



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

March 5, 1996

Mrs. Lena Kupelian-Neau
Chairman, Parish Council
5000 Quail Canyon Drive
Charlotte, NC 28226

Dear Mrs. Neau:

It is our pleasure to officially designate you as chairman of the newly appointed Parish Council of the Armenian Mission Parish of Charlotte, North Carolina.

We are certain that with the dedication of your community and under the leadership of the Very Reverend Father Nareg Berberian, the Armenian Church's diverse ministry to our flock in Charlotte will flourish in the years ahead.

We have received the names presented for the parish council of the newly-organized Charlotte Mission Parish; and hereby appoint them to be the members of the Parish Council. The following individuals shall serve in their appointed capacities until the parish achieves full status, unless otherwise noted: Mr. Edward Michael Azarian, Vice Chairman; Mr. Raymond Bozoian, Treasurer; Mrs. Noelle Sarkissian, Assistant Treasurer; Mrs. Grace Dokouzlian-Sauzier, Secretary; Mrs. Olga Boloyan, Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Laura Arslanian, Advisor.

We pray that the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ imbue you all with love, charity and goodwill as a new page of the history of our Holy Church begins in Charlotte.

May God keep you in His loving care and lead you all to good works in His Holy Name.

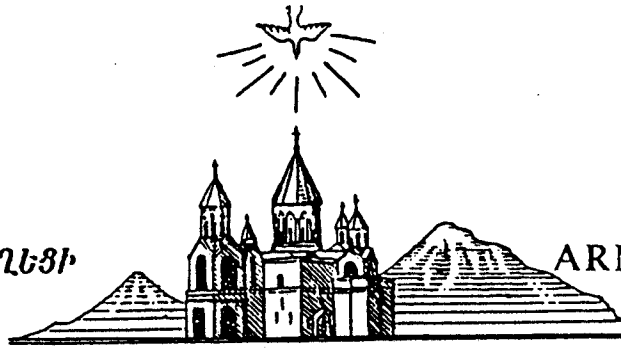
With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

cc: Very Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian

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SAINT JAMES
ARMENIAN CHURCH

V. REV. FR. NAREG BERBERIAN

May 22, 1996

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence,

Greetings from our beautiful state of Virginia. Energy is high for our work together as Spring breaks forth with wonderful color and pleasing moments.

I am writing you to capture and punctuate our conversation regarding our ecumenical efforts in the state of Virginia. We are about to embark on a more intentional journey. On April 28th we held the first ecumenical service for the commemoration of Armenian Martyr's Day in Richmond. Enclosed is a copy of the service. As you will note there were many clergy and guests representing various traditions. All expressed gratitude for being invited and a hope to do more in the future. Our whole community was inspired by this event.

We now come to you and ask your formal approval for St. James Armenian Church to represent the Diocese on the Virginia Council of Churches Cabinet. We will appoint one lay person, along with myself to attend the Cabinet meetings. I will also enclose information about the work of the VCC with this letter, though I know you are very familiar with this ecumenical partnership and the ministry they provide for people of the commonwealth of Virginia.

We feel it is a vital moment in the history of the religious community of Virginia for us to take part formally in communion with others of the Christian Church. Barriers of all kinds are moving and pathways to cooperative ventures are opening up. The Rev. James McDonald, General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches would also like to meet with you when you come to Richmond for our Fortieth Anniversary. We hope that at that time you will put a personal blessing on our joining the Council.

Currently the process involves the following steps:

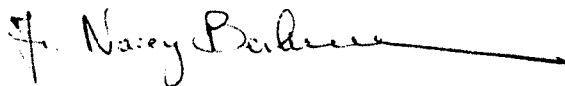
1. A letter from you explaining that we are a Trinitarian Tradition and that on behalf of the Diocese you request membership in the Virginia Council of Churches. It would also be helpful to note that the priest and one lay person of St. James Church will represent you in your absence. St. James Church will make a contribution of \$100. per year toward the Council until such time as a change is needed. St. James will also actively participate in the programs of the Council.

2. A group representative of the VCC Cabinet and St. James will engage in dialogue to come to understand one another. The results of those conversations will be reported to the Cabinet in October.

3. On November 9 (Thursday) St. James will be officially taken into the Cabinet and ministry of the Virginia Council of Churches during the Annual Assembly here in Richmond. Of course, if you are able to come and participate in that event we would be most honored.

Thank you for taking the time and care to do the things necessary for us to bring the Armenian community to the forefront of Virginia religious life.

Yours in the Service of the Lord,



Nareg Vartabed Berberain, pastor
St. James Armenian Apostolic Church
Richmond, Virginia



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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

June 6, 1996

The Very Reverend Father Nareg Berberian, Pastor
St. James Armenian Church
834 Pepper Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

Dear Father Nareg:

We have received your letter of May 22, 1996 and request to authorize the Richmond parish of St. James to formally join the Virginia Council of Churches. We are pleased with your ecumenical interest and involvement and commend you, Hayr Soorp, for engaging the local Christian churches in the commemoration of the 1915 Genocide and remembering our dearly departed martyrs.

It will be our pleasure to meet with Rev. James McDonald, the General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches when we are present for your community's fortieth anniversary celebration.

We approve of the membership of the St. James Armenian Church in the Virginia Council of Churches Cabinet and are certain with your presence, the Armenian Church will become a witness to the collective ecumenical endeavors of this body. Please apprise us of the name of the lay person who shall serve with you as well. You have noted that the St. James parish will contribute an annual \$100.00 membership donation. As a local ecumenical initiative, it will be our expectation that you shall make that annual contribution from the budget of the St. James parish annually.

We have enclosed a separate letter, as you requested, endorsing your representation of the Eastern Diocese.

We pray for your continued ministry and the productive fruits of your labors in the vineyard of the Lord.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

cc: Fr. Garabed Kochakian,
Ecumenical Officer



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

June 6, 1996

The Reverend James McDonald
General Minister
Virginia Council of Churches
1214 West Graham Road, Suite 3
Richmond, VA 23220-1409

Dear Reverend McDonald:

As Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in the United States, we bear testimony that our church subscribes to the faith of the sacramental christian churches who are of the Trinitarian Tradition, thus confessing God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Armenian Church is one of the ancient Oriental Orthodox Churches and traces her origin to Apostles Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew. Since her establishment in 301 A.D., she has always given breath, vision and support to the ecumenical work of the Universal Church of Christ.

It is our pleasure to appoint the Very Revered Father Nareg Berberian, Pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Virginia, to represent our Diocese in the Cabinet of Churches in the Virginia Council of Churches, along with one lay representative. We are certain that Father Berberian will present with integrity and commitment our participation in your local ecumenical initiatives.

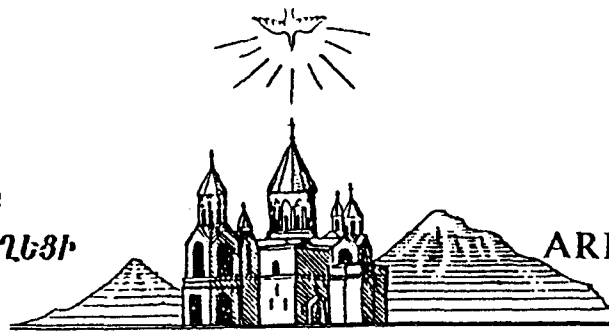
We look forward to the pleasure of meeting with you when we are visiting our community in Richmond.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

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SAINT JAMES
ARMENIAN CHURCH

V. REV. FR. NAREG BERBERIAN

June 25, 1996

The Rev. James McDonald
General Minister
Virginia Council of Churches
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Dear Jim,

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I write to you to follow up on the letter you received from His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian regarding the participation of the Armenian Church in America and our participation in the ministry of the Virginia Council of Churches.

To continue the process I would like to suggest that we proceed as we discussed a few months ago. First to engage our Parish Council members and representatives from VCC Cabinet in dialogue. We would like to extend an invitation to you for that conversation to take place over dinner at St. James Armenian Church on Wednesday August 28, 1996. Please let us know if this is acceptable to you. I will be in Armenia from June 28 to August 3, 1996 but Ginna Minasian Dalton will be pleased to mediate these arrangements until I return.

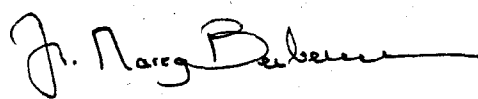
Second, On September 29, 1996 our church will be celebrating our Fortieth Anniversary. We will be dedicating a new prayer altar and The Primate will be in attendance. Therefore we would be honored if you would participate in the Divine Liturgy by reading the Epistle Lesson for the Day and by joining us for a community luncheon. Following the luncheon and program we can arrange for His Eminence and you to have a private conversation about our mutual ministry and partnership.

Third I understand that the Annual Assembly of the Virginia Council of Churches takes place on November 14, 1996 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on River Road. We would be pleased to participate and if the Cabinet sees fit to formally accept us on that occasion as we discussed then His Eminence may be able to attend as well. We await your guidance on all of these matters (i.e. how you vision the Primate's participation) with anticipation of a fruitful ministry together.

Fourth, I want you to know that I have appointed Anne Norris to be our lay representative. She will be attending our preliminary meetings too. Mr. John Baronian is chairman of our Parish Council. Both of these people are life long members of our church and have given unwaveringly of their time, talent and treasure. I believe that their spirit and creativity will enhance any project they undertake. Please add them to any mail list you have in operation. Thank you.

Again on behalf of the Armenian Church and the Diocese I am delighted that we have made such progress toward unity and empowerment of the Church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Nareg Berberian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Very Rev. Fr.. Nareg Berberian
Pastor

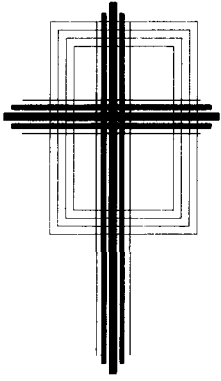
cc: His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

The Rev. Dr. Judith FaGalde Bennet
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220

The Rev. Fr.. Raymond Barton
President of the Cabinet
Virginia Council of Churches
208 East Jefferson Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Mr. John Baronian
Chairman-Parish Council
St. James Armenian Apostolic Church
202 De Sota Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229

Mrs. Robert (Anne) Norris
St. James VCC Cabinet Representative
20 Bridgehampton Place
Richmond, Virginia 23229



VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1214 West Graham Road, Suite 3, Richmond, Virginia 23220 • Phone (804) 321-3300 • FAX (804) 329-5066

September 5, 1996

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4885

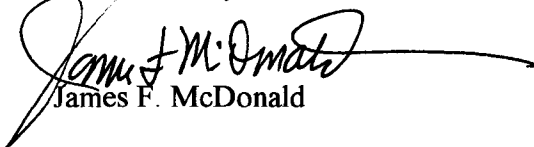
Dear Archbishop Barsamian:

Thank you for your letter of June 6th. We are looking forward to recognizing the Diocese, through St. James Armenian Church, as a member of the Virginia Council of Churches. The Coordinating Cabinet will vote affirmatively on October 24th and the Annual Assembly will officially welcome the Diocese on November 14th.

This past week we spent a delightful and informative evening with Father Berberian and members of his parish. They spoke of their faith and of their history, we shared a fine meal together, and Father Berberian escorted us through the church, providing further information about the symbols and liturgy of the Armenian Church.

We are aware that the Armenian Church of America has been an active participant in ecumenical affairs at the national and international levels, and are delighted that the Diocese will be a member of this Council. Your presence will broaden the nature of ecumenism in Virginia, and enrich the lives of all of our churches.

Most sincerely,


James F. McDonald

cc: Fr. Nareg Berberian
Anne Norris



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Very Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian
St. James Armenian Church
834 Pepper Ave
Richmond, VA 23226

October 16, 1996

Dear Fr. Nareg Berberian,

Enclosed is a copy of the Louma billing that was sent to you. According to our records this has not yet been paid. If this is not correct please let me know.

Your prompt attention to this will enable us to fulfill the Diocesan obligation to His Holiness.

Sincerely,

John Phillips
Administrator

cc: John Baronian
Primate



DIocese OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

October 18, 1996

Ms. Kim Servant Theriault
2 East Range
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903-3206

Dear Ms. Theriault:

We have received your inquiry regarding the Gorky letters and your wish to use them for your research. Presently some of those letters have been printed in *Arshile Gorky Adoian* by Karlen Mooradian, Gilgamesh Press available from the St. Vartan Bookstore. The other unpublished letters are currently being catalogued for future publication and are not available for any research initiatives, regrettably, at this time. Until the closure on the entire Gorky Estate is clarified our legal advisors under, whose direction this Estate is being handled, are not offering these letters for any such study of them, presently.

Should you have any further questions please contact Mr. Karekin Arzoomanian, Esq. - the Chairman of the Gorky Paintings and the Gorky Estate. He may be reached at (212)696-1469.

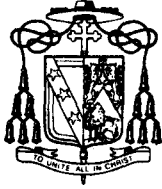
Wishing you success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Father Garabed Kochakian
Chancellor

c.c. Karekin Arzoomanian, Esq.

FGK/as



Office of the Bishop

811-B CATHEDRAL PLACE • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220-4801 • (804) 359-5661

Diocese of Richmond

November 6, 1996

His Eminence
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

As the Roman Catholic Bishop of Richmond, I welcome you and the Diocese of the Armenian Church into conciliar fellowship as a full member of the Virginia Council of Churches. We now join each other in the labor for Christian unity.

I am pleased to learn that members of St. James Armenian Church, Richmond, will be your representatives to the Virginia Council of Churches. I have spoken on a couple of occasions at St. James Church. The Armenian people have a deep faith and a love for their parish.

In Virginia, the relationships among the Bishops and Judicatory Leaders have enabled a wonderful display of ecumenical advancements. We enjoy a State Covenant involving Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics; the Ecumenical Commissions in Virginia gather together annually at the invitation of the VCC; there is an annual retreat for Judicatory Leaders convened by the VCC.

As we prepare for the year 2000, ecumenical progress is such that decisive moments are before the various churches. I welcome your witness as the next millennium approaches.

With the anticipation of greeting you personally in the not-too-distant future, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Walter F. Sullivan
Bishop of Richmond

Kim Servart Theriault
2 East Range
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903-3206
E-mail: kst3b@virginia.edu
Phone: 804-243-2305
(through May 1997)

Fr. Krikor Maksoudian
Information Center
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Fr. Maksoudian,


Fr. Nareg Berberian, who is my pastor at the St. James Armenian Church in Richmond, Virginia, suggested that you would be able to assist me in obtaining the following information.

I am an art historian writing my dissertation on Arshile Gorky, the Armenian artist who painted and drew in America from 1920-1948. I have heard that the Gorky Estate, which was administered by Gorky's nephew Karlen Mooradian, may have been willed in some form to the Diocese. I am particularly interested in locating the original letters that Gorky wrote to his sister Vartoosh (Karlen's mother). Again, I have heard that the Diocese owns these and that they are in a vault and are not allowed to be seen by anyone.

Would you be able to clarify for me what the Diocese may have and what is available to be seen. If the letters are in a vault now, what is their future?

Thank you very much for any assistance that you can offer.

Sincerely,



Kim Servart Theriault