

Dear Parish Members:

Upon the completion of my pastoral term in the Greater Chicagoland area, I would like to express my thoughts in retrospect.

Naturally, I was a stranger when I arrived, but through your grace in opening your hearts and doors of your homes to me, I have been proud to have become a part of your families.

Through God's love and guidance, we have together sown the seeds of a brotherly love which, I pray, will stand the test of time and distance.

I would like to say that the love and dedication of our lives today must justify the devotion of our parents who did their utmost to pass on to our generation a link from their past to our present, building a firm and lasting foundation which we, in turn, may pass on to the next generation as an inspiration to keep the torch lit in the Armenian soul for the love of God and our Armenian community.

When we speak in the Armenian Church and for the Armenian Church, we have always to bear in mind that while we are living in the haven of hospitable shores of the Diaspora, for us our church is not merely a religious institution, but also an expression of our spiritual and moral values.

No matter how small our contributions are materially, they are still a part of that big investment in which there is never any kind of inflation or depression.

Our parents survived because they steadfastly kept their faith in God and their Armenian heritage. How different we would be if we were alienated from our parents. Now that we have in us, and for us, that spiritual legacy of our parents, we must continue to nourish it.

From the depth of my heart, I extend my sincere love and appreciation to all who shared in solidifying the sacredness of my pastoral dedication.

Upon the call of the apostolic delegate in Western Europe, His Eminence Archbishop Serope Manoogian, my next pastoral ministry will be centered mostly in the Cathedral in the city of love and light, Paris, France.

Until I see you again, God Bless you all.

February 3, 1982
Palos Heights, Ill.

Respectfully

F.R. Tashjian