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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

RIGHT REV. VAZKEN KESHISHIAN, RECTOR
RECTOR'S OFFICE 964-3286

PARISH OFFICE 924-6514
AUDITORIUM 923-0081

His Eminence The Primate
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
President of The Diocesan Council
Armenian Church of America
630 Second Ave.,
New York, N.Y., 10016

June 29, 1980

Your Eminence:

It is with great disappointment that we have received your letter of May 19, 1980, not approving the purchase of property for the construction of a new church.

It is evident that you have based your decision on haste, without further clarification and support information that our Parish Council could have provided.

Therefore we feel that it is essential that you be aware of the following and hope that your esteemed council will reconsider its decision.

- The initial intent to purchase abutting lands under separate ownership with the Toronto A.G.B.U. was conveyed to you on March 11, 1979, to which we have had no acknowledgement nor reaction yet, (see copy attached). *not request but informing*
- Further to express our genuine intention in a business-like manner, we have transferred \$50,000 Canadian Dollars to Toronto A.G.B.U. by a unanimous decision of our Parish Council in a meeting on April 24, 1979, presided by the Pastor, Very Rev. Fr. V. Keshishian.
- During the deliberations of your Council in Toronto, in July 1979, further details and maps indicating location and growth pattern of Toronto Armenians was provided for your consideration.

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- The Special Parish Assembly held on February 17, 1980, presided by Very Rev. Fr. V. Keshishian and attended by 133 members in good standing, overwhelmingly approved the proposals set forth by this Parish Council: 124 Yes votes, 5 abstained and 4 No votes. (By-law 21).

- Minutes of the Special Parish Assembly, specific site plans and maps were forwarded to you by Very Rev. V. Keshishian, on March 16, 1980.

- Furthermore, the Special Parish Assembly was informed that the said lands - approximately 1.0 acre - will be severed and registered under separate ownership of the Toronto Holy Trinity Armenian Church as an estate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The prepaid \$50,000 will be credited to the total purchase price of approximately \$250,000.

- The future construction of the church building will not commence until transfer of title. In case of any unfortunate circumstances that the purchase and construction will not be approved by the local Municipality, the total amount of \$50,000 will be refunded by the Toronto A.G.B.U. to the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

- The new church edifice will house a sanctuary with a minimum seating capacity of 300, (present church seats 120 persons). We will also construct a hall similar to the present one, 2,000 sq.ft. approx. with a seating capacity of 250 persons, several committee rooms (that could be utilized as Sunday School classrooms) will also be constructed, besides the pastor's study and business office.

- The only facility that will be mutually shared with the A.G.B.U. is a common parking area for 170 cars which would be ample enough to accomodate 510 persons at any given time; a considerable saving of 350,000 dollars.

- Financing for this project will be provided from the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Building Fund held in trust by the L.P. Babayan Foundation with confirmed assets of \$373,958.45 as of December 31, 1979, (copy of letter attached) and future donations.

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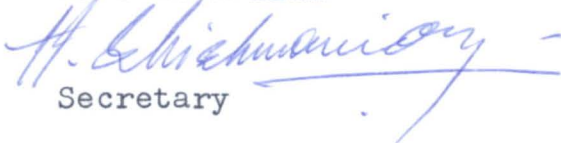
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Also we would like to inform you that our tentative plans were discussed, in detail, on several occasions with Mr. Alex Manoogian, the last being on December 22, 1979, in Toronto, and that the life president of the A.G.B.U., a National Philantropist and Diocesan Board of Trustees member, has shown keen interest in the development of this joint project, expressed satisfaction and pledged support.

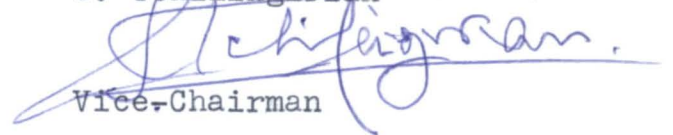
Thus, and based on the above facts, for the benefit of all Toronto Armenians and the glorification of our Church, we urge you to reconsider your earlier decision.

Respectfully yours,
Parish Council
Holy Trinity Arm. Church

H. Shishmanian


Secretary

S. Tchilingirian


Vice-Chairman

P.S. see proposals in minutes of Special Parish Assembly.