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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016 • 212 686-0710

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TO: _____
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BISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN, PRIMATE

June 16, 1992

The Reverend
Father Garabed Kochakian
Pastor of St. Mesrob Armenian Church
4605 Erie Street
Racine, Wisconsin 53402

Dear Fr. Garabed,

I was very glad to hear that the parishioners of the St. Mesrob Church of Racine decided to honor you and your Yeretzhin on your departure from the parish and wish you both farewell. After witnessing for so many years the dedicated service of a true Pastor, I am sure, the Racine Parish will find it difficult to say goodbye. During the ten years of your tenure of office, St. Mesrob Church prospered and grew. The harmonious cooperation between you and your parish and the tender care you showed to the young generation set a wonderful example for others. You succeeded in gathering around the church both young and old, men and women to work together for the greater glory of God. I thank God for giving you and the members of your parish the wisdom to come to grips with all kinds of difficulties and problems so that you could work toward the salvation of souls.

Your wonderful accomplishments in the Racine Parish have served as a wonderful testimony to your abilities. During your years there, you grew spiritually and mentally, acquiring pastoral experiences that will be useful for our entire Diocese. That is the reason why the Diocesan Council and I decided to summon you to a more difficult task, namely to the supervision of our Diocesan Departments so that other parishes as well as the Racine Parish would benefit from your knowledge, talents, spirituality and energy. Your move to New York will not deprive your beloved parishioners of your presence. They will share your contributions to our Mother Church with several other parishes.

I pray to God that your presence at the Diocese will enhance our sacred mission and enable us to assign to our parishes clergymen with similar dedication and ability. May God bless you and your Yeretzhin and give you wisdom to carry out your new duties.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate