

February 26, 1975

Very Rev. Varoujan Kabarajian
Pastor, St. James Armenian Church
816 Clark Street
Evanston, Ill. 60201

Dear Fr. Varoujan:

The Primate asked me to write you regarding the dues and stewardship matter you raised in your letter of February 18, which was addressed to His Eminence.

Reference was made to the Endowment Fund, which we interpret to mean the Stewardship program. The Endowment Fund is something entirely apart. If one donates a sum to the Fund, it will be invested and the income used as per the wishes of the donor.

The Stewardship program and the membership dues are completely separate things. Every church member must pay minimum church dues if he or she wishes to vote and participate in the administration of the parish.

The Stewardship program asks individuals who can afford it to make a donation of \$100 a year to the Diocese, independent of the dues they pay, for the support of its operation and programs. Last year when the dues of the parishes was raised it was decided that the sums donation by stewards would be credited against the assessment of their parishes, in order to help relieve the burden on the parish. Perhaps that is where the confusion of one for the other started.

A stewards donation cannot be regarded as membership dues. I hope this clarifies the matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Antreassian