter in our history. From day one when we all met, we made it clear to each other that we will stay unified and not cast any allegiance to either part of our division in churches. After all, Your Eminence, you do not need to go very far to count the few Armenians of our community on your fingers. We have agreed to stay unified with no political affiliation.

All that changed on the day of June 3, when Father Kasparian visited us. The meeting of parish council in our home dragged into late hours at night. An ultimatum was issued to us by Father Kasparian: "Either you go by my wishes or the parish council is dissolved." Your Eminence, you should have seen the anguish among the parish council members. One by one, they walked away, with tears in their eyes and disbelief on their faces. Our hopes of understanding and planting the seeds of love amongst us was shattered. We felt that our basic human rights, the freedom to think, speak and decide for ourselves was stripped from us. Our democratic means have ceased to function. This was against our very basic moral belief.

I do not need to go far back but to remind you May the 14th, our historical day here in Kansas City when you assigned my daughter Jennifer to read Chapter XIII of the 1st Book of Corinthians during the Badarak. I could hardly restrain my tears of joy at that moment. It still vividly rings in my ears when Elizabeth Zakaryan approached you: "Serpazan Hair, would you baptize me?" An adult person of Protestant upbringing wants to be baptized in Armenian Apostolic Church?. O Lord, have mercy upon us....Armenians.

Your Eminence, our hearts and homes are open to you. I hope that in your very busy work schedule, you can devote little time to come and visit your lost flock here in Kansas City. Your words of May the 14th are still ringing in our ears; they will ring forever.

Hopefully and Prayerfully yours,


Gayen G. Hatutian

February 3, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian asked me to bring to your attention the enclosed letter dated January 19, regarding the annual parish assembly of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois.

All official letters presenting decisions of the Parish Assembly or Parish Council should bear the signature of the Pastor. We shall, therefore, wait for the official letter with your signature, which will be presented to the Diocesan Council for their consideration. The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is on Friday, February 19, 1988.

With prayers,

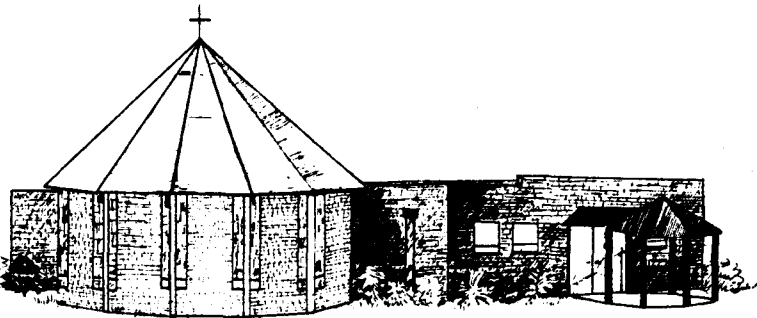
Fr. Haigazoun Najarian
Acting Vicar General

cc. Parish Council Chairman
Enclosure

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

January 19, 1988

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

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

On Sunday, January 24, 1987, the Holy Shoghagat Parish will conduct its annual Parish Assembly. Included on the agenda is the election of four members to the Parish Council. Last evening, the nominating committee informed us that they were having difficulty in securing candidates to fill the vacancies created by retiring members Hrant Norsigian, Len Mooradian and George Marifian. In accordance with the Diocesan By-Laws, these individuals have served for three consecutive terms and are ineligible to seek re-election at this time. We direct your attention to Article 26 which permits small parishes to apply to the Primate and Diocesan Council for a waiver of these rules.

We believe Holy Shoghagat is a small parish within the meaning of Article of 26. In view of the difficulties presented, we respectfully request that you and the Diocesan Council waive the three term provision to permit any or all of the above individuals to be eligible for one additional two-year term.

Sincerely,

George E. Marifian

George E. Marifian
Chairman, Parish Council

*- return to Fr. Shnork
for opposite letter, presenting the
decision of the Parish Assembly
- The parish's signature should
appear on the letter.*

February 5, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian asked me to bring to your attention the enclosed letter dated January 27, regarding the nomination of four eligible members who would be willing to serve on the parish council.

All official letters presenting decisions of the parish assembly or parish council should bear the signature of the pastor. We shall, therefore, wait for the official letter with your signature, which will be presented to the Diocesan Council for their consideration. The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is on Friday, February 19, 1988.

With prayers,

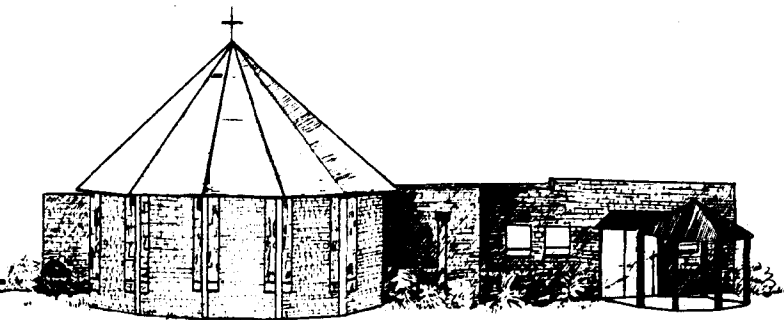
Fr. Haigazoun Najarian
Acting Vicar General

cc. Parish Council Chairman
Enclosure

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

Janaury 27, 1988

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 follow up to our correspondence to you of Tuesday, January 19, 1988, we are writing to bring you up to date with regard to recent developments.

On January 24, 1988, our annual parish assembly was held as scheduled. One of the items on the agenda was the election of four members to the parish council for two year terms beginning in 1988. The nominating committee reported to the assembly that it was unable to secure four eligible members who would be willing to serve on the parish council. Nominations were open to the floor but no nominations were received.

The nominating committee then asked for a ruling from the chair as to whether it could conduct an election when it offered only three names to fill four vacancies. The chair observed that if a vote was held and the three candidates were elected, the new parish council would be comprised of eight members, give rise to potential problems should there ever be a split vote by the council.

The chairman thereafter sought the sense of the assembly, which voted unanimously to post-pone the election for the parish council until such time as the Primate responds to our letter of January 19, 1988.

We anxiously await the response of the Primate and Diocesan Council to our letter of January 19, 1988.

Sincerely,

George E. Marifian
Chairman, Parish Council

March 3, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

Thank you for your letter dated February 9, 1988, regarding the re-election of members of your parish council who have completed three terms (six years) serving on the parish council of the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois.

In view of the exceptional conditions prevailing at the Belleville parish, we hereby authorize the re-election of Hrant Norsigian, Len Mooradian and George Marifian to serve for one additional term (two years). This exception is made for this term only. At the completion of the above term, a slate of new members from the parish must be submitted for election.

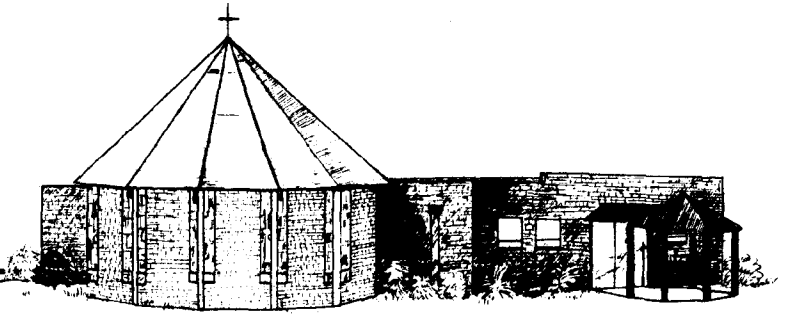
Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

Holy Shoghagat

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VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

February 9th, 1988.

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

Your Eminence,

The Annual Parish Assembly of our Church took place on January 24, 1988 where we faced a major difficulty which we now wish to submit to your attention for the consideration of the Diocesan Council.

As you well know Holy Shoghagat being a very small parish and struggling very hard, is now experiencing the problem of securing four eligible members to serve on the Parish Council. Three members having already served for three consecutive terms are now ineligible for re-election. These three members are: Hrant Norsigian, Len Mooradian and George Marifian.

In view of the fact that Article 26 of the By-Laws states that small parishes may apply to receive permission for the re-election of retiring members, the Assembly unanimously voted to postpone the election for Parish Council until we hear from the Primate, since we only had three eligible candidates at the present.

We, therefore, the Parish Assembly, respectfully request from Your Eminence, that the provision stated by Article 26 be granted to us in order to name the above mentioned individuals eligible, enabling us to elect our Parish Council.

Thanking you in anticipation, we remain,

Respectfully Yours,

Hrant Norsigian
Hrant Norsigian
Secretary

Peter Merzian
Peter Merzian
Chairman

Fr. Shnork Kasparian
Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian
Pastor and President

April 20, 1988

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
President of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

We have received your letter dated April 6, 1988, and note with regret that the Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, Illinois, will be unable to host the 87th Annual Diocesan Assembly in 1989. Reluctantly, we consent to your decision.

May the Lord bless you all with His love and wisdom, always.

Prayerfully,

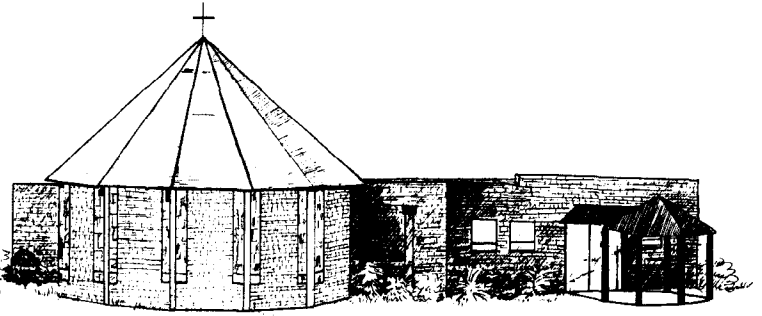
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc. Parish Council Chairman

Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

+ 400 HUNTWOOD ROAD + BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62221 +



April 6, 1988

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Eastern Diocese of North America
New York

Your Eminence:

As Secretary of the Parish Assembly, I must inform you that the Parish Assembly expressed a consensus that we are not in a position to host the 1989 Diocesan Assembly. We sincerely hope this decision does not cause any serious disruptions.

We did not arrive at this decision lightly. For instance, we held six consecutive Parish Council meetings to discuss and analyze the pros and cons. We used information from minutes of past Diocesan Assemblies and went through in detail the daily activities involved in the Assemblies and studied them thoroughly. The consensus of the Parish Council meetings was that we just do not have the manpower to host a Diocesan Assembly properly. Five years ago when we bid for the Diocesan Assembly, we were in a position to handle it properly. But since then, our community, small as it is, has dwindled dramatically. Many have passed away, some have moved away and some have become aloof. The profile of our Parish is quite different today than it was five years ago.

The will is there but the practical aspects of hosting a Diocesan Assembly overwhelmed us. The decision we arrived at was not an easy one. We spent many agonizing hours discussing it. I would like to make this point very clear.

The financial reward, if any, was also discussed thoroughly. From reading reports of other host churches, their greatest profit came from the members preparing the food and selling it. It would be impossible for us to do that.

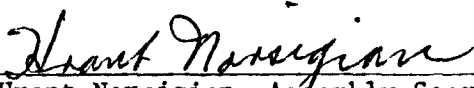
Furthermore, if most or all of our efforts were concentrated on the Assembly, many of our normal church activities would suffer and thus would not enable us to meet our budget. Even if the Assembly were a huge success, it would only represent about 20% of our budget and we will have spent about half of the year on it. This would be intolerable.

All Parish Council members individually expressed their views and evaluations. We all have the desire to host the Diocesan Assembly and the good will is there, but everyone was realistic to the fact that it is a task much above our capacity, making it impossible to undertake--besides the great lack of committed parishioners.

Your Grace, I hope this information will help you understand our position; partially as you are not fully aware of our community difficulties. This is not the same Parish as it used to be even five or six years ago.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Merzian, Assembly Chairman


Hrant Norsigian, Assembly Secretary

Approved:


Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian

July 18, 1988

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

Dear Surpazhan Hayr,

As I expressed publicly on two occasions last week, I thoroughly enjoyed my week at the Dicese's Armenian Teachers' College. It was a magnificent experience.

I learned so much, Surpazhan Hayr, and the learning did not only take in the classroom. I truly feel that I am a better person as a result of my St. Vartan exposure. Once again, I thank you for making all this possible.

Surpazhan Hayr, I want you to know something. For a while now, I have greatly curtailed my church involvement (workwise, I mean). The reasons are not important; I only mention this because I want you to know that my week at St. Vartan will cause me to change this stance immediately.

As I take time to ponder this, I cannot help but feel that Hayr Shnork had this very thing in the back of his mind all the time he was encouraging me to attend the college. This was, after all, his idea. Of course, his response to all this will be, I am certain, only that all-knowing grin he flashes when that which he wishes has been accomplished.

Regarding Hayr Shnork, I meant to tell you last week, Surpazhan Hayr, that Hayr Shnork has been a great help to my husband and me during a recent difficult time. (It is not that Dick and I were having a problem but rather that one of our nieces, Armenouhi Khachoyan Shaw, was creating havoc for us and for Hayr Shnork, too, actually). Anyway, he was ever so patient and helpful, especially regarding my husband. Naturally, we appreciated this very much, and

I just wanted to share this with you as complaints are always plentiful but accolades are usually lacking.

Again, thank you for a glorious week. I also thank you for my mother's beautiful letter. I know she will be very moved when she receives it this Sunday. I wish you good health and continued success with your work.

Respectfully submitted,

Zahelle Tantanian
(Zwyl)

July 27, 1989

The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor
President of the Parish Council
Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church
400 Huntwood Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Dear Fr. Shnork:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian received your letter dated July 15, also signed by the parish council chairman, Mr. Hrant Norsigian, and the treasurer, Mr. Peter Merzian, regarding your attendance of the Governing Board meetings of the National Council of Churches of Christ in Lexington, Kentucky, in May 1989.

Enclosed please find a check for \$1,670 (one thousand six hundred and seventy dollars) towards the expenses incurred for your automobile.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibalshian
Secretary to the Primate

Enclosure

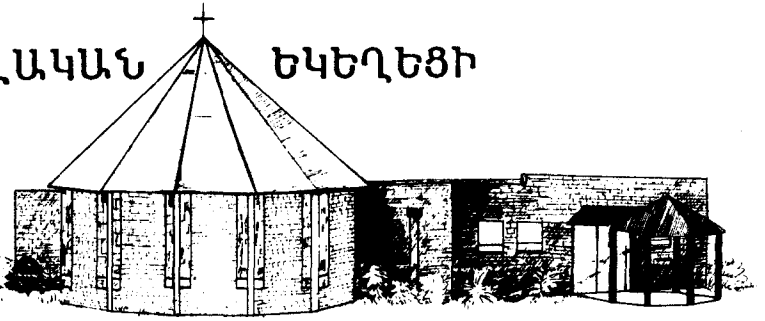
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Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN, PASTOR

Personal

July 15, 1989

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

Your Eminence,


Some time ago our pastor, Fr. Shnork Kasparian, had discussed with you the trying experience he went through when his automobile broke down on the way back from Lexington, Kentucky, Friday evening, May 19. He was compelled to spend that night in a motel and return the next day by bus; also, he had to make two trips to Kentucky in order to bring the car back to Belleville. He was without a car for almost two months, when finally the car's faulty motor was replaced by a second-hand engine.

As Hayr Soorp has explained to you on a previous occasion, our church is experiencing serious financial difficulties, and we are trying very hard to make ends meet. An additional expense on Hayr Soorp's automobile in the amount of \$1670.- makes our task extremely difficult. We would, therefore, be very grateful if you would kindly assist us in any way you can. This would enable us to take care of other pending bills which have accumulated. We regret that we are burdening you with our problems which sometimes become very difficult to solve.

Thanking you in anticipation for your understanding and assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Peter C. Mersian
Peter Mersian
Treasurer


 Hrant Norsigian
 Chairman Parish Council

Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor