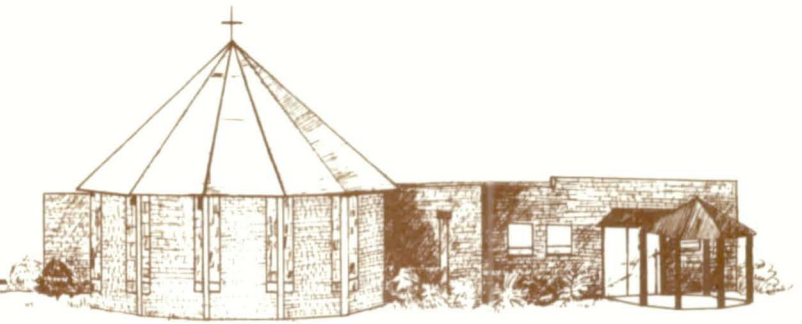


Holy Shoghagat

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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



VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

July 30th, 1987.

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

Your Eminence,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 13th, 1987, requesting comments and explanations of Mr. Zaven Hatutian's letter, copy of which was enclosed.

My first reaction to that letter was nothing but sadness in view of such dramatization and distortion of facts, where truth, the "very basic moral belief" was lacking. I do not wish to deal with a letter where inaccuracies and contradictions seem deliberate.

Besides the remarks made about the meeting on June 3rd, I fail to see the "events" of "few weeks" which he wishes to go through. If really they "had made it clear that they would cast no allegiance to either part" we would have no problems now, and in fact "from day one" they would have not been organized by me as a Parish Council. Such a statement, coming from a Parish Council member and speaking on behalf of the rest, is embarrassingly unreasonable and incongruent. Nothing as such was ever mentioned by anyone absolutely, not even during private conversations with Zaven. Further, if I had given an "ultimatum" there would have been no necessity to "drag the meeting to the late hours at night" because they would have been "dissolved" as a Council, according to my "wish". Absolutely NOBODY "walked away" and every one was around the table until I withdrew from the meeting table after accepting the resignation of Michael Franking and Natalie Hatutian, always sitting around the table with everyone present right from the start of the meeting till we adjourned. The issue here seems to be between my "wishes" and "their freedom to think, speak, decide" not even once it is mentioned about Church regulations, by-laws, discipline and rules, by which all churches are governed; it is very sad indeed.

The letter needs no interpretation therefore no need to go further; this notion may be dangerous in the Body of the Church. Surely the rest of the Council members will not appreciate all that Zaven states in their name.

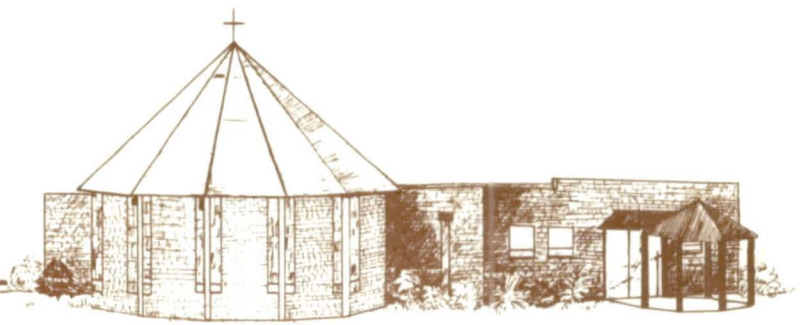
Respectfully Yours,

Shnork Kasparian Pastor.

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VERY REV. SHNORK KASPARIAN

- 2 -

There was no doubt that there was a great change of tone and attitude in Ara, altogether different from last time. Therefore, I tried to avoid making any comments or remarks in order not to cause any argument, which seemed very obvious. I concluded our telephone conversation with these words: "O.K. Ara, it's fine with me. I shall contact the Primate and keep him informed."

I hope ~~with~~ this letter will give Your Eminence the clear picture for the reasons I was not able to visit Kansas City as previously planned.

I remain, Respectfully Yours,

Fr. Shnork Kasparian
Pastor.

P.S.

Chuck Hadjirian informed me that he had a lengthy talk with Ara Zakaryan who told him that there was no longer a Council, all the members had resigned and that Zaven had notified the Primate. They considered themselves a Cultural Body. I just heard this and thought of informing you in case you don't know.

Fr. Shnork