

September 20, 1990

The Very Rev. Khajag Barsamian  
Primate.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885

Dear Hayr Soorp:

As Delegate of the Holy Resurrection Parish in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I feel it imperative to inform you and the Diocesan Council of my concern for how the Parish Council has misused its power during the past year and how this misuse has adversely affected this parish.

Since first taking office, the Parish Council Chairman has used his office to meet the needs of a select few, and not the needs of the parish. Michael Hayalian, in his inexperience, has sought the counsel of Charles Kademian and has requested his presence at every Parish Council meeting to date.

During the meetings, Charles Kademian has worked to mislead the other inexperienced members of the Parish Council. He successfully convinced them that we face a financial crisis (which is not the case). As a result, our Chairman stated at the July 23, 1990 meeting that we could not afford to continue to employ Deacon Serop Aljalian. This was supported by Charles Kademian and another parishioner present at the meeting, Elliot Kashian. Mr. Kashian also made several statements at this meeting questioning the financial viability of our church.

Their comments twisted the truth about our financial status. As you know, we are very financially secure at this time. Except for Parish Council members Armen Hadjinian and Kathy Kaishian, no other members of the Council spoke in favor of Deacon Serop at that meeting. Kathy Kaishian has since resigned from the council.

Deacon Serop has had to deal with the frustrations of having a Parish Council Chairman who is unwilling to consult with him regarding any plans for the church and Council meetings. He has also been subjected to the rumors of our inability to pay Deacon Serop at the specified stipend amount. These rumors have been proliferated in the community by Charles Kademian, Elliot Kashian and their small group of cohorts.

The majority of our members are in favor of and support the work Deacon Serop has done. He has worked very well with our youth and has tried diligently to organize our parish and revitalize it. The only reason that he has not succeeded in all of his endeavors is that the Parish Council has not worked with him, nor has it encouraged him in his efforts.

The problems in this parish continue to be caused by a select few who are concerned solely with financial issues and, admittedly, are not concerned about the spiritual needs of our church community. These are the same select few who have not attended church services regularly for at least one year in protest because they were not in favor of Deacon Serop's assignment to this community. This, despite the fact that Deacon Serop's assignment had been unanimously approved by the Parish Council. They have openly expressed this to Deacon Serop.

Our new Chairman is extremely inexperienced in the ways of our Church. He has chosen to listen closely to the negative voices in our parish and has allowed them to guide his decisions and set the tone at the Parish Council meetings.

The parish is very distraught over this matter. To the majority, Deacon Serop's leaving represents the beginning of the end for our parish. Many of us who have worked so diligently through the years to keep the parish running smoothly are now continuing the efforts only as long as Deacon Serop remains. It will then be up to those who forced him out of our community to worry about how the parish will survive when he leaves.

We will continue to worship in our church or others, but will not work in our own parish as long as those negative forces remain in charge.

Thank you for allowing Deacon Serop to come to our community to provide a fresh breath of life, albeit for a short time. The vast majority of our parishioners will miss him greatly and our parish will suffer one of its greatest losses.

Yours very truly,

*Leif Peterson*

Leif Peterson  
Diocesan Delegate

LP:sf

cc: Judge Vincent Curahian

Syran -

File

November 5, 1990

Deacon Serop Aljalian  
Deacon in Charge  
Holy Resurrection Armenian Church  
909 Michigan Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Dear Deacon Serop,

This letter is in response to the letter from Mr. Charley Kademian dated July 23, 1990.

I apologize for the delay in responding, however, I did have to do further investigation.

With regard to Item A, the Diocesan Council has recommended the issuance of a \$709 credit for clergy assessment.

With regard to Item B, and using information obtained from your Annual Parish Assembly reports, the following disposition has been made.

In 1985 you reported 92 members in your parish, and the 1986 assessment for 1985 also reflected 92 members. This is correct.

In 1986, no Annual Parish Assembly reports were received or found to be on record. I, therefore, derived your 1986 membership by going to your 1987 reports which showed 68 members, and that same report showed a decrease in membership by 14 from the year 1986. I then added the 14 members back to the 68 members of 1987 resulting in 82 members in 1986. The 1987 assessment for 1986 reflected 81 members. This was one member in your favor.

In 1987, your reports showed a membership of 68 members, and were assessed for 82 members in 1988 for 1987. This is clearly an error. I assessed an amount of \$38.43 per member by taking assessed amount (\$3151.99) and dividing by 82. I then multiplied 68 members by the \$38.43 and arrived at the correct assessment of \$2613.24. The difference is \$538.

Beyond this point, I see no errors in your assessment.

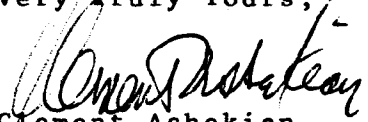
To summarize, you will be issued a credit for \$709 for clergy, and \$538 for membership totaling \$1247.

I will notify the Diocesan accounting department to update their records.

I trust this will close the matter out. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call or write.

You should have in your possession the entire packet showing your reports and annual assessment. Please refer to them for edification.

Very Truly Yours,

  
Clement Ashekian  
Treasurer, Diocesan Council

84 Ellsworth Boulevard  
Kensington, CT 06037  
(203) 828-6160

July 2, 1991

Mr. Elliot Kashian  
Parish Council Chairman  
Holy Resurrection Armenian Church  
909 Michigan Avenue  
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

Dear Mr. Kashian:

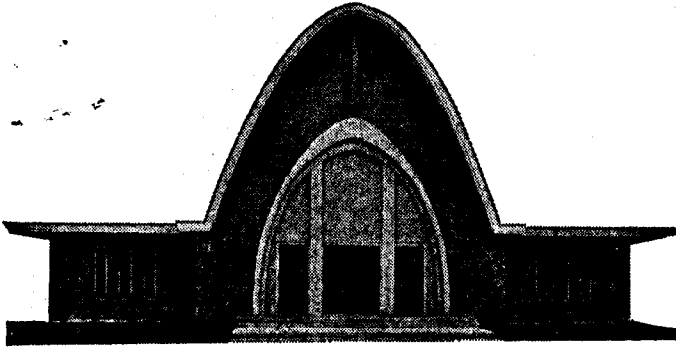
Recently, a number of complaints have been received via the Primate's office concerning correspondence from the Parish Council Chairman of the South Milwaukee Church, specifically an undated letter which, among other announcements, seeks a volunteer typist.

Having received a copy of the memo, I must admit its questionable language and misspellings do not seem appropriate for a letter from an official of the Church. The work of the church is certainly not easy and I am aware of the particulars in the case of South Milwaukee. But any letter from you should still reflect the style, tone, and professionalism of your office. Please consider this in future correspondence.

May God bless and guide us all in every endeavor in His service.

With prayers,

Fr. Haigazoun Najarian  
Vicar General



## Holy Resurrection Armenian Apostolic Church

909 Michigan Avenue - (P.O. Box 143)

South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

Office: 762-7460

Date 5

Dear Parishiner,

This is to inform you the next service will begin at 10 A.M. on Sunday the 16th of June. There will be no morning service so please be aware that mass will begin at 10 AM.

Also please note this typewriter sucks and I am typing this with one finger. Anyone wishing to agree to type ~~me~~ bi-monthly notices please contact me at 764-3750 or my office 744-7794 or leave a message on the answering machine at church. If the quality of this typewriter is a deterrent in getting a competent person I can understand reluctance to volunteer. Perhaps there may be a solution that has been left unaddressed. Parish council meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month 7PM; you are invited to attend.

Just a note on the festival. We are seeking one individual to accept the position of chairperson then the festival can go on.

Elliot Kashian

Chairman Parish Council

July 2, 1991

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Pastor  
St. Mesrob Armenian Church  
4605 Erie Street  
Racine, Wisconsin 53402

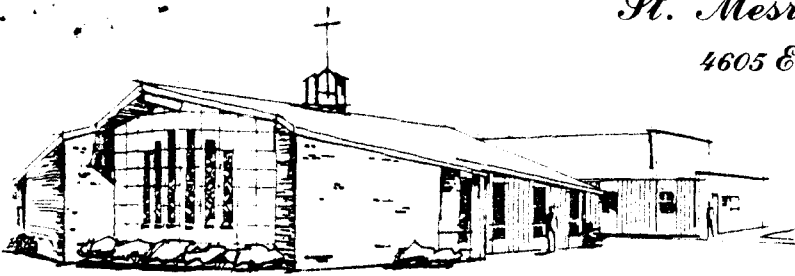
Dear Father Garabed:

Thank you for your letter of June 18 concerning complaints registered with you by parishioners of the Holy Resurrection Church. I can appreciate your frustration as well as your kindness in responding to them as a concerned pastor. Please be assured that a letter has already been dispatched from the Vicar General to Mr. Kashian concerning that letter in particular, with no specific mention made as to how we were made aware of the problem.

God bless you and may He guide us all as we labor in His service.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate



*St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church*

*4605 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53402*

414-639-0531

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Իւկյսին, Ռիւսկուսիս*

Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Pastor

*Տէր Կարապետ Քահանայ Գոչաքեան — Հովիւ*

June 18, 1991

His Grace Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Srpazan:

A recent undated letter from the parish of South Milwaukee Holy Resurrection was received by us (see the enclosure). The language, style, content and nature of this 'official' correspondence is most unbecoming a church. Several of the parishioners from South Milwaukee have complained to me recently, not only of this document, but the morale and present situation of the parish.

I can only listen and offer suggestions, as you know, but I feel that the situation should be addressed more directly before it gets totally out of control. I offer these comments with hope that this matter be investigated.

With dutiful respect,

Fr. Garabed Kochakian

