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

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE

April 2, 1980

**TO: The Reverend Clergy and Parish Council Chairmen**

**SUBJECT: St. Mary Armenian Church of Livingston, New Jersey**

It is our grim duty to inform you that on the morning of Thursday, March 27, 1980, a number of vandals broke into St. Mary Armenian Church in Livingston, New Jersey. After stealing a number of valuable items they set fire to the sanctuary and the church hall.

As a result of this tragedy the St. Mary Church and hall have been gutted by flames and church instruments, books, vestments and other objects of value have been ruined.

The damage done by the arsonists to the church at Livingston runs to many thousands of dollars' worth; only our community must make good the cost, undertake the reconstruction of the sanctuary and church hall, and remedy the losses incurred.

We hereby call upon all our communities, therefore, to hasten material aid to the Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian, Pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church and Vicar General of the Diocese, and to the Parish Council, so that restoration work can begin as soon as possible.

The address and telephone number of the Pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church are:

The Very Reverend Father Houssig Bagdasian  
202 West Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Livingston, New Jersey 07039  
Tel: (201) 992 - 8255

Prayerfully

*abp. Torkom Manoogian*  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate