

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE ARMENIAN
CHURCH OF NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Sec.
211 Tenth Street,
Niagara Falls, N. Y.
April 21, 1947.

V. Katchouny,
Secretary,
The Armenian Prelacy,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir :

I have your letter of Jan. 21, 1947, in which you have forwarded me a book of Baptismal Certificates and a bill for \$15.00 covering the cost for same.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that there were only 8 certificates in the book you sent me , instead of the 10 you mentioned in your letter. Three of these certificates were filled out by the Rt. Rev. Zgon for baptisms already performed and the other 5 were unfilled.

Since our Hokaparstuetoon is without funds for administrative purposes (all our funds are frozen in the construction fund), I have been directed by the Board of Trustees to forwrd you the amount of \$4.50, the amount due for the 3 certificates already filled and the remainder to be paid as baptismal certificates are issued. This is a temporary condition until we obtain funds for administration . Enclosed is a postal note in the amount stated above.

Very Sincerely Yours,


Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary.

F.B.
My regards to His Grace, Bishop Taron.
I shall write him soon.

Mr. Charles F. Obenhack
505-6 Elderfield Building
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Obenhack:

I have received the plan for our Niagara Falls church. It is excellent. I would only like to suggest a slight alteration. Could you arrange the stairs to the hall from the right in such a way that the right transept looks like the left, preserving the symmetry? You could perhaps take more space off the transept for the stairs?

As to the frontage, the pointed arch is an essential feature of our architecture. Perhaps you could put a pointed feature on the facade, two columns on the two sides, and eliminate the tower altogether, making provision however in such a way that it may be possible in future to put up a tower right over the roof of the narthex.

I am returning the drawings under separate cover.

Sincerely yours,

Tiran Bishop
of the Armenian Church in North America

December 26, 1947

CHARLES F. OBENHACK, A. I. A.

Registered Architect

505-6 ELDERFIELD BUILDING PHONE 7272

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

December 17, 1947

Bishop Tiran Nersoyan
336 W. 20th St.
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bishop:

I am mailing to you, under separate cover, a revised drawing of the proposed Niagara Falls Armenian Apostolic Church, incorporating the suggestions which were made during your visit to the city.

I am also enclosing the elevation proposed at that time. I have given considerable study to a different elevation, and thus far have been unable to develop a design which would be satisfactory, and at the same time inexpensive. Perhaps this might be because of my limited knowledge of Armenian Architecture. In developing these elevations I was always conscious of the cost.

After eliminating all of the designs made, I should like to offer this suggestion, which I believe will be in harmony with the Architecture peculiar to Armenia, and at the same time in accordance with American tradition, and economy. This suggestion is the elimination of the tower, and in its place, put a roof over the area similar to the one on the opposite side, either by the hipped roof as indicated, or with gable ends.

I shall be very pleased to receive any criticisms or suggestions which your consulting Architect may make. May I take this opportunity to extend to you my personal wishes for a very Merry Christmas, and the hope that the New Year will see realization of your fond dreams of a Cathedral in New York City, and a church in Niagara Falls.

Sincerely yours,



Charles F. Obenhack

CFO:mls

N Falls.

September 26, 1950

Dear Mr. Simsarian:

I am sending you the letter of the attorney from Niagara Falls re the formation of a body in there, which could hold the real estate now held by the committee appointed by us on a temporary basis.

The Committee has now a property in Niagara Falls in the name of three persons representing the Committee. The composition of this committee is at present satisfactory to us. We should see that it is always satisfactory in the future as well.

There are various possibilities to regularize the situation. The first and obvious one is to transfer the property to the name of the diocese. This is not advisable at the present time, because of the feeling in the community in general, and also in view of the fact that the by-laws in that respect are not yet in force.

At the present time we do not want to form a regular incorporated parish in Niagara Falls, because of the composition of the community and because such a course will certainly create difficulties.

We need an instrument and a body in Niagara Falls by which the committee, which we have in Niagara Falls, and which we ourselves have appointed should hold title to the property. But this body should be our creation and should be responsible to us. Even after the formation of a regular parish this committee should not be controlled by the Parish and should be connected with us directly.

I think we should either form a trust, the trustees being periodically appointed by us, or a stock corporation, of the stocks being owned by the Bishop.

Mr. Simsarian

-2-

September 26, 1950

The idea is on the one hand to keep the property in the hands and under the management of local people, and on the other to keep the people holding the property legally within and under the jurisdiction of the Diocese, in order to prevent any possible schismatic tendencies in the community from alienating the property.

As the Committee in Niagara Falls has definite plans to build a church and they are anxious to go ahead with it, I would request you to give prompt attention to this matter.

Yours very sincerely,

Bishop, Tiran

N. Falls

JACK E. GELLMAN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
UNITED OFFICE BUILDING
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE 9344

*24 Nov. 1950
Mr. Dardarian*

September 13, 1950

The Right Reverend Deran Ner Soyon
Bishop of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, 16, New York

Dear Sir:

Mr. Leo Dardarian has asked me to write you relative to the incorporation of the Armenian Church here in the City of Niagara Falls. The people of the Armenian Church in the city are anxious to have this corporation because they are now very seriously contemplating building the church and have an investment piece of property which will prove very beneficial to them.

I am wondering whether there is a certain type of corporation that you suggest for a group such as this. If you have such a form we are naturally anxious to follow it. We are also anxious that the directors of the corporation be selected by yourself or your successor and this will continue in the future.

I would appreciate any suggestions on the setting up of this corporation that you may have. Thanking you for your courtesy in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jack E. Gellman

JEG:gbw

NEW JERSEY OFFICE
2308 BERGENLINE AVENUE
UNION CITY
PHONE UNION 7-0986

Dicran Simsarian

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
160 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-2044

September 28, 1950

Bishop Tiran Nersoyan
630 Second Avenue
New York City

Dear Bishop Nersoyan:

I am returning the letter of Jack E. Gellman, attorney at Niagara Falls, New York, dated September 13, 1950, wherein he seeks your advice concerning the incorporation of the Armenian Church in Niagara Falls, and wherein he seeks to know whether there is a type or form of corporation which you can suggest so that he may follow same. I have also studied your letter to me dated September 26, 1950, relative to said matters.

So long as it is desired that the property remain in the committee of three whom the Diocese appointed and not vested in their local church corporation, I suggest that a deed be given by the three members in whose name the property is now vested, conveying said property to the same three individuals "in trust for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America."

It would be advisable to have the said trustees execute and deliver to you simultaneously a letter signed by them, stating that they are holding said property in trust for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and hold themselves ready to convey the legal title to said property to the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America when requested to do so by the Diocesan Council.

Under the foregoing setup, the legal title will always be in the control of the Diocesan Council.

Attorney Gellman's letter seems to indicate that the Parish wishes to incorporate and that the Directors of the proposed corporation are to be selected by your Grace at the time of the incorporation, as well as the successors to continue in the future. The Constitution and By-Laws of our Church do not contemplate such power to appoint directors of a local church corporation by the Arachnort. I presume such provision would be legal if that is the intention of the local parish. However, the form of corporation, so far we have been using heretofore, is the same as the one I prepared for the use of Mr. Bedros Terzian when he incorporated St. Gregory Illuminators Church of Armenia. I believe there is a copy of that charter in the Diocesan office, if not, I shall be glad to send you a copy.

Respectfully yours,



DICRAN SIMSARIAN

DS:AN
Enc.

September 28, 1950

Bishop Tiran Nersoyan
630 Second Avenue
New York City

Dear Bishop Nersoyan:

I am returning the letter of Jack E. Gellman, attorney at Niagara Falls, New York, dated September 13, 1950, wherein he seeks your advice concerning the incorporation of the Armenian Church in Niagara Falls, and wherein he seeks to know whether there is a type or form of corporation which you can suggest so that he may follow same. I have also studied your letter to me dated September 26, 1950, relative to said matters.

So long as it is desired that the property remain in the committee of three whom the Diocese appointed and not vested in their local church corporation, I suggest that a deed be given by the three members in whose name the property is now vested conveying said property to the same three individuals "in trust for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America."

It would be advisable to have the said trustees execute and deliver to you simultaneously a letter signed by them, stating that they are holding said property in trust for the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and hold themselves ready to convey the legal title to said property to the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America when requested to do so by the Diocesan Council.

Under the foregoing setup, the legal title will always be in the control of the Diocesan Council.

Attorney Gellman's letter seems to indicate that the Parish wishes to incorporate and that the Directors of the proposed corporation are to be selected by your Grace at the time of the incorporation, as well as the successors to continue in the future. The Constitution and By-Laws of our Church do not contemplate such power to appoint directors of a local church corporation by the Archdiocese. I presume such provision would be legal if that is the intention of the local parish. However, the form of corporation, so far we have been using heretofore, is the same as the one I prepared for the use of Mr. Bedros Ferzian when he incorporated St. Gregory Illuminators Church of Armenia. I believe there is a copy of that charter in the Diocesan office, if not, I shall be glad to send you a copy.

Respectfully yours,

DICRAN SIMSARIAN

DS:AM
Enc.

Niagara Falls

November 11, 1952

Mr. Kerrigan D. Sarkissian
419 12 Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

My dear Kerrigan:

I have received your letter of October 28. I have sent a note of condolences to Mrs. Teorigian.

I am glad to hear what you wrote about the court proceedings which took place on the day I left Niagara Falls. I think that Mr. Gellman is right in saying that it will be the end of the trouble which the opponents of the Church want to raise and we can now go on with our work peacefully. Thank you for the newspaper clipping. It was done very nicely and I want to compliment you for that.

I have already asked an architect to prepare the plan for your altar. As soon as it receives its final form I will send it on to you. I have already sent you, and you must have now received, the words which will be inscribed on the cornerstone. On second thought, I think that if you have just 1952 carved on the cornerstone you can have the words I sent you over the main entrance of the church. There will be no sense in repeating the same thing on the cornerstone and then over the door.

In Philadelphia we simply carved 1952 on the cornerstone and I notice that this is the usual procedure which most churches follow. If it is not already too late, I would advise you therefore to simply put the date on the cornerstone and use the carving on the door.

I hope you are successful in collecting the pledges you got that night. We shall have, of course, to make another drive on the day of consecration. In the meantime, your committee should approach also those who were not present at the dinner in Paul's Restaurant. I am enclosing the list you had requested.

-2-

you had requested. I would appreciate your returning it to us after making a copy of it because this is the only copy we have in the office.

I shall soon write to Dostourian and Keosheian accepting their resignation but I would like to have you send me the correct names and addresses of John Tatoian, Avdoian, and Sam Tarpinian so I can appoint them on the committee as we have already decided.

Yours with best wishes and paternal blessings,

TN:AS
enc.

Archbishop Tiran

Kerrigan D. Sarkissian
419-12th Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.
Nov. 4, 1952

Sireli Surpazan:

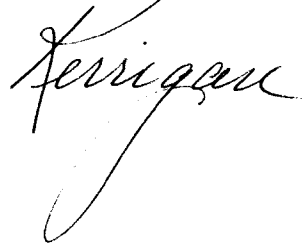
I have been requested to obtain the pattern of the Armenian Characters (ST.SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH) necessary for placing on the corner stone. Can you please rush me a drawing of these Armenian Characters as the contractor and the people making said stone are in need of it immediately.

Secondly, a friend of ours and a member of our church is going to visit in California and I would desire a certificate or letter authorizing him to solicit and receive such gifts as may be attained. I would appreciate having said letter made in the name of Sahag Avdoian of 1017 East Falls Street, Niagara Falls, N. Y. and forwarded to me at your earliest opportunity.

The construction of the church is going according to schedule at the present time, and I am also very busy attempting to collect the pledges made.

With every kind regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,



K. D. Sarkissian
419-12th St.
Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Oct. 28, 1954

Sireli Suspazan:

I'm rushing off these few lines with a little sorrow in our hearts as Hosroo Toorigian died today at 1:45 P.M.

Father Khoren was able to give him Communion this morning. I would appreciate that some time in the near future you would write his widow for the service he has given our church.

We went into Court Monday on the matter of some 20 contributors asking for the return of their contributions. Only five were in Court and the judge after having a conference with the attorneys, discontinued the action and directed that if the remaining five still insisted that they wanted the return of their money they would have to institute a new action. At this point, their attorney said that he would not represent them. After consultation with Mr. Gellman, we believe that this will probably be the end

of this matter and probably afford us
a better chance for peaceful pursuit
of our task.

✓ I am enclosing a news
paper clipping in our local paper
as regards to the corner stone
laying.

✓ Now I wish to remind
Your Grace, on the matter of the
plans for the altar that you are
to send me.

I would also appreciate
if you are able, to send me
names and addresses of our people
whom we can write asking
support.

She started out trying
to collect some pledges but
in view of Hosrou's death
we will have to delay same
for a few days.

With kindest regards
Kerrigan

P.S. - A. mat of the ARMENIAN Characters
Necessary for the CORNER Stone.

Niagara Falls

November 11, 1952

Mr. Sahag Avdoian
1017 East Falls Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Avdoian:

I am happy to learn that you have expressed willingness to approach church-loving Armenians in various cities in our Diocese or in California and ask for their help toward the building of our St. Sarkis Church in Niagara Falls.

I know that our community in Niagara Falls, being a small one, needs such help urgently in order to achieve their sacred goal.

I hope and pray the Almighty that your efforts will be fruitful and those whom you will be able to approach for contributions, will realize the importance of having another Armenian Church in our Diocese, and help with their contributions accordingly.

May the Lord bless you and all those who will have their share in the building of a house to the "God of our Fathers".

Yours with paternal blessings
and prayers,

TN:AS

Archbishop Tiran

Niagara Falls

April 15, 1953

Mr. Kerrigan D. Sarkissian
419 12th Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Dear Kerrigan:

I have just received your letter of the 13th of April.

I am sending you a design for an altar. I do not know any one in New York to make the altar. However, I shall make inquiries and get an estimate. In the meantime you do the same, and we shall compare results and proceed accordingly.

This design, of course, is too high. Consequently, the following instructions should be carefully followed:

1. Eliminate dome and cross on the dome.
2. Make the four columns shorter by 1' 6", thus reducing the front columns to 3' 2" and back columns to 1' 4".
3. Make the height of the picture shorter by 1' 6".
4. Change the curve of the top side of the frame of the picture to conform with the curvature of the arch.
5. Widen the outer frame of the picture to 2' 6".
6. Extend the top frame design of the altar to the two sides.
7. Place a cross ornament on the front instead of the angel design and add another ornament on both sides of the cross.

With these changes the altar will be a beautiful one.

I shall wait for word from you for the organ.

June 14 is a good day for me. Try to be ready by then.

Yours with paternal love,

TN:AS

Archbishop Tiran

419-12th Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.
April 13, 1953.

Sireli Surpazan:

Regarding your letter from Cleveland in regards to the organ, we are unable to find a donor for the organ but it is our wish to have the one you mentioned. We will have to procure it when we have the necessary funds. Right now we do not yet have sufficient funds for the payment of the church.

Now in regards to the altar. If you are having it made there for shipment to Niagara, please advise us. If not and the plans are completed, please send them so we can immediately set out to find a person or firm that can build it.

I wish to again remind you that if the altar is large and in one piece, we may not be able to get it in thru the doors. If it is in sections, we can carry it thru the largest of the doors which has a width of 4 feet eight inches.

Again I would like to know how high the altar will be. I advised you in my last letter and in my conversations with Hair Sourp Torcom that the altar should not be higher than nine feet otherwise the topmost part of the cross would be touching the cieling at the point where you desired the altar to be placed. We are very anxious to have this matter taken care of immediately. I wish also to inform you that the architect and builder was able to locate the stained glass gift of Mr. Markarian in the rear of sanctuary.

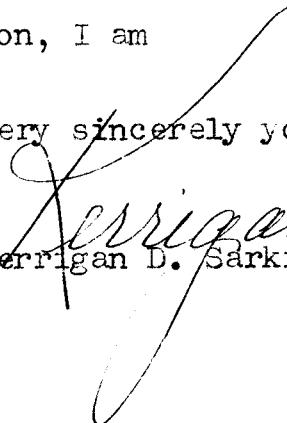
We expect upon the word of the contractor to have th building completed by the end of April 1953 and we are giving ourseleves a month and a half to get things in order. If it is altogether possible, we would like to have the church consecration on June 14th for the reason that ~~it~~ is the anniversary on which the blessing of the ground took place and secondly it is appropriate because because it is FLAG DAY. However since all things are dependent upon the altar and other furnishings, we cannot definitely commit ourselves to that date.

When it is certain when we can have the necessary things then we can definitely set the date. It is for that reason that I am most anxious to hear from you concerning the altar.

Today the builders are putting up the ceiling in the church and hall and I am informed that that part of the work will be finished this week. After that the only things that remain are the finishing of the floor, trim work, painting of woodwork and the necessary clean up process before the building is turned over to us.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Very sincerely yours,


Kerrigan D. Sarkissian

Niagara
Falls

August 25, 1953

Mr. K. D. Sarkissian
419 12 Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

My dear Kerrigan:

I have received your letter of August 18. Concerning the picture for the altar I have this to say. I wrote to the artist in Wisconsin and heard that he was on vacation. I was expecting to hear from him on his return from vacation. I sent a telegram to him a few days ago and I have not yet heard from him. As soon as I do so I will let you know. In the meantime, you can go ahead with your preparations.

I have brought the pouvar and the sanctuary lamp holder for your church. I shall bring them with me when I come to Niagara Falls for the consecration. They are of solid silver and are beautiful pieces. Together they weigh four pounds and twelve ounces and together will cost you approximately \$100.00.

As to the invitation cards to the consecration to be sent to our people, it should also contain, I suppose, the program. Therefore, come together with Father Khoren and draw up a tentative copy of the invitation you are going to send and forward a copy to me and I will make the necessary corrections and have it printed here both in Armenian as well as in English. See that you put down all the details and the times as you have planned.

The time-table for the consecration is correct. 9:00 A.M. Morning Service, 10:00 A.M. Consecration Service, 11:00 A.M. Badarak and the Sermon will be at 12 Noon. There is also another service on the evening of the day of consecration which is important as well as beautiful which can be fixed at 6:00 P.M. and will last from 45 minutes to an hour.

The consecration books are being prepared and as soon as they are ready I will send an advance copy to Father Khoren and then later I will bring sufficient copies to be used during the consecration.

As these books have been published by my own expense solely to be used during the consecration of the four churches which have recently been built, I expect that your church will make some contribution towards the printing of these books, which are beautiful and expensive ones, but I will talk to you about this when I arrive in Niagara Falls before the consecration.

I shall write to Bishop Scaife inviting him to the consecration. You can also write to him on your own behalf that I have invited him already.

As to the celebrities to be invited, you should be able to know better the personalities who would be likely to come and naturally, they would have to be from the neighborhood. I advise you to talk to Father Khoren and to decide on the number of persons outside of Niagara Falls and Buffalo who you could invite. In the meantime, I will think about the matter and see if I can inform a few persons who would be likely to come.

Everything connected with the ceremonial duties will have to be arranged by Father Khoren and as soon as he receives the consecration book he will find all the instructions therein. If anything else comes to my mind I will not fail to write to you.

Incidentally, I notice that you have not put the name of Father Khoren on your letterhead. You must not forget that until you have a parish priest of your own, he is, apart from being the parish priest of St. Catharines, also the priest of Niagara Falls and you should have his name placed on the letterhead.

Father Khoren is expected to take care of the people in Niagara Falls and although he is not very young I expect him to do some work in the near future. Consequently, his position should be known by the people and above all, your Committee should be cognizant of the fact.

Yours with paternal blessings,

TN:AS

Archbishop Tiran

St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

Corner Ninth and East Falls Streets
Niagara Falls, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EDWARD J. MOORADIAN
Chairman

MICHAEL KERKORIAN
Vice Chairman

LEO DARDARIAN
Treasurer

KERRIGAN D. SARKISSIAN
Executive Secretary

PAUL H. GHOUGASIAN

JOHN TATOIAN

SAMUEL TARPINIAN

JOHN AVDOIAN

*K. D. Sarkissian
419 - 12th St.
Niagara Falls, N. Y.*

August 18, 1953.

Sireli Surpazan:

First, I would appreciate in knowing whether you have placed the order for the picture adorning the altar and I would like to know how soon we can expect it. In order to have it in time for the consecration, we should be getting it in the very near future.

Secondly, I wish to know if you have procured the Furvar and the Sanctuary Light while in Istanbul. If you have both of these, please forward and state the cost so that I might make payment.

Further, I would appreciate your ordering 300 Formal Invitation Cards with envelopes written in Armenian for the Consecration Services to be held on Sunday September 20, 1953. I would like to get these as soon as possible so that I can mail them out to our people.

We plan to start church services on that day, at 9:00 A.M. with consecration at 10:00 A. M. and Badarak to follow.

And further, I have not been able to find a distinguished Armenian of note as a guest speaker. Would you please secure one for us if possible and let me know in advance so I can publicise it. I would also appreciate if you could secure the services of an Armenian singer or artist.

I have written Bishop Scaife and his office has promised that he would be present at the consecration. However I advised the office that you would send him a letter officially asking him to take part.

I do hope you can invite some celebrities for the occasion. Will you please write me at your earliest and advise me on all details.

Sincerely,

Kerrigan

January 23, 1953

Mr. Samuel Tarpinian
8 A Packard Court
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Tarpinian:

The work of the Building Committee, which is also at present acting as the Parish Council of our Community in Niagara Falls, will be increased now that the church is in its way of completion and the consecration ceremonies, God willing, are not far off. Therefore, we have decided to increase the membership of the Parish Council, adding three more members to it, so that more help will be available for the work lying ahead especially with regard to the regular organization of the parish in the near future according to our Diocesan By-Laws.

We are, therefore, pleased to advise you that you are hereby appointed a member of the Parish Council and Building Committee and we trust that you will cooperate with your colleagues in the Committee which has done a highly commendable and devoted work up to now with patriotic and Christian zeal and devotion for the benefit of our people in Niagara Falls and for God's glory.

Mr. Kerrigan Sarkissian, the Secretary of the Parish Council, will inform you of the date of the next meeting of the Council.

Yours with my prayers and
paternal blessings,

TN:AS

Archbishop Tiran
Primate of the Armenian Church
of North America

Kerrigan D. Sarkissian
419-12th Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.
December 30, 1952

The Most Rev. Archbishop, Tiran Nersoyan,
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, N. Y.

SIRELI SURPAZAN:

I am writing to inquire about the plans for the altar. I would appreciate receiving them at the earliest possible moment. If you haven't been able to secure the drawings up to now, would you kindly take steps to see that it is made up, because as I understand it takes quite some time to build an altar.

I am submitting the names of the following, Mr. JOHN TATOIAN, 531 Third Street ; Ohanes Avdoian, 1017 East Falls Street ; and Samuel Tarpinian , 8 A, Packard Court as approved at our meeting of the Board of Trustees on Oct. 27, 1952 and at which time I was directed to interview these gentlemen personally as to their availability and then to submit to your office for final approval.

I wish to advise Your Grace that the interviews were generally most favorable and we believe we have made a good choice of personnel. The Board of Trustees would appreciate the naming of these three men to our board in the same manner as you appointed the original members, that is, Temporary Board of Trustees and members of the Construction Committee. One afterthought as a result of the interviews, and we deem it most appropriate that in your letter of appointment you will stress that you have every confidence and loyalty of the present Board and that the new appointees are expected to show the same spirit of cooperation and loyalty to the church.


Would you please forward me the Letters of Appointment so that I may personally deliver them. I would also appreciate a copy of said appointments for my file.

As to the letters of resignation I gave you regarding Messrs. Koshian and Dosedourian, I would request that no further action be taken and their letters be accepted as having resigned. At the present I believe any action on your part in writing these gentlemen regarding their action would tend to disrupt things as they are of a political mind. This suggestion is made because I know that Your Grace does not want to be involved in the political thinking of individuals or parties and further that since the construction of the church will be near completion in a couple of months and that all future Board of Trustees will be elected by the membership of the church as provided for by the Church Constitution.

Due to inclement weather the church construction is behind schedule. Our architect, Mr. Obenhack is overseeing the work and says that it might be a couple of months before the church is completed. Opposition to the church by the politically minded is the same as when you were last here.

Best wishes for the New Year. With every kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,


Secretary, Board of Trustees

Niag. Falls

January 23, 1953

Mr. Kerrigan D. Sarkissian
419 12 Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sarkissian:

I have received your letter of December 30 about the plans of the altar. I had a blueprint which I had sent to Worcester some time ago. I wrote twice to the architect and he is still to send me same. Also I commissioned him to draw a sketch and upon my approval to put it into final form but unfortunately the architect went to California and has not sent me anything yet. I will pursue the matter and let you know as soon as possible. Once the blueprint is prepared it is a matter of a few weeks to have the altar made.

I am writing to the three persons appointing them as members of your committee and enclose the letters herewith. I am sure your committee will be strengthened with these appointments. When the church is built and the contractors are out, you will let me know, of course, beforehand so I can arrange for the day of consecration and have the grand dinner in which we shall collect the rest of the money needed for the church and during which time we shall decide on matters connected with the regular organization of the parish.

Please convey my warm greetings and best wishes to all friends in Niagara Falls.

Yours with my paternal blessings,

TN:AS
enc.

Archbishop Tiran
Primate of the Armenian Church
of North America

VINCENT YARDUM
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 2-0775-0776

April 25, 1956

COPY

Jack E. Gellman, Esq.,
909 U. S. Office Building,
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gellman:

After I spoke to you over the telephone yesterday afternoon, I talked at further length with Messrs. Gheugasian and Tatoian, and here is the situation as I analyze it:-

The original source of the authority of the Church after the Certificate of Incorporation, is the membership meeting, which will be equivalent to a stockholders meeting of a business corporation.

The members elect the Parish Council or Trustees, which body would be equivalent to the Board of Directors of the business corporation. The Parish Council or Trustees would then appoint from amongst themselves the officers, who would be the medium through which the corporation will act.

So far the situation is simple, but I was told that there was a Building Committee consisting of one or two people, who apparently are attempting to govern the real estate holdings of the Church to the exclusion of the Parish Council. It is here that there is a conflict. I understand that this Building Committee was ratified or confirmed by the Bishop. That being so, then perhaps the Bishop can dissolve or discharge this Building Committee.

I requested Messrs. Gheugasian and Tatoian to make available to me the minutes of the meeting of the members and of the Parish Council, and the By-laws of the Corporation. I have the impression that the real estate building committee has the By-laws, but it seems to me that they can be made to deliver them to the Parish Council or to permit an examination of the By-laws.

After reading the By-laws, the minutes of the membership meeting and minutes of the Parish Council, we can then perhaps take the necessary required steps to call a council meeting and a membership meeting, to vote on the transfer of title of

Jack E. Gellman, Esq.
(Cont.)

April 25, 1956

the Church's real estate to the Diocese.

This might be a good time to explain that the decision to transfer all Armenian church properties throughout U. S. to the Diocese was made in order to prevent just such a situation as apparently exists in Niagara Falls. The Diocese of the Armenian Church in America is the supreme governing body over all of the Armenian Churches in U. S. The election of the Bishop and all legislature concerning the operation of the Churches is had at a convention held annually, and to which convention every church in America send its delegates. It was at such a convention held some years ago that every church under the jurisdiction of the Diocese was required to convey its real estate to the Diocese.

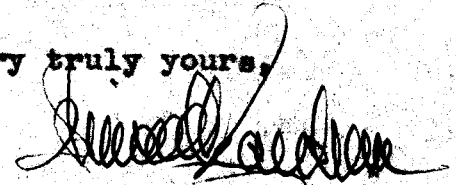
It should be noted and explained that the Diocese does not manage the Church's properties conveyed to it and each individual Church, Trustee or Parish Council continue the management just as though the title was still in the name of the individual churches. In this present instance, the local church authorities will continue to collect the rents from the gasoline station property and carry on with no difference as at the present time.

To summarize, I am waiting for the By-laws and minutes of the Church meetings after which notice may be served of the meetings to pass appropriate resolutions to convey title to the Diocese. Both Mr. Ghougasian and Mr. Teteian are positive that these meetings the overwhelming vote will authorize transfer of title as required by the Diocesan Convention Resolutions.

Can you help in the securing of the By-laws and minutes required to be examined. If so, your co-operation is sought and will be appreciated.

VY/ah

Very truly yours,



VINCENT YARDUM

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW



MURRAY HILL 2-0775-0776

41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

December 21, 1956

Rt. Rev. Bishop Mampre Calfayan
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Re: Niagara Church matter

My dear Bishop Calfayan:

I wrote to the Sun Oil Company requesting them to send all future rents to the Niagara Church corporation and not to the Building Committee as they were doing in the past.

I also wrote to members of the Building Committee notifying them that all future rents from the tenant Sun Oil Company, are to be sent direct to the church corporation and not to be received by them.

The Sun Oil Company, the tenant, sent me the enclosed copy of letter they received. They naturally say that under the circumstances no rent will be paid until the question as to who is entitled to the rent has been satisfactorily decided.

You will note that the letter received by the Sun Oil Company purports to be signed by Michael Kerkorian as President and K.D. Sarkissian as Secretary of the church corporation. My understanding is that Messrs. Kerkorian and Sarkissian are members of the Building Committee that has been dissolved.

My letter to the Sun Oil Company and my letter to the members of the Building Committee were based upon the information that Mr. Paul H. Ghougasian was the President and Mr. Paul L. Kashmanian was the Secretary of the church corporation, even though they describe themselves as Chairman and Secretary of the Parish Council.

We are confronted with the situation of two factions claiming to be officers of the church corporation.

It requires some one on the scene to look at the records and minutes of past meetings to verify who are the officers of the church corporation.

Rt.Rev. Bishop Mampre Calfayan

-2-

December 21, 1956

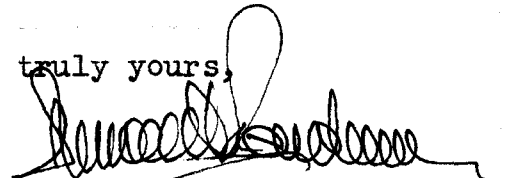
If we cannot get the services of an attorney in Niagara to straighten out the situation, it means I or someone else from New York will have to go to Niagara and one trip alone will not do. That's why I decline to make the trip.

In a recent letter you made known to me that the Diocesan Council has left this matter ~~into~~ my hands. Does that mean that I may retain an attorney in Niagara? If so, who is to pay the fees and expenses?

Please advise further.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Very Rev. Vasken Tatoyan.

Very truly yours,



VY:rr
Encl.

C O P Y

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH INC. OF NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

K. D. Sarkissian, Secretary
419 12th Street, Niagara Falls, New York

December 4, 1956

Sun Oil Company
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sirs:

It has come to our attention that the Parish Council of St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Niagara Falls, N.Y. thru the Prelacy and the Prelate in New York have taken steps to inform your office that the Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls, N.Y. has been dissolved and that the rental proceeds as per contract with the Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls, N.Y. and the Sun Oil Company should be remitted to the St. Sarkis Parish Council.

Please be advised that the undersigned are the president and secretary respectively of the Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls, N. Y. and further state that the Corporation has not been dissolved. Neither the St. Sarkis Parish Council nor the Bishop of the Diocese can dissolve this Corporation which was set up pursuant to Article 10 of the **Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York**.

This information is being transmitted to your office to safeguard the interests of both parties concerned.

The Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. does not desire to be involved in any irregularities nor does it want its right and assets to be placed in jeopardy. Having thus informed your office of these facts, it is hoped that any communication by others attempting to usurp the rights and assets of The Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. should be promptly disregarded.

We regret this inconvenience and trust the usual past cordial relations will continue.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) K. D. Sarkissian, Secretary
(SGD) Michael Kerkorian, President
Armenian Apostolic Church, Inc.

St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 NINTH STREET

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXX~~

TELEPHONE 2-9604

November 27, 1960

His Eminence,
Archbishop Sion Manoogian
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

Your Eminence,

We are writing this letter in reply to your request that our delinquent dues be paid to the Diocese. On November 27, 1960, we had a preliminary parish meeting where it was decided that in January a special campaign will be started to raise money for the above debt.

Your Eminence is fully aware of the fact that the parish is small and we are doing our utmost to keep the church functioning. The well-to-do members either have passed away or for faulty reasons are keeping away from the church. The church is in the hands of a few who are striving both financially and morally to revive the religious and communal life. We are sure that you will have patience in our request.

On the matter of Mr. Karekin Sarkissian who was a past member of the Parish Council. He has in the bank in his name, a sum of \$900.00 that has been collected from lieu of flowers during his term in office. He refuses to return this money to the present Parish Council. We have requested the money through a lawyer and he has refused, therefore we request that Your Eminence write to the above mentioned person and close this matter. Mr. Karekin Sarkissian, 419 - 12th Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

We hope with your prayers and blessings the year 1961 will show more promises for Saint Sarkis Armenian Church.

Sincerely Yours,


The Very Reverend Vasken Tatoyan
Pastor

Varsen Fadel
Secretary

Թիւ 1721
Դեկտեմբեր 1, 1960

Մեծայարգ
Տիար Գարեգին Սարգիսեան
419- 12րդ Փողոց, Նիակարա Տօլս

Սիրելի Գրն. Սարգիսեան,

Նիակարա Տօսի մեր Ս. Սարգիս եկեղեցւոյ Միական խորհուրդը
նամակով մը մեզի տեղեկացուցած է, թէ իբրեւ Հողաբարձու ձեր պաշ-
տօնավարութեան շրջանին, ձեր սիրեցեալ մօր մահուան առթիւ, փոխան
ծաղկեպսակներէ գոյացած է 900 տուար ի նպաստ եկեղեցւոյն սակայն,
ցարդ այդ գումարը կը մնայ զբամատան մէջ ձեր անունով:

Կտակ ենք որ դուք իբրեւ եկեղեցւոյն եւ պարտաճանաչ
ազգային մը՝ սիրով պիտի գործակցիք ձեռնակ խորհուրդին հետ եւ
առաջին առիթով իսկ ձեր անունին եղած վերոյիշեալ գումարը պիտի
յանձնէք եկեղեցւոյ գանձապահին:

Ս. Սարգիս եկեղեցւոյ փոքր Համայնքին մէջ խաղաղ եւ Համերաշխ
ոգիով աշխատող ազգայիններու պէտքը զգալի է, որովհետեւ միայն այդ-
պէսով կարելի պիտի ըլլայ արդիւնաւոր ընծայել Համայնքային գործերը:

Մեր թելադրութիւնն է որ դուք, ինչպէս անդեալին մէջ, ծղած էք
զործօն անդամ մը, շարունակէք ձեր ծառայութիւնները ի սպաս դեռեւ
եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան Համար:

Կ'օրհնենք զՁեզ եւ կը յայտնենք մեր ցումկրութիւնները ձեր
մօր մահուան առթիւ եւ կը մաղթենք ձեզի Հոգեկան մխիթարութիւն:

Տիրուանդ սիրոյ ողջունիւ
եւ օրհնութեամբ
Աղօթարար

ՍԻՈՒՆ ԱՐԵՆԳԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ
Առաջնորդ Հայոց Ամերիկայի

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Phone: 2-9604

VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ

ՎԱՋԳԻՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱԴՈՑԵԱՆ, Էպիս.

May 28, 1962

[Handwritten signature of Vasken Tatoyan]
[Handwritten initials]

His Eminence, Archbishop Sion Manogian
Primate of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of North America
630 Second Ave.
New York 15, New York

Your Eminence:

On behalf of the Parish Council of St. Sarkis Armenian Church we come to congratulate your Eminence on your re-election as Primate. We all pray for your Eminence's health and long life to lead us.

Your Eminence knows of the financial status of our parish and we feel that the only solution is the following. We know of the Dadourian Fund that helps parishes such as ours. The present mortgage of our Church is \$23,000.00 and we pay close to \$1,000.00 interest yearly. As your Eminence knows we receive \$345.00 a month rent from our property, in addition to this \$345.00 we receive from our property, we apply an additional \$77.00, which makes a total of \$422.00 we apply to our mortgage monthly. We therefore, ask through your intercession a loan for the complete payment of the mortgage, and we in-turn pay the fund monthly with the rent we receive from our property.

We hope to hear from your Eminence soon in regard to our request.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature of Anna Dardarian]

Anna Dardarian
Chairman

AD/qb

ՀԱՅՑ. Ս. ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ՆԻԻ ՊՐԻԹԸՆԻ



THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
HOLY RESURRECTION

11 Erwin Place
New Britain, Conn.

ՆԻԻ ՊՐԻԹԸՆ, ՔԸՆ.

Rev. Joseph H. [unclear]

U.S.

June... 16... 1962
~~1961~~

Diocese of the Armenian Church
of North America
630 Second Ave.
New York 16, N.Y.

Archbishop Sion Manougian, Primate
Your Eminence:

At your last visit to our church we discussed the financial situation of our church, and our difficulty in paying our assessments to the diocese. As you know we have about one hundred paying paying members. We also have about twenty five so called hardship cases who pay what ever they can spare - these comprise of widowers or people who are retired and a few who come to church about three times a year.

To begin with our original assessment was seven hundred dollars a year. Then it went up to eight hundred dollars - and later one thousand dollars.

Your Grace, we were just about able to pay the seven hundred, leave alone the added assessments. We haven't been able to increase our membership any to speak of, on the contrary we have lost some good members, due to death and working obligations - some had

to move out of town or state.

As you know we are paying our Priest about five thousand dollars a year, this alone is a very heavy burden, because of the small membership. Also we are constantly trying to keep this church in good repairs. These are some of the reasons why we can't pay the added assessments.

Now we have an out standing assessment of about six hundred dollars past due of last year. I would appreciate it very much if this were canceled, so that we start with a fresh assessment of seven hundred dollars a year, this would be more to our ability or scope to handle.

I hope your Grace will consider our plaint or help us out of our difficulty

Thanking you very much
Respectfully Yours.

Harry J. Berberian
Secretary of the Parish Council

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
Phone: 2-9604

VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՆԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ
ՎԱՋԳԷՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱԴՈՅԵԱՆ, Հովիւ

April 23, 1965

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

Your Eminence,

We received your letter dated March 19, 1965 and the letter was discussed lengthly at our last Parish Council meeting.

A. The Parish Council still feels that \$100.00 is inequitable in comparison to the looma assigned to the other Parishes. We would appreciate your reconsideration in reducing this looma.

C. The Parish Council feels that all expenses of the Pastor shared by the two Parishes (Niagara Falls and St. Catherines) should be billed directly and separately to each Parish, not only to Niagara Falls. We have contacted the Chairman of the St. Catherines Parish Council about this matter and he claims that they never received any directive about the Pastors expenses.

D. The Niagara Falls Parish Council is prepared to accept one half of all the expenses of it's Pastor and wishes that the Pastor be reinstated in the Clergy Relief Fund. Unfortunately, the St. Catherines Parish, up to date, has remained indifferent as to this matter.

We hope that the Feast of the Ressurrection of Our Lord will bring Your Eminence good health and fortune in all your endeavors to lead his Most Holy Church. We ask for your prayers and moral support for our small and struggling Parish to lead us through our difficulties.

Obediently Your Servants,

Shahen Bedrosian, Chairman

Varsen Fadel
Varsen Fadel, Treasurer

June 14, 1966

Mr. George Lylekian
Chairman, Parish Council
717 4th Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lylekian:

We submitted your letter of June 5, 1966 to the recent meeting of the Diocesan Council.

The meeting decided to accord to your request for an English speaking pastor when the newly elected primate assumes his office at the end of August.

Meantime please be advised that Very Rev. Vasken Tateyan will be able to serve in your parish again within next few weeks.

With paternal blessings,

SION ARCHBISHOP
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Phone: 2-9604

VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ

ՎԱՋԳԷՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱԴՈՅԱՆ, Հովիւ

June 5, 1966

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

Your Eminence,

The Parish Council of St. Sarkis Armenian Church has a very serious problem relating to the Church Attendance on the part of the young generation. Since the departure of our former English speaking priest, Father Vasken, we have had a complete decline in attendance and interest.

Presently, our temporary priest Father Papazian provides us with services two Sundays each month. However, he has very little to offer the younger members of the Parish. This situation is undesirable and unless we get the services of a young English speaking priest willing to revive the souls of our members, we are doomed to discontinue services.

We are presently calling a general membership meeting this Tuesday to discuss permanently closing the Church due to lack of interest and motivation.

Kindly accept this letter with great urgency.

Respectfully Yours,

George Lelegian, Chairman
Parish Council, St. Sarkis Church

May 17, 1967

Mr. Shahan Bedrosian
Chairman, Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14303

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

As you know for the third consecutive year the ACYOA Central Council will be conducting mission programs in some of our parishes. One of these programs will take place in your Church.

Endorsed by the former Primate, Archbishop Sion, this project has my wholehearted support and endorsement. I am aware of the needs and potentialities of the importance of this internal mission work, undertaken and sponsored wholly by the young people of our Diocese.

We live in a society which is beset by such dangers and temptations as might lead the young people astray. The general orientation and emphasis of our culture leave much to be desired. Indeed, values have been reversed so alarmingly that the integrity of family life and the foundation of our society is seriously threatened.

k

Faced with such a revolutionary situation it is comforting and praiseworthy to see some dedicated Armenian youths engaged in a noble venture of meeting the challenge of our times by witnessing to their Christian faith and communicating the best they possess in fellowship with others.

I would like to see that under your leadership, your Parish Council, the youth as well as all Church related organizations give their cooperation and support to this worthy project and facilitate the work and mission of these modern "disciples" of the Armenian Church, for "they are the messengers of the Churches, and the glory of Christ" (2 Cor. 8:23).

Prayerfully,

Bishop Torshom
Primate

TM/asp

April 11, 1967

**Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Parish Council Chairman
Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, New York**

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

The Primate, His Grace Bishop Torcom Manogian, acknowledges receipt of your letter dated April 6, 1967, requesting His presence with your parish on the 10th or 17th of September, 1967. Regretfully, he will not be able to be with you on those dates due to other commitments.

At the moment, the only available date is Sunday, October 29, 1967. If this date is agreeable with you, please inform His Grace as soon as possible. We wish you success in all your parish endeavors.

Prayerfully,

**Fr. Vasken Kebreslian
Vicar General**

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church



300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Phone: BU 2-9604

VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor

Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ

ՎԱՋԳԷՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱՂՈՑԵԱՆ, Էպիս.

April 6, 1967

HIS GRACE

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of
North America
630 Second Ave.
New York, New York 10016

Your Grace,

The Parish Council and the community of St. Sarkis
Armenian Church of Niagara Falls, New York would like to
extend our invitation for the honor of your Grace's presence
for church services either on the 10th or on the 17th of
September, 1967.

It is our deepest wish that Your Grace's presence will
be possible at this time.

Yours truly,

ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH

Shahen Bedrosian per ma
Shahen Bedrosian
Parish Council Chairman

SB/ma

OCT 29
is only open until

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
Phone: BU 2-9604



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՉԱՅԱՍԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ
ՎԱՅԳԻՆ ՎԱՐՎ. ԹԱՆՈՑԵԱՆ, ՀԱՂԻ

April 8, 1967

Dear Bishop Torhom:

We hope everything is going well with you.

Father Vertanes has informed us that after April 16, 1967, he will be unable to serve our church on a visiting basis. We would appreciate very much your assigning another clergyman to serve our parish.

Yours sincerely,

Shaken Bedrosian

April 20, 1967

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Chairman, Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

The Primate, His Grace Bishop Torkom Manoogian has received your letter dated April 8, 1967, in regard to Fr. Vertanes's statement that he will be unable to serve your church on a visiting basis.

The Primate suggests that the Divine Liturgy be celebrated at your church twice a month for the spiritual needs of your community. Therefore, His Grace would like to know which Sundays you would prefer to have a clergyman to perform Divine Liturgy. It seems that Fr. Vertanes will keep on helping us for a while until final arrangements are made.

We hope to see you in Detroit for the Diocesan Assembly.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Vasken Kebreslian
Vicar General

April 21, 1967

Mr. Shahan Bedrosian
Chairman, Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
437 Eighth St.
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

We have received your Parish Council's Statistical report of 1966, where it was mentioned that you had your Annual Assembly on ^{Feb} March 19, 1967, but no official letter is submitted asking the Primate to approve your elections and in this report we have received, the name of the chairman and secretary of the Annual Assembly is not mentioned. You have put down only Arsen Avdoian's name as new Parish Council member. Probably some of the parish council members were re-elected, whose names should appear on the list of new parish council members, because they are considered as newly elected members.

In order to bring up to date the file of your church, I would suggest that you send an official letter to the Primate, His Grace Bishop Torken ^{Feb} Manecogian stating that you had your elections held on ^{Feb} March 19, the name of the chairman and the secretary of the assembly, how many members were present, how many of the parish council members were elected and how many votes did each one receive should be mentioned, asking approval of the newly elected parish council members.

Please also send the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the new executive body of the parish council.

Prayerfully,

VERY REV. VASKEN KEBRESLIAN
Vicar General

P.S. Please complete the enclosed report-sheet.

June 30, 1967

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian,
Chairman of St. Sarkis Armenian Church,
Niagara Falls.

Dear Mr. Bedrosian,

The Primate, His Grace Bishop Torkom Manoogian will arrive Buffalo airport on July 5, 1967 at 6.13 PM. The flight is American Airlines N o. 526.

The wish of His Grace is that you and Parish Council members meet him at the airport and from there you all go to St. Catherines to have your scheduled meeting at 7.30 PM. Those of the Parish Council members that would like to go directly to St. Catherines, they may do so.

Prayerfully

Fr. Vasken Kebreslian,
Vicar General

August 2, 1967

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Chairman of Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

Many thanks for your letter of July 29, 1967. I am sorry that you had misunderstood me. What I meant in my previous letter was that we had already arranged a Divine Liturgy for Niagara Falls on August 20th and accordingly Fr. Vertanes Papazian (not Fr. Nerses) was informed to be with you on that day.

Suddenly I found out that Fr. Arakelian will be with you on August 27. At first I had the impression that you will have Badaraks two Sundays in a row. But Fr. Papazian told me that you do not want him on August 20th. I was frankly surprised that other arrangements are being made without my knowledge and that kind of a situation is not to my liking. I do hope that in the future we will try to cooperate and decide upon things jointly with one another's knowledge.

I have informed Fr. Arakelian that he may be with you on August 27th. As you are requesting Divine Liturgy once a month starting from September I will try to send a clergyman once a month. Your Badarak of September will be on Sept. 24th. It is very difficult to send the visiting clergyman a few days earlier because each one has such extensive duties. The Toronto Parish is increasing rapidly and it is not possible to ask the parish priest over there to be with you once a month.

The Primate, His Grace Bishop Torkom Manoogian, returned from Europe on July 31, and I asked him about his schedule of visitations. He has planned to visit you on Oct. 28-29 weekend. Thus, in October no other clergyman will come to Niagara Falls because the Primate will be with you.

I will write to you at a later time concerning future dates. I wish you all the best with God's blessing.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Vasken Kebreslian
Vicar General

VK/asp

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.
Phone: BU 2-9604



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՏՈՂՍ

ՎԱԶԳԷՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱԿՈՅԵԱՆ, Հովի

~~VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor~~

July 29, 1967

Dear Father Vasken,

I hope everything is going well with you.

I have your letter of July 25 in which you state that Fr. Nerses informed you that on August 20 he would be able to come to Niagara Falls because the Sunday following that (Aug. 27), Fr. Arakelian will be coming there. I cannot understand this statement and would appreciate your clarifying it for me. Also, please explain to me who Fr. Nerses is.

With your approval, we would like to accept Fr. Arakelian's proposal of celebrating the services here on August 27, and cancelling the service scheduled for August 20. I will write Father Arakelian that we have requested approval from the diocese of his proposal and will notify him as soon as possible.

The Parish Council feels that one Divine Liturgy per month will be satisfactory because Deacon Antranig Boyagian has been holding services every Sunday. We feel that the celebration of Divine Liturgy on Sundays alone is entirely inadequate for a priest who has to travel about 1,000 miles just for this purpose. We feel that it would be better if he could remain here a few days and make visitations, etc. I think we discussed this recently over the telephone. Perhaps Father Jirair of Toronto could spend one week every month here. You must remember that in the past our Father Vasken was shared by us, Toronto and St. Catharines so why should Father Jirair be unable to do that temporarily?

We are scheduled to have Bishop Torkom with us during a weekend in October. Please confirm the date with me so we can plan accordingly.

Kindest personal regards,

Shahan Bedrosian
Chairman

September 19, 1967

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Chairman of Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

A number of our parishes have requested the official photograph of the Primate, to be hung in the parish office as is customary.

Lately, it was possible to secure an official photograph of His Grace of which we are enclosing herewith a copy for your use.

Since it will be an extra expense on the Diocesan budget, the Diocesan Council reluctantly decided to realize the cost of each photograph, which is sixteen dollars (\$16.00), through the treasury of the parish councils.

While this amount will not be a considerable burden on the parishes, the entire cost of these photographs would be a noticeable weight on the Diocesan budget.

It will be appreciated if you kindly submit the above mentioned amount to the Diocesan Office on or before Oct. 20, 1967 in order to enable us to pay the photographer.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Vasken Kebreslian
Vicar General

VK/asp

October 25, 1967

Mr. Shahaen Bedrosian
Chairman Diocesan Council
St. Sarkis Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14303

Dear Mr. Bedrosian,

In answer to your letter of October 17, 1967, I would like to suggest that you write an official letter to the Chairman of the Diocesan Council, Mr. George Bashian, and express your situation concerning Diocesan dues increase etc.. Let us make our correspondence to the point and to the direct person, in that way we may achieve more.

As to the Celebrant on November 19, I would like to inform you on that day Father Mesrob Semerjian will be with you to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. I do not remember whether I had told you Father Arakelian would be the Celebrant on November 19, please ~~consider that~~ this has been changed and now Father Semerjian will be with you on that day.

I hope and wish that in the future your difficulties may be lessened and eventually you may have your own Pastor to guide you with Christian Principles. May God Bless you all for everything you are doing for your community.

Prayerfully,

Bishop Vasken Kebreslian,
Vicar General

VK/sh
VK/sh

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Phone: BU 2-9604

VERY REV. VASKEN TATOYAN, Pastor



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՂՍ

ՎԱԶԳԵՆ ՎԱՐԴ. ԹԱԿՈՅԵԱՆ, Հովիւ

October 17, 1967

Dear Father Vasken:

Enclosed is a check for our total arrears and current assessment of the Etehmiadzjin Looms.

We note that our parish dues have increased to \$600.00 annually from \$525.00. Please consider our protest regarding this increase because we have no priest and our income has dropped. Our parish council feels very strongly that we shall pay no increase in dues until we have the services of a full time priest.

I would like to stress a very important matter regarding the need for a priest - our



St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 NINTH STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

~~REV. KHOREN MAMIGONIAN~~
~~MINISTER~~

TELEPHONE 2-9604

October 17, 1967

Church and land are being acquired by the state of New York for purposes of constructing an expressway thereon. If we are to have a new site and church, we certainly need the services of a clergyman.

Bishop Torham is going to be with us during the weekend of October 28 and I would appreciate your relaying to him that we plan to have a banquet after Bedrosch and that we plan to celebrate the anniversary of our church's consecration also with a cake lighting ceremony.

Yours sincerely,
Shahen Bedrossian

September 7, 1971

✓ Reverend Nersess Baboorian
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Father Nersess:

On the occasion of our visit to the St. Catharines and Niagara Falls parishes on the weekend of October 2nd, we would be grateful if arrangements could be made to meet with the young members of your communities together on Sunday evening, October 3rd. We urge the Parish Councils of both churches to make a concerted effort to organize such a gathering so that we may have an opportunity to meet with the young people.

We shall arrive at Buffalo Airport on Saturday, October 2nd, at 1:35 p.m. on American Airlines flight #481, and will meet with the St. Catharines Parish Council following that evening's church service. Sunday morning the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in St. Gregory Illuminator Church. On Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. we will meet with the Parish Council of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Niagara Falls, and leave from Buffalo on Tuesday morning.

We ask that you please confirm the above arrangements and advise us of the time you have selected so that we may arrange our schedule accordingly.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc: Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Mr. Ashod Kuderian

November 22, 1971

Mr. Shahan Bedrosian
Chairman
8121 Valle Drive
✓Niagara Falls, New York 14304

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

We are planning our 1972 Regional Meetings well in advance in order to emphasize the increasing importance we associate with them. We want to make certain that our parish council members and delegates have sufficient notice of the meetings we ourselves, Primate and Diocesan Council members, may be able to plan and prepare to attend.

We expect to communicate directly with all involved, prepare and distribute copies of the agenda, and otherwise work for a productive meetings. But the first step is the arrangement of the schedule which restricts the meetings to a limited period, enabling us to contact all our parishes with as little variance in time as possible; also indicated are the host parishes, of which yours is one.

We urge that you make every effort to accept this schedule, since making any change would involve several areas. We hope also that you will agree to serve as the host parish for your region.

Please let us hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manogian
Primate

Enclosure

March 15, 1972

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Chairman of Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 9 Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

During the past few weeks we have been occupied with the task of securing a pastor to serve both the Niagara Falls, New York and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada parishes, with our thoughts centering primarily on Father Levon Arakelian. From the delay in receiving a confirmation from one of the parishes involved, and because of other circumstances arising here, Father Levon's candidacy can no longer be considered.

It is our wish to assign as pastor of your two parishes the Very Reverend Vazken Keshishian, whom we expect to transfer from his current post in the Midwest.

We deem this an appropriate solution to our needs at present and urge you to act on this expeditiously. We will be at the Regional Meeting set for Niagara Falls on March 25, and hope to bring this matter to some form of resolution.

Please bring this to the attention of your respective Parish Councils immediately.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

ATM/ec

August 17, 1972

The Very Reverend Vazken Keshishian
Pastor
President of Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
✓ 300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Father Vazken:

On Thursday, September 21, Mr. Jack Antreassian, Executive Director of the Diocese, will visit your parish on behalf of the Diocesan Council and our Office, as part of his tour of our entire Diocese.

He will spend all day in your parish, discussing parish and Diocesan matters with you and your parish council, as well as with representatives of your ladies' organizations.

It is our expectation that you will arrange to spend some time with him so that a profitable exchange may be effected. A meeting, preferably in the afternoon, should also be set up with representatives of the ladies' group. The evening should be reserved for a meeting with the parish council, and the Diocesan delegates.

Along with matters of general concern, Mr. Antreassian will communicate one of our most urgent preoccupation -- action on our youth program in your parish. For this it will be important to have available one or two, or even a group of your young people who are or have been active in ACYOA.

We are hopeful that this visit will be extremely useful, both to your parish and certainly to us.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Terkon Manougian
Primate

ATM/ee

cc: Mr. Shahen Badrosian

Niagara Falls.

September 11, 1974

Mr. Berdj Karagoz
Parish Council Chairman
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
3487 Greenway
Grand Island, New York 14072

Dear Mr. Karagoz:

Some years ago the Binghamton parish, located in a relatively small community and eager to be able to afford a full-time pastor, had the happy idea of establishing a pastor's fund. The church leaders felt that it was imperative to have a full-time pastor for the welfare and natural growth of the community. But the limited resources of the small community seemed to discourage such a prospect.

To counter this circumstance, the pastor's fund was created and in a relatively short time more than \$10,000 was accumulated, at which time petition was made to the Primate for a full-time pastor. As a reserve, the fund made this possible.

The Binghamton example is one that other of our smaller parishes can follow with benefit. We urge your parish Council to give serious consideration to the idea which can be a boon for the future of your community.

Even if it takes three or four years to put together a fund that could encourage your parish to seek a full-time pastor, it will be well worth undertaking. We cannot recommend such a step too highly.

We would be pleased to have your reactions.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

vb

February 23, 1976

Mr. Albert Amato
522 Niagara Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Amato:

It was a great joy for us to listen to the tape of songs by the Church School students which you were thoughtful enough to record and send to us. We would have acknowledged it much sooner but for the fact that we have been on an extended tour of our parishes.

It was a joy to read your letter as well, and get a sense of the apparent enthusiasm of the youngsters in your classes, and the generosity of spirit shown by their warm response to the needy in Lebanon,

We have not forgotten the wedding. Our trip to Etchmiadzin may keep us out of the country until the 14th of October. Let the Parish Council write to us for that same weekend and we will apprise them of our plans.

As to a published service, we have asked Mr. Antreassian to look into the matter and be in touch with you personally.

We will remember you and all the students in your school in our prayers, and ask that the Lord bless you always.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church



300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14303

Phone: 282-2587

Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՂՍ

April 26, 1976

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

Dear Surpazan Hayr:

Recently, in a telephone communication with your grace, I had briefly discussed the Parish Council's efforts to sell the gas station which had become a serious financial burden to the church.

Briefly, the picture is as follows;

During the past 7-8 years, the church income from this property has radically decreased; from the original \$ 350 monthly rental, 10 and 20 years ago down to as low as \$175 per month, while expenses and taxes have sharply increased.

The net income during 1973 was \$ 249, in 1974 \$ 277, and in 1975 there was a net loss of \$ 487 (reference, financial reports for 1973, 74 and 75, attached) .

A few months ago, there was a new problem; that was rapid deterioration of the building- a leaky roof and damage to the tenant's equipment. It was clear that if the necessary repairs were performed, it would cost several thousand... but then there would be other things to go wrong...

The parish assembly of 1973 (copy of minutes attached) recognizing the dim future of this property, had unanimously authorized the Parish Council to sell it. However, with the then depressed service station market, it was impossible to do anything about it.

Last fall, a prospective buyer was making inquiries... After careful consideration, the Parish Council voted to sell the gas station for \$ 40,000 which is considered to be a good price.

After long negotiations and discussions which were handled by Mr. Shahan Bedrosian and Mr. Shavasp Hanesian, an attorney in our community, the prospective buyer agreed to the terms. After some more delays and financing problems, final agreement papers were drawn. These are also attached, accompanied by a cover letter by Mr. Hanesian to the writer.

Your grace, on behalf of the Parish Council, I respectfully request that this matter is brought to the attention of the Diocesan Council as soon

as possible. The prospective buyer, or the buyer, has a deadline of his own to meet since he is forced to relocate. Our own tenant has already been given a month's notice.

As indicated in Mr. Hanesian's letter, timing is extremely important for the success of these transactions.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Berj Karagoz". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Berj Karagoz
Chairman

June 8, 1967

Mr. Shahen Bedrossian
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Mr. Bedrossian:

We have considered at the meetings both of the Parish Council and of the Diocesan Delegates the special problems that are faced by our parishes in your area. By way of meeting these needs we have deemed it necessary to appoint a Regional Vicar for these parishes.

We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed the Very Rev. Vatche Hovsepian a Regional Vicar for Canada. The Very Rev. Hovsepian is one of our devoted and competent clergymen, and has distinguished himself in his ten years of services as Parish Priest of Union City, N. J.

You are invited to a conference with the Very Rev. Vatche Hovsepian to discuss the range of Problems that are in need of solution, and some details concerning some immediate objectives. We expect to see every Parish Priest and every member of the Parish Councils of Toronto, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls at this conference which will be held on July 5, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m., at the St. Gregory Church Hall, 49 Carlton St., St. Catharines.

Needless to say this is a meeting of unusual importance, and we are sure you will make every effort to be present to meet with us and with Father Vatche Hovsepian.

Prayerfully,

;

Bishop Torkom
Primate

November 10, 1971

Mr. Shahan Bedrosian
Chairman of Parish Council
✓ Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

We appreciate the sentiments expressed in your letter of November 3rd. Comparable situations exist in a number of our parishes, and unfortunately, it is impossible to treat any of them independently, since a change in one parish inevitably affects other parishes.

The transfer of Father Nerses was done because it best suited the broader demands of the Diocese. This is the principal motive behind all reassignments.

We, together with the Diocesan Council, are deeply concerned with the needs of your parish, as we are with the needs of all our parishes. We hope to be able to relieve your situation at the earliest possible time.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to continue your dedicated work on behalf of our Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc: Miss Margaret Avdoian
Secretary of Parish Council
Mr. Crosby Goshgarian
Chairman of Diocesan Council

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14303

Phone: 282-2587



Ս. ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ

ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

ՆԻԱԿԱՐԱ ՖՈՒՍ

November 3, 1971

The Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Armenian Church of North America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York

Your Grace,

On behalf of the Parish Council of St. Sarkis Armenian Church, I feel compelled to write concerning the recent transfer of our parish priest, Fr. Nerses Baboorian. In mid-October, we were notified, by letter, that the priest would be transferred effective November 9, 1971. No immediate plans for a replacement were indicated.

Over the past eighteen years, the members of our parish have struggled; but we have managed to fulfill our obligations to the Diocese. We now question whether the Diocese is being fair with us. We are in urgent need of a parish priest.

We feel that the decision made was a hasty one, without due consideration given to the problems that will result in the Niagara Falls parish. We fail to see how our situation could have been thoroughly considered since we were merely informed of the decision and not asked to partake in it.

We therefore request some solid justification for our "priestless" situation. Thank you in advance for your anticipated reply.

Very truly yours,

Shahan Bedrosian ^{st.}
Chairman

(Miss) Margaret Avdoian ^{st.}
Secretary

SB:slt

cc: Crosby Goshgarian
Chairman, Diocesan Council

Arthur Kuderian
Chairman
St. Catharines Parish Council

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
March 28, 1972
Page 2

As to the conditions decided upon: the stipend will be eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) a year, half of this sum to be paid by each parish. This sum is to include insurance premiums, all of which will be paid by the Pastor. He will have permanent residence in Niagara Falls. He will have at least two weeks vacation a year and this is to include two Sundays. He will receive an automatic five dollar (\$5.00) a week increase in salary each year for the first five years. Also, his expenses to the Diocesan Assembly and the Clergy Conference will be paid by your parishes equally. Finally, you will undertake costs of his moving to your area.

We pray that your parishes will flourish with this arrangement; but much will remain in your hands to achieve. May the Lord guide us to wise judgments in His service and for His mission.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

ATM/ec

cc: Very Reverend Vazken Keshishian

March 28, 1972

Mr. Shahen Bedrosian
Chairman of Parish Council
✓ St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 9th Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Bedrosian:

We are pleased to appoint the Very Reverend Vazken Keshishian as Pastor of your parish, as well as the Pastor of the St. Catharines parish, serving both equally.

This appointment is made on the basis of our discussion with your joint parish councils and the understanding that derived from these discussions.

Father Vazken will celebrate his first Badarak in Niagara Falls on April 16th, and in St. Catharines on April 23rd. Aside from these two dates, it is essential for both your parish councils to meet and decide how the Pastor's duties will be divided with respect to service in both parishes--which Sundays he will be in either city, including a schedule for the special feast days. This can only be done cooperatively by you.

It must be noted that Father Vazken will be the President of both parishes and responsible for all church organizations, this in conjunction and cooperation with the parish councils. It is only by working together that the necessary job can be done best.

(continued)

April 12, 1976

Mr. Berdj Karagoz
Chairman, Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Karagoz:

The 74th Annual Diocesan Assembly, meeting in the Philadelphia area on April 30 and May 1, 1976, will require proper credentials from all newly-elected delegates.

Your parish has had such elections this year and must, as a result, forward to us proper verification of the elections for presentation to the Assembly Credentials Committee.

This verification may consist of a letter naming the delegate or delegates elected at your parish assembly, along with the number of votes each received out of the total number of votes cast.

This letter should be signed by the president and chairman of the parish council, or by the chairman and secretary, in parishes which do not have a pastor.

Please send us this letter at your earliest convenience.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

st

SHAVASP HANESIAN

Attorney at Law

1606 EIGHTH STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14305
TELEPHONE 282-6179
AREA CODE 716

April 23, 1976

Mr. Berch Karagoz
Chairman of the Parish Council of the
Armenian Apostolic Church, Inc.
St. Sarkis Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Re: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America to
Richard J. Beaman
Premises: 833 Niagara Street, Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Berch:

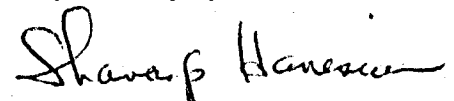
I am enclosing herewith proposed sale contract (3) regarding sale of the above noted property. Please note that St. Sarkis is designated as the agent of the Diocese, and that you are to sign the enclosed contract since you are the chairman of the Parish Council.

However, I understand that the owner of the property is the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and that this would mean that an official of the Diocese should be signing this contract also. Ultimately the deed must be signed by an official of the Diocese. Both these signatures presumably would follow the prescribed internal procedures or by-laws of the Diocese.

Shahen tells me that you are traveling to New York this weekend and that you could take the contract with you for such signature. Please impress upon the people that you talk with that closing date is May 31, 1976, and that the enclosed contract should be executed and returned to my office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,



SHAVASP HANESIAN

SH/lah

Enclosures

March 22, 1977

Mr. Arsen Avdoian
Parish Council Chairman
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Avdoian:

The Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian referred your request for biographical data on The Very Reverend Father Khajag Barsamian to me.

Please find enclosed a biography and photograph of Father Barsamian. If any other information is requested, I shall be happy to be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sandra Shahinian
Public Relations

Enclosures

vb

Biography of The Very Reverend Father Khajag Barsamian

The Very Reverend Father Khajag Barsamian was born in Arapkir, Turkey on July 4, 1951. He moved to Istanbul, Turkey with his family in 1957, and received his primary education at the Saint Mesrob School.

Having evidenced the desire to become a priest at an early age, in 1964, Father Khajag entered the Holy Cross Seminary, a school sponsored by the Patriarchate of Istanbul. He was aided in his efforts by the Patriarch of Istanbul, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian.

In 1967, Father Khajag entered the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, feeling that he would not be able to further his ecclesiastical education in Istanbul.

Father Khajag was ordained a deacon in 1969 and a celibate priest in 1971. In 1973, he was granted the degree of Vartabed.

From 1971 to 1974, Father Khajag served as both a teacher and assistant Dean of the Seminary in Jerusalem. In 1974, he served as the pastor to the Armenian communities in Juffa, Houfa and Ramle.

Father Khajag returned to Istanbul in 1975, where he worked in the Patriarchate and served as a preacher in the Armenian Churches in Istanbul.

In the fall of 1976, Father Khajag accompanied His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian on an extensive tour of Europe and the United States, serving as His Beatitude's personal secretary.

Feeling that a higher education is necessary to become a more well-rounded individual and, in this day and age, a more effective clergyman, Father Khajag decided to continue his education. With the guidance and assistance of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manogian, he entered St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, in February 1977. After completing a three-year program, Father Khajag will receive the degree of Master of Divinity.

March 22, 1977

September 2, 1980

Mr. Arsen Avdoian
Parish Council Chairman
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Avdoian:

On August 22, 1980, in the Diocesan Council's meeting, we decided to concede to the request of the Reverend Father Untzag Nalbandian to be assigned to serve in another parish in our Diocese.

As we previously informed you by telephone of the possibility of this reassignment, we do hereby confirm in writing that Father Untzag Nalbandian will celebrate his last Divine Liturgy in your parish on Sunday, September 21, 1980, and on Tuesday, September 23, will depart to his destination at Greenfield, Wisconsin.

For the assignment of visiting priests to perform church services in your parish, please contact our Vicar General, the Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian, at the Diocesan Office in New York City.

We wish you and the members of the Parish Council wisdom and God's guidance in the performance of your duties and in your devoted service to our Church.

May the Lord bless you all.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

c.c. Father Untzag Nalbandian

October 27, 1980

Mr. Albert Amato
522 Niagara Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Mr. Amato:

Thank you for sending us the photographs of the ceremony at Niagara Falls of dedication of a "khachkar" in memory of our sacred martyrs. The black and white photographs will be used in our Diocesan publications.

The true monument to the Genocide is indeed the Cross, for it speaks Resurrection; so have our people risen, strengthened and renewed in their eternal faith, each reborn community a new candle sweeping away the darkness that men of confusion sought in vain to bring upon us. The "khachkar" that now stands in Niagara Falls is, like the "ardzans" of ancient days, both a memorial to the fallen and a symbol of victory.

May God send to you and to all the faithful of our Church the blessings of His wisdom and His righteous might.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

st

March 29, 1985

The Very Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian
St. Gregory The Illuminator Church
49 Carlton Street
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1P7
CANADA

Dear Fr. Kegham:

We acknowledge receipt of a letter dated February 13, signed by you and the parish councils of Syracuse, Rochester and Niagara Falls, regarding the pastoral duties you will assume in these parishes.

We hereby appoint you pastor of St. Paul Armenian Church of Syracuse, St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Niagara Falls, and the Armenian Community of Rochester, and you will assume your pastoral duties as of May 1, 1985.

You will celebrate the first Divine Liturgy on May 12, after attending the annual Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference which will be held at the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church of Bayside, N.Y., on April 30 to May 5. Expenses for these meetings will be absorbed by the three parishes.

Your residence in the parishes and the celebration of the Divine Liturgy will be by turn according to an agreed arrangement.

Special arrangements must be made for Christmas, Easter and other feast days according to an agreement by the three parishes.

As you will be residing in Rochester, the Niagara Falls and Syracuse parishes will make arrangements for your residence while you are in their parishes.

May the Lord bless you with His love and wisdom.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manougian
Primate

cc. Syracuse, Niagara Falls
~~Rochester~~

August 24, 1989

Mr. Arsen Avdoian
Chairman of the Parish Council
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Arsen:

Thank you very much for the photographs of our stay in Niagara Falls which you so kindly forwarded to us.

It was a very special visit indeed; we were very moved by the love of the community for its guest-patients from Armenia and for the gracious way so many, Armenians and non-Armenians alike, were working on their behalf.

We are grateful to you also for your many kindnesses and for all the love and service your whole family has lavished on the Niagara Falls community. It was a great pleasure for us to have Ani here at headquarters during her internship; as could have been expected, her work and her devotion were exemplary.

God bless you and may His grace and wisdom dwell abundantly in you and your dear family.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

March 5, 1986

V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, Pastor
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
226 Joanne Drive, #1
Rochester, NY 14616

Dear Father Kegham:

This is to confirm that His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manougian will be in Niagara Falls on March 15 for the Regional meeting. He will arrive at 8:15 a.m. in Buffalo on USAIR flight 285 and will leave for New York City on Monday, March 17 at 11:35 a.m. from Buffalo on USAIR flight 157.

Please make the necessary arrangements for his accommodation and meet him at the airport.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

cc: Ms. Sema Tarpinian
Chairman, Niagara Falls

March 5, 1986

V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, Pastor
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
226 Joanne Drive, #1
Rochester, NY 14616

Dear Father Kegham:

This is to confirm that His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will be in Niagara Falls on March 15 for the Regional meeting. He will arrive at 8:15 a.m. in Buffalo on USAIR flight 285 and will leave for New York City on Monday, March 17 at 11:35 a.m. from Buffalo on USAIR flight 157.

Please make the necessary arrangements for his accommodation and meet him at the airport.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Vicar General

cc: Ms. Sema Tarpinian
Chairman, Niagara Falls

**S.S. Sahay and Mesrob
Armenian Church**

630 Clothier Rd., Wynnewood, Pa.
Tel. MI 2-4212



**Ս. Սահակ եւ Ս. Մեսրոպ
Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի**

Հովիւ
ԲԱՐՅԷՆ ԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ ՎԱՐԺԱԵԼՅԱՆ
RT. REV. BISHOP PAPKEN. Pastor.

*First Christian Nation.
Still Serving Christ.*

**Mr. Shahan Bedrosian, Chairman
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
Parish Council.
Niagara Falls N.Y.**

Dear Mr. Chairman, and members of Parish Council.

I am sure you are aware of the fact that that I made a LOAN of \$ 2000.00 to your church during its building.

It is a matter of record that this loan was made by me personally, and there is no interest for the said loan. It is also a fact that the Church Trustees agreed to pay the sum of \$ 2000.00 at their earliest convenience.

I would like to thank you, as well as previous administration of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Niagara Falls for the sum of \$ 1300.00 towards the payment of the loan.

I will appreciate if you would kindly make an arrangement to pay me the balance of \$ 700.00 during this year. I will be satisfied if you appropriate \$25. per week and from time to time send me a check.

I wish and pray that you and your church may have a prosperous year, and may Good Lord bless all of you to continue HIS work.

Prayerfully

Bishop Papken

BISHOP PAPKEN VARJABEDIAN

cc. To The Treasurer
Mrs. V. Fadal

Niagara Falls

Dear Sir:

Under the heading of "Church News", Courier Express September 16th issue, there appeared a news item from Niagara Falls, N.Y. regarding the Armenian Apostolic Church. We are referring to a piece of land which has been purchased for that purpose and recently rented to a gasoline business concern, as the News indicates, supposedly to raise money to build a Church for the Armenian Community. You state in quotation from Mr. Leo Dardarian as follows: "So we decided to accept the offer and find another location for the Church. The steady revenue from property will help us borrow additional money for the construction of the Church."

Perhaps the time is on hand to make facts public property about the proposed building of a Church for the Armenian Community in Niagara Falls.

The real reason of the delay of building an Armenian Apostolic Church in Niagara Falls is not the shortage of funds but it is the lack of understanding between two factions which has been created since the Bolshevik Revolution.

It would be fitting at this time, to acquaint the public with some of the background of the Armenian Apostolic faith which is often called the Armenian Gregorian Church.

Two strong forces have played a dominant role in the political, social and religious role of the Armenian people all over the world. One is the Church and the other the political parties.

The Armenian Apostolic Church belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Churches. The head of the Church is the Catholicos of all Armenians throughout the world who follow this denomination. The seat of the Catholicos for centuries has been at Etchmiadzin, which is located in Soviet Armenia. The Armenian Catholicosate is a Church state in its own right and the Catholicos of the Church has been accepted as the full religious ruler over a period of centuries.

It is now commonly known that no religious organization within the Soviet Union is allowed to establish ties with any religious centre outside of the Soviet orbit. Although the Communists vowed enemy of religion, on the other hand, it seems that the Church has served their purpose well enough to leave the seat of the Catholicos intact in order to use the head of the Church as a medium to carry out their subversive propaganda among the scattered Armenians all over the globe.

Under the religious cloke, therefore, it is obvious that the present Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church is not actually a religious representative in a sense but just a figure head in captivity to carry out Stalin's orders. It is unfortunate that the small minority of American citizens of Armenian origin do not seem to understand, or shall we say, due to traditional religious tie they have been blinded of the diabolical plan of the Communists.

The tradition of the Armenian Apostolic Church has been a strict control of the Armenian clergy all over the world. Those of the clergy who do not obey the mandates of the Catholicos are ex-communicated as one

exceeding his authority.

It is obvious that a traditional belief of this sort could be a very convenient weapon in the hands of Stalin to propogate Communism in all corners of the world wherever Armenians have taken up residence.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Communist "October Revolution" the Armenian religious organ published an abusive excoriation of the "Anglo-American Imperialists" of the Vatican and of "The blind Lackeys of Imperialists - The Tashings".

Who are the Tashnags?

The real name of this organization is "The Armenian Revolutionary Federation". This organization came to being about 60 years ago, having their aims to liberate Armenians from their barbaric rulers and to re-establish the historic Armenia as a free nation among the family of nations in the world.

During the latter part of the First World War, they compelled the Turks to recognize the Armenian Republic of 1918 in the pattern of the Government of the United States in which declaration, late President Wilson played a major part.

It was unfortunate that the life of the Armenian Republic of 1918 lasted only two short years because it was overrun by the blood-thirsty Bolshevics during 1920, and made part of the Soviet Russia.

At the fall of this Republic, most of the political leaders of the republic were beheaded and others exiled to Siberia. This was the end of the Republic of 1918.

Although the life of this Republic was curtailed shortly, nevertheless the Tashangs became stronger than ever in the hopes that some day soon the freedom loving people will bury the Communistic regime in the pages of History and again free the Armenians from the clutches of its most vicious dictator so that they can again breathe as free as people should.

In the U.S.A. Tashings and its followers uphold the following principles;

1. As their national duty towards their adopted country they intill and promote true Americanism and are ready to combat all subversive elements who may tamper with the American way of life.
2. As humanitarian duty they are ready to help the Armenians abroad to regain their independence and become one of the members of the freedom-loving nations.
3. To free the Armenian Apostolic Church in America and elsewhere from the despotic influence of communism.

How is the Armenian Church being used as a means of Communistic propoganda? There are numerous examples which would require pages upon pages but we shall cite only a few of the most recent happenings.

On August 24th the Radio Moscow announced that Arch-Bishop Kevork Chorakjian following the Peace propoganda of Stockholm approached Arch-Bishop Canterbury Dr. Fisher, trying to induce him to sign the peace appeal regarding the use of atomic power.

Dr. Fisher's reply was " The British people have always fought vigorously for the preservation of lasting peace at all times and he could not find any reason why he should sign a document demanding peace when it is already understood.

At Lake Success during the U.N. Security Council Presidency by the Soviet Representative, Malik, a cablegram has been dispatched by Catholicos Kevork VI of the Armenian Apostolic Church condemning the action of the United States for bombing North Korea and a demand has been made to "cease fire". This document has been filed under No. S-1709 of the Security Council.

Through religious News service we hear from Beirut Lebanon that a newly elected 21 member community council of the Armenian Gregorian Church has suspended Arch-Bishop Mesrob Aslanian of Armenian Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Patriarch has long been accused by section of the Armenian Community of arbitrary decisions and subservience to the Soviet dominated Catholicosate of Etchmiadzin in Soviet Armenia, etc.

These are but a few of the subversive activities of the Soviet tactics made public property. What about multitudes of other activities used by them in a very subtle fashion luring innocent people to sign Stockholm peace documents and others?

In the New York Times recently, Bishop Teran Nersoyan has announced that he is the prelate of the Armenian Churches in the North American continent. We emphatically state that this is not the fact. He only represents the small minority who fanatically are attached to the old tradition and they cannot see the handwriting on the wall that the hands of the Armenian Catholicos are tied and that his thoughts are controlled by Stalin alone. It has been announced through Hairenik Press (the official organ of the Tashnag) in Boston, and Asbarez, an Armenian publication in California, many times that Bishop Teran in New York represents only the small minority who have not yet caught on to Stalin's tactics.

The huge majority of the Americans of Armenian descent refuse to obey his religious mandates until such time when the communistic influence upon the Catholicos has been abolished. In plain language, the Armenian Church is divided in two factions, not ritualistically but because of its political influence on the Western civilisation under the religious cloak.

Many years ago we chose America as our adopted country. Thousands of our children were born and brought up under the Stars and Stripes and thousands of our young men made the supreme sacrifice during the last two catastrophic wars so that we could enjoy the principles of our democratic way of life. It is certain that we are not going to let our Church be used as a direct channel to Stalin's subtle plans in order to destroy our way of life. It is true that during 1946 the Niagara Armenian Church building

Committee has been appointed from Teran Nersayan. Armenians contribute the money following understanding, Church unity, is almost completed. That's the Nersayan's statement in the group, but not only has been united, there was even a hope that it be united Nersayan tried to fool the Niagara Falls Armenians.

Nersayan's committee adoped Stalin's Tactics. Behind the iron curtain, under the name of the church, they bought a piece of land, now they are renting them for gasoline stations. Contributing members don't know anything about this. How the church could go into the gasoline station business. This needed investigation, we declared we do not take any part with those two or three men responsible. They do not represent the Niagara Falls Armenians, they only represent their own group.

For your information, some of the donors are raising vigorous protest and demanding their donations returned for the reason that they are not going to be party to any activities which directly or indirectly may tamper with the American way of life.

We love the Star Spangled Banner and for all that it stands. We are not attempting to tell the public that all those who have advocated the Church under the present Catholicos are affiliated with the Communists. On the contrary, the greatest number in that group have been influenced by the traditional ritual of the Church. They have been led to believe that if they sever connections with the Catholicos for the time being, the Armenian Apostolic Church will lose its identity in the world forever. To these people, we say "please wake up." Otherwise you are tampering with our freedom which has been retained by the blood of our children.

These are the facts which we are facing without fear.

In conclusion, when Leo Dardarian says "It is hard to raise money for religion, these days" the reason is far greater than the inability to raise the money.

Let us come to an understanding and build a Church which will be absolutely free from the influence of the Catholicos in Soviet Russia and Bishop Teran in New York. Then the necessary funds will be raised without difficulty. Otherwise we will not become party of building a church which will be used as a medium of propoganda to spread Communism under the cloak of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Respectfully yours,

We remain,

*The Armenian Revolutionary Federation
Niagara Falls Branch*

Ardent Supporters of American Way of Life

June 30, 1988

The Very Reverend Father Kegham Zakarian
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
300 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Father Kegham:

We are writing to remind you that your Annual Parish Report has not as yet been submitted to Diocesan Headquarters.

Would you kindly forward it to us as soon as possible as our revised assessment schedule is being delayed pending receipt of your report.

Yours respectfully,

Syraun Palvetzian
Executive Director