



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016 • 212-MU 6-0710

August 16, 1968

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Vasken Kebreslian  
President of Parish Council  
St. Mary Church  
Elberon, N.J.

Your Grace:

We are very pleased with the conscientiousness with which the St. Mary Armenian Church in Elberon has acquitted itself of its obligation to the Grant and Loan Fund. The repayment of the Church's debt is to be highly commended, both for the strength of purpose it indicates, and for the opportunities it provides for other churches to benefit from the Fund.

This action reflects credit on your entire Parish.

Prayerfully,

*Arch. Tokom*

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN  
Primate

April 28, 1970

Armen H. Bulbulian  
Mirman of St. Mary Armenian Church  
Warah Place  
Oceanport, N.J. 07757

Dear Mr. Bulbulian,

With reference to your note, we herewith send you the itemized balance due to date:

Debits

Unpaid balance Parish Dues	1968	\$80.00	
Etchmiadzin Looma	1969	\$30.00	
Etchmiadzin Calendar	1969	2.00	
Parish Manuals	1969	10.00	
Unpaid balance of Parish			
Dues	1969	261.00	
Etchmiadzin Looma	1970	30.00	
*Etchmiadzin Calendar	1970	2.00	
Parish Dues Jan.,			
Feb. , Mar., Apr. 1970			
(21.75x4)		87.00	\$502.00

Credits

By check #312 Rec. #10586	\$200.00	\$200.00
Balance uds end of April 1970		\$302.00

\*Etchmiadzin Calendar was billed  
separately.

Very truly yours,

Hrach Chalian  
Accountant

April 28, 1970

Mr. Armen H. Bulbulian  
Chairman of St. Mary Armenian Church  
76 Werah Place  
Oceanport, N.J. 07757

Dear Mr. Bulbulian,

With reference to your note, we herewith send you the itemized balance due to date:

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\*Etchmiadzin Calendar was billed  
separately.

Very truly yours,

Hrach Chalian  
Accountant

May 24, 1972

Mr. John Chakamian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
P. O. Box 271  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Mr. Chakamian:

On a number of earlier occasions you had apprised me of the contact the Parish Council of St. Mary Armenian Church had established with Father Levon Arakelian, with respect to his service as pastor of your Church.

We have had no recent communication from you and are anxious to know what progress has been made in concluding the necessary arrangements.

Please let us know at the earliest possible moment what the current status is, and how soon we might expect an agreement to be reached.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkon Manoogian  
Primate

ATM/ec

✓ cc: Father Levon Arakelian

August 11, 1972

Mr. John Chakamian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
✓ St. Mary Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
P. O. Box 271  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Mr. Chakamian:

In May of 1973 a major Festival-Bazaar will be presented at our Diocesan Headquarters, as a way of assuring a substantial income for the Diocese, and also as one of the programs to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

We have appointed Mrs. Edward Agababian and Dr. Nikit Ordjanian as Co-Chairmen of this function.

They will approach you directly in the near future in order to develop ways in which some of your parishioners might participate.

We urge that they be shown every courtesy and cooperation.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Terkon Mancoogian  
Primate

ATM/cc

June 4, 1975

Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian  
President, Parish Council  
St. Mary's Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Father Vertanes:

We have arranged to have Jack Antreassian, whom we have appointed as our liaison with the parishes in our Diocese, to visit your parish for the purpose of attending your next council meeting.

He is to be received as our personal representative, and in that capacity will discuss with you and your Council whatever issues require the attention of our office.

Mr. Antreassian will call you with regard to time and place of your next meeting.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

cc. Mr. Barkev Elian  
Chairman, Parish Council

July 31, 1975

Mrs. Anna Hovnanian  
One Jerome Avenue  
Deal, New Jersey 07723

Dear Mrs. Hovnanian:

We have received your letter of July 13, and appreciate the concern you have expressed, and the trouble you took to share them with us.


We will give your letter the most serious consideration.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

vb

August 22, 1973

 The Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian  
St. Mary Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
P.O.Box 271  
Elberon, New Jersey

Dear Father Vertanes:

We commend you and your parish for your efforts as hosts of the Clergy Conference held at your church a week ago. It proved to be a most rewarding Conference, which would not have been possible without the devoted service of all those who took part in the arrangements.

Please express our appreciation as well to Mrs. Rose Vartanian and Mrs. Siranoush Najarian for the food they prepared for the conferees during the three days of the Conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Hrair Hovnanian should also be thanked for their hospitality. Please communicate with them in this regard.

We have special thanks to you and Yeretsgin Anahid for the warmth of your hospitality in accommodating our clergy and deacons in your own home.

Prayerfully yours,

Archbishop Torkon Manoogian  
Primate



*St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church*

1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-~~0127~~ 9680

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

August 19, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
Armenian Diocese  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, N. Y., 10016

Dear Surpazan Hyre,

This is to advise you that the resignation of Mr. Al Voskian as a Parish Council member was accepted in our last regular meeting of August 8, 1975.

As determined through a vote at our last Parish Assembly meeting, Mr. Hagop Zadikian, next in line, will fill this vacancy and finish Mr. Al Voskian's term of office. Mr. Zadikian's address and telephone is as follows:

Mr. Hagop Zadikian  
214 3rd Avenue  
Belmar, N. J. 07719  
Tele: (201) 681-4323

Also, the church telephone number has been changed from 222-0127 to 222-9680. Please make the necessary changes in the Diocesan files.

Very truly,

*Barkave G. Elian*

Mr. Barkave Elian  
Chairman, Parish Council

*V. Kalayjian*  
Vertanes Kalayjian  
Parish Priest

BE/ag

*Araxi Bakker*  
Secretary, Parish Council

*St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church*

1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 224-19680

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

August 20, 1975

Mrs. Hirair Movnanian  
1 Jerome Avenue  
Deal, New Jersey 07723

Dear Mrs. Movnanian,

Your letter of July 13, 1975 was read and considered at the meeting of the Parish Council of St. Mary's Armenian Church, Elberon, N. J. held on August 8, 1975.

You may recall that the incident referred to took place after the close of a meeting in which many emotionally charged issues were aired by many individuals in a tense atmosphere strained by the strong undercurrents that are splintering our community. A valid evaluation of an individual's professional competence and general character cannot be based on one person's impression gathered at such a provoking meeting but rather must be formed on firm facts.

The fact is Mrs. Gokberk is one of the most qualified women in our Parish. She is an educator by profession with high credentials and years of experience in this field.

The high regard in which she is held in the community is evidenced by the fact that twice in the last two years she was elected secretary of the Parish Assembly and was one of the first two women elected to the Parish Council and presently serves as its secretary. She has also served this church well, over the years, in numerous other capacities including chair person of the Ladies Guild and Superintendent of the Sunday School and the Armenian Language School. Her recent appointment as chairman of the Educational Committee was made by the chairman of the Parish Council pursuant to a resolution of said council establishing such committee. The description "self-appointed" is not, therefore, in accord with the facts.

It is our sincere hope that in time you may come to know her closer and appreciate her competence, honesty and dedication and perhaps join the vast majority of the parishioners who have accorded her the recognition and respect she justly earned.

Sincerely,



Berkave Elian  
Parish Council Chairman

Vertanes Kalayjian  
Parish Priest

EH/ag  
CC: Archbishop Terken Mancojian, Primate

*St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church*

1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 224-9680

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

August 20, 1975

Mrs. Hirair Hovnanian  
1 Jerome Avenue  
Deal, New Jersey 07723

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It is our sincere hope that in time you may come to know her closer and appreciate her competence, honesty and dedication and perhaps join the vast majority of the parishioners who have accorded her the recognition and respect she justly earned.

Sincerely,



Barkave Elian  
Parish Council Chairman

Vertanes Kalayjian  
Parish Priest

EM/ag  
CC: Archbishop Torkom Mancoogian, Primate

August 21, 1975

The Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian  
Pastor, St. Mary Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Father Vertanes:

Fr. Zaven Arzoomanian and Crosby Goshgarian, representing the Diocesan Council, following a meeting with you and the Parish Council of the St. Mary Armenian Church of Elberon, have submitted their recommendations to us.

They will be considered by the Diocesan Council at its meeting on September 9, 1975, on the basis of which a decision will be made and communicated to you.

We are aware of various movements in your parish favoring alternative courses of action. No formal steps of any kind are to be taken by you or the Parish Council until the Diocesan Council's consideration of the matter.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

cc. Mr. Barkev Elian  
Chairman, Parish Council

**H. SERABIAN**

TOOLS & SUPPLIES  
FLEXIBLE SHAFT MACHINES

P. O. BOX 146      195 HIGHWAY 36      WEST KEANSBURG, N. J. 07734

212 473-5360  
201 495-0040

Sept. 1, 1975

Primate Torkom Manoogian  
Diocesan Council President  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, 16, N. Y.

Your Eminence;

I am not one for writing letters, but in this instance I believe that the welfare and being of this community requires it.

It is my belief that the present Parish Council of St. Mary's of Elberon is definitely not working for the benefit of the community at large.

As a result of their actions some of our members no longer regularly attend church. In fact one of our younger parish council members resigned his position and had his child christened elsewhere.

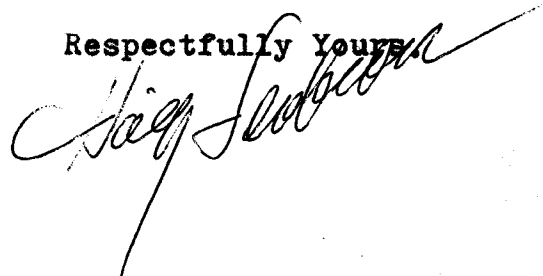
Our fellowship hour after services no longer exists, and politics has reared its ugly head. Our Parish council has not tried to unify the community, to the contrary they seem to be at heart of the problem. My wife says that she no longer feels comfortable in church and our attendance has also fallen off.

Mr. Vincent Karakashian, Membership committee chairman, not a parish council member has taken upon himself to send around a petition to force our parish Priest to resign. He has also sent a letter to new prospective members to the effect that their applications will be screened prior to acceptance.

There is a constant effort to undermine the Armenian School which my children attend, and this has caused considerable anguish amongst the parents and teachers.

It is my opinion that the dissolution of the existing Parish Council is a necessary prerequisite to unifying this community. I realize that such a step is a serious one and that considerable work will be required on our part to repair the damage already done. It is my belief that enough concerned people are here in this community to do the job properly.

Respectfully Yours



302 5 Avenue  
Apt. 15  
Asbury Park, N. J. 07712

September 2, 1975

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate,  
and Members of the Diocesan Council  
Armenian Diocese of North America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence and Gentlemen:

I wish to extend to you our sincere thanks on behalf of myself and the next of kin of Harry Ajdeharian, for your kindness and prompt attention in making the necessary funeral arrangements in sending Father Arnak Kasparian in place of Father Vertanes Kalayjian to Philadelphia on August 28 and 29.

For your information, Cousin Harry Ajdeharian left over \$10,000 to St. Vartan's Cathedral and over \$10,000 to the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham, Pa., and a substantial amount of money to St. Mary's Armenian Church in Elberon, N. J.

I am sure that the executrix will communicate further with you in this regard.

Cousin Harry Ajdeharian, you may observe from the petitions sent to you, was one of the signatories of the petition requesting the Resignation or Removal of Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian as Parish Priest of St. Mary's Armenian Church in Elberon, N. J.

This was the reason for my calling you and requesting that someone other than Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian perform the last funeral rites for our cousin.

I know you understand his sentiments on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

*Virginia H. Dedeian*

Virginia Hovsepian Dedeian

cc: Judge John Najarian  
cc: Very Rev. Zaven Arzoumanian

*St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church*

1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

September 3, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
and Members of the Diocesan Council  
Armenian Diocese of North America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence and Council Members:

I received a copy of the letter dated August 14, 1975 addressed to your Eminence and Members of the Diocesan Council enclosing over 50 petitions signed by dues paying members of this Parish requesting "that an immediate special general assembly meeting be called to consider the specific referendum of removing Der Hayr Kalayjian as priest of St. Mary's Church, Elberon".

I also received a copy of the letter of your Eminence dated August 21, 1975 addressed to Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian directing that "no formal steps of any kind be taken by the Parish Council until the Diocesan Council's consideration of the matter" on September 9, 1975.

As a majority of seven out of the nine existing members of the Parish Council are convinced that it is in the best interest of this Parish that Rev. Kalayjian should resign or be removed immediately as Parish Priest, and as the Parish Council at its meeting held on Friday, August 29, 1975 resolved that the Chairman pick up a delegation representing said Majority and seek an urgent audience with the full membership of the Diocesan Council in order that such delegation may present their views fully on this matter.

I would, therefore, appreciate it if such a meeting may be arranged at the earliest possible date and sufficient advance notice given to enable me and the other delegates to attend without much inconvenience.

Very respectfully yours,



BARKAVE G. ELIAN  
Parish Council Chairman

September 12, 1975

The Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian  
Pastor and President of Parish Council  
St. Mary Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Father Vertanes:

The Diocesan Council was deeply disturbed by the disharmony that has marred our parish life in Elberon for many months and at its session of September 9, 1975, gave the matter its serious consideration, having before it the various reports of Diocesan Council representatives.

Before making final disposition of this matter, the Council wishes to meet with you and the entire Parish Council at its next session on October 14, 1975.

Please make arrangements now to be with us on that day at 4:00 p.m.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

cc. Parish Council Chairman  
Mr. Barkev Elian



JOHN K. NAJARIAN  
*Attorney at Law*  
630 INDUSTRIAL BANK BUILDING  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

October 21, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

RE: Elberon Parish

Your Grace:

In accordance with our telephone conversation on Monday, October 20, 1975, I submit herewith proposed decision of the Diocesan Council.

Considering that I was not present when the decision was put in final form on October 14, 1975 you may wish to reword the enclosed.

Best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

  
John K. Najarian

JKN/jaa  
Enclosure

MARY HACHIGIAN  
503 8th Avenue  
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY

November 24, 1975

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

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

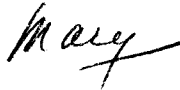
In receipt of your letter dated November 18, 1975,  
requesting my acceptance as a member of an interim  
parish council of St. Mary Church in Elberon.

After much consideration, I have decided to accept  
this appointment.

My devotion to Church and God is without question,  
however, I pray for the wisdom needed to help bring  
together a divided people.

My humble thanks for considering me, and please be  
assured that I will try, through thought and prayer,  
to do justice to this appointment and also to meet  
your expectations.

Respectfully yours,



MARY HACHIGIAN

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

November 25, 1975

- 2 -

To have one family's life disrupted by narrow minded people is, in my opinion, too dear a price. If our principals are compromised by and for the sake of expediency, it will encourage future occurrences of this type.

I have been advised of the new members of the Parish Council. I know five or six of the new members personally and I have great respect for them. I was a bit disappointed in that I felt that Armen Bulbulian and Harout Karakashian should also have been members of the Parish Council. At the hearing before the Diocesan Council, the foregoing individuals indicated that they had cooperated with the Parish Priest in the past and would be able to cooperate with him in the future. This is not the case with one of the individuals who has been appointed by the Diocesan Council. Again, I realize that the Diocesan Council has attempted to make the appointments as innocuous as possible, but I cannot see why any individual should be victimized by the transgressions of others. In this circumstance, I believe that the judgment of the Diocesan Council flies in the face of the facts that were presented to it.

I again respectfully request that Your Eminence give due consideration to the appointment of Mr. Bulbulian and Mr. Karakashian as members of the Parish Council, and, certainly, if the selected individuals do not accept their appointments, that these persons be considered as the next alternates.

With deep reverence,



John S. Pehlivanian

JSP/et

LOMELL, MUCCIFORI, ADLER, KEARNEY, RAVASCHIERE & AMABILE

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
COUNSELLORS AT LAW

HOWARD EWART (1890-1961)  
LEONARD G. LOMELL  
THOMAS J. MUCCIFORI  
HERMAN A. ADLER  
WILLIAM J. KEARNEY  
DOMINIC RAVASCHIERE  
A. THOMAS AMABILE  
JOHN S. PEHLIVANIAN  
ROBERT A. FALL

P. O. BOX 787  
250 WASHINGTON STREET  
TOMS RIVER, N. J. 08753  
(201) 349-2443

November 25, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian  
Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

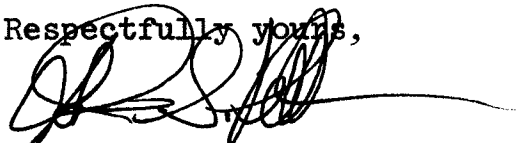
Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

After having given my appointment deep consideration, I have decided to accept same.

I am hopeful that this Parish Council will have the ability to heal the breaches between the old and the young and the various political factions. It is my viewpoint that these prejudices, fears and political philosophies should be left at home and that each parishioner should have enough respect for the Church to treat it as the house of God. Hopefully, the good will in our community will persevere and the community will once again be able to manage its own affairs.

By way of comment, it is evident to me that various members of our community are acting under stress and pressure, and their behavior is not typical of their character or personality. I strongly believe that the present circumstance calls for innovative and progressive thinking. As a result, I urge that a strong spirit of ecumenical cooperation is necessary on the local level to bridge the gap in our community. Hopefully, the Diocesan Council will support our pragmatic approach toward this end.

Respectfully yours,



John S. Pehlivanian

JSP/et

LOMELL, MUCCIFORI, ADLER, KEARNEY, RAVASCHIERE & AMABILE

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
COUNSELLORS AT LAW

HOWARD EWART 1890-1961  
LEONARD G. LOMELL  
THOMAS J. MUCCIFORI  
HERMAN A. ADLER  
WILLIAM J. KEARNEY  
DOMINIC RAVASCHIERE  
A. THOMAS AMABILE  
JOHN S. PEHLIVANIAN  
ROBERT A. FALL

P. O. BOX 787  
250 WASHINGTON STREET  
TOMS RIVER, N. J. 08753  
(201) 349-2443

November 25, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian  
Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

Under separate cover I wrote you concerning my acceptance of your appointment as a member of the Interim Parish Council of St. Mary's Church in Elberon.

I felt compelled in this correspondence to state for the record my disappointment at the pending re-assignment of the Pastor. Father Kalayjian was mainly responsible for my membership in the parish and for my involvement in the parish and previous Parish Councils. I find him to be an articulate and energetic man.

I am fully cognizant of the human frailties of Father Kalayjian, but this is a malady and affliction shared by all of us. The intense pressures that Father Kalayjian and his wife were subjected to in our parish were not of his own doing. Under the circumstances, I feel strongly that he acquitted himself admirably.

I respectfully request that you extend every effort to see that Father Kalayjian is retained as the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church in Elberon. As we Armenians have suffered injustices in the past, I do not feel that it is proper to make Father Kalayjian the scapegoat for the prejudices and passions of various members of our community. I can not see how anyone could expect Father Kalayjian to mollify the community, as recent history has proven, none of us have had that capacity.

December 23, 1975

Mr. Barkev Elian  
1187 Ocean Avenue  
Sea Bright, New Jersey 07760

Dear Mr. Elian:

A new parish council has been appointed by the Primate and the Diocesan Council to administer the affairs of the St. Mary Armenian Church parish of Elberon, New Jersey.

The council, headed by Mr. John Chakamian, will assume responsibilities as of January 1, 1976, and serve until such time as the Diocesan Council replaces its members, or authorizes the convening of a parish assembly for the purpose of electing its successor.

Your committee is to continue in office until the end of this year. The treasurer's account are to be audited by the auditing committee elected by your last assembly, and all funds and accounts transferred to the new council immediately thereafter. Also to be turned over are minutes, files and all matters relevant to the secretary's office. It is our hope that this will be done expeditiously and harmoniously.

We are most grateful for your devoted service and that of your committee in directing the affairs of the parish since the suspension of the parish council. It was a difficult assignment performed in difficult circumstances. We are deeply appreciative of your selflessness in performing this duty.

We pray that God will guide all of us in our efforts to restore harmony and grace to our Elberon Parish.

Prayerfully,

cc. Mrs. A. Gokberk  
Mr. S. Dadourian

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

January 5, 1976

Mr. Armen Bulbulian  
76 Werah Place  
Oceanport, New Jersey 07757

Dear Mr. Bulbulian:

A representation from the Diocesan Council, headed by its Chairman Mr. John Najarian, will meet jointly with all the members of the 1975 Parish Council of St. Mary's Parish of Elberon, New Jersey, as well as the members of the newly appointed council for 1976.

Because of the urgency of the matters facing the parish, the meeting has been arranged for this Thursday, January 8, 1976, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elberon Church hall. You will have been informed by telephone well before the receipt of this letter.

It is most important that all members of both councils attend/

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manougian  
Primate

January 19, 1976

The Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian  
315 Eighth Avenue  
Belmar, New Jersey 07719

Dear Father Vertanes:

Please be advised that we are in receipt of your letter of December 9, 1975, presenting your resignation as Pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church, Elberon, New Jersey. We commend you on taking this most difficult step in order to bring about harmony in a very unhappy situation. Your resignation is a sacrifice that all priests dedicated to their vocation should be prepared to take at any time.

Until such time as we can appoint you to another parish, we ask that you take no administrative part in the parish life of St. Mary's Church; neither are you to perform services there, except at our direction.

The St. Mary's Church will pay your stipend for the first three weeks of January, after which the Diocese will provide you with half of your present weekly salary until such time as a permanent assignment can be arranged. This will be in addition to whatever income you may derive from honorariums received from any other assignments.

We hope to communicate with you in the near future.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate



February 18, 1976

Dr. Ann Haroutunian  
50 Belgrade Avenue  
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

Dear Dr. Haroutunian:

As a member of the Interim Governing Board of the St. Mary Armenian Church Parish of Elberon, New Jersey, you are urged to attend a meeting of the Board on Wednesday evening, February 25, at 8:00 p.m., in the Church Hall, Elberon, New Jersey.

We pray that you will attend and by your presence demonstrate a desire to help lead the parish into a harmonious spiritual and community life.

Mr. Jack Antreassian will be present as our personal representative and take active leadership in the early stages of our effort to revitalize the Parish.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

January 19, 1976

Deacon Levon Hekimian  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Deacon Hekimian:

Circumstances prevailing in the St. Mary Parish of Elberon, New Jersey, have compelled the Diocesan Council to suspend the parish council and appoint a new one to govern the parish. Subsequent events have made it necessary to discontinue services at St. Mary's for the time being.

We have, therefore, directed that the priests and deacons of our Diocese may not officiate in any manner whatever in the St. Mary Church without prior consent of the Diocesan Primate.

As a deacon residing in the parish, you are most directly affected by this order.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

April 20, 1976

Mr. Jack Antreassian, Administrator  
Interim Governing Committee  
St. Mary Parish of Elberon, New Jersey  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Mr. Antreassian:

We understand that question has been raised concerning the propriety of the constitution of the present executive committee of the Women's Guild of the St. Mary parish.

This is a matter that would ordinarily be referred to and resolved by the local parish council.

But because of the various circumstances that led to the resignation of the parish council and the appointment of an Interim Governing Committee, we hereby disallow such questions and authorize the executive committee as presently constituted to continue its leadership of the St. Mary Women's Guild until the regularly scheduled election this fall.

We direct that all members of the Guild respond to their leadership and resume the useful and productive activities of the Women for the good and welfare of the Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

Mr. Michael L. Gorra  
904 Clairidge Drive  
Spring Lake Hts., New Jersey  
07762

March 3, 1976

Mr. Jack Antreassian, Chairman  
Parish Council  
St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Antreassian:

On February 27, 1976, the Monmouth and Ocean County Armenian Community Members held their first meeting at Colts Neck Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, Colts Neck, New Jersey, with 60 persons in attendance, for the purpose of having Father Vertannes Kalayjian immediately reinstated as Pastor of St. Mary's, Elberon, New Jersey.

At this meeting the following were elected as representatives of this group:

Miss Nora Bitchakjian  
Mr. Michael L. Gorra  
Mr. A. Megerdichian  
Mr. Richard Sahagian  
Mrs. L. Tashjian  
and  
Mr. Armen Sulbulian, Advisor

We urge that this request be submitted to the Diocese and that reinstatement of Father Vertannes Kalayjian be met with all deliberate speed.

There were many other suggestions for various actions to be taken to reinstate Father Kalayjian but, at this particular time, this method was chosen.

Respectfully yours,

*Michael J. Gorra*

Miss Nora Bitchakjian  
Mr. Michael L. Gorra  
Mr. A. Megerdichian  
Mr. Richard Sahagian  
Mrs. L. Tashjian  
and  
Mr. Armen Sulbulian, Advisor

July 23, 1976

Mr. Harootune Karakashian  
Parish Council Chairman  
St. Mary Armenian Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Mr. Karakashian:

We are pleased with the manner in which you and your new parish council are addressing yourselves to your responsibilities, appreciating full well the difficult circumstances in which you assumed your office. It is our hope of course that under the leadership of your council all the people of the Elberon parish will come together to pray in and work for a Church that indeed belongs to all of them.

In due course we expect to appoint a permanent pastor for the parish. Until then, His Grace Bishop Panken Varjabedian will serve the spiritual needs of your parish on a part-time, though regular, basis.

Inquiry has been made concerning the future service of Father Vertanes Kalayjian. As we have indicated on a number of occasions in the past, this is the responsibility of the Primate. For the information of your council and your parish generally, we have under consideration at the present time plans for the assignment of Father Vertanes as pastor of another church. In the circumstances he will not be considered for future service in Elberon.

You have our permission to duplicate and make copies of this letter available to all parishioners.

We pray that your council, and all of our faithful, may be guided always with God's wisdom, and love for our Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

st

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY 07740

October 31, 1976

Mr. Levon Hekimian  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

Dear Mr. Hekimian:

We like to call your attention to the following matters.

After receiving the letter which you had sent to Bishop Papken, members of the Parish Council had a conference with Archbishop Terkom Manoogian. The following are the decisions made at this conference:

- A - Bishop Papken and other visiting Clergy will have their private rooms and other living conveniences on the second floor of the church building. The Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Andrew Rivas, will make the necessary arrangements for this purpose before the 6th of November.
- B - In the absence of Bishop Papken the arrangements for the Altar and Church Services will be made only by the Chairman of the Parish Council.
- C - A few years back, by the order of the Primate, Terkom Manoogian, you were told that you have no official duties in the church. We remind you of this again and inform you that hereafter you will not perform any work in or out of the church without the specific direction and the knowledge of the Parish Council.

We hope that you will follow these instructions and avoid unpleasant consequences.

A copy of this letter has been mailed to Archbishop Terkom Manoogian and the Chairman of the Diocesan Council.

Very truly yours,  
*Haroot Karakashian*  
Haroot Karakashian, Chairman  
Parish Council

Copies to: ✓ Archbishop Terkom  
Manoogian

Chairman, Diocesan  
Council

*St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church*

1184 OCEAN AVENUE  
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-0127

~~Rev. Fr. Surpazan Hyre~~

November 11, 1976

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
Armenian Diocese  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Surpazan Hyre,

On October 31, 1976, we sent a letter to Mr. L. Hekimian, informing him of the decision of the Parish Council to prepare living quarters for Bishop Papken, who is soon to return to our Parish. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to your office.

The Chairman of the Building Committee and myself contacted Mr. Hekimian on November 6, 1976 to begin the necessary preparations for this purpose.

We decided that the most appropriate room as living quarters for Bishop Papken would be what Mr. Hekimian calls his "library". Mr. Hekimian refused to cooperate with us stating that he will never allow anyone to live in the second floor where he is presently residing.

At the present time we have no other facilities to accomodate Bishop Papken when he returns. We therefore, request that Mr. Hekimian be instructed by the Diocesan Council to evacuate the "library" immediately.

The investigation in the pursuit of legal action is also being considered by the Parish Council if need be.

Respectfully yours,

*Harootun Karakashian*

Harootun Karakashian  
Chairman, Parish Council

c.c.  
Diocesan Copies  
Mr. L. Hekimian

November 11, 1976

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
Armenian Diocese  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

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Harootun Karakashian  
Chairman, Parish Council

c.c.  
Diocesan Copies ✓  
Mr. L. Hekimian