

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

Dear Surpazan Hayr and Council Members:

This letter is in reference to requesting the resignation and replacement of Father Vertanes Kalayjian from the St. Mary's Armenian Church of Elberon, New Jersey.

I have personally witnessed Der Hayr's opposition to the efforts and progress of the Parish Council. In his efforts to undermine the will of its members as expressed at the last Parish Assembly, he has instigated dissention, and for his own ulterior motives, encouraged elements within the community that put their selfish personal or political interests above the general welfare of the church.

I therefore, request and urge that you give serious consideration to seeing that Der Hayr Kalayjian resigns or is removed from the office of Priest of the Parish.

Respectively requested,

DATE July 19, 1975

NAME Araxys Gokhurb

ADDRESS 207 6th Ave.

Cosbury Park, N.J. 07712

CC: Mr. B. Elian,
Chairman, Parish Council.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
and Members of the Diocesan Council
Armenian Diocese of North America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10015

Dear Surpazan Hayr and Council Members:

For a time, I thought that your decisive action to remove Der Hayr Kalayjian from St. Mary's Church of Elberon, N.J. would finally restore peace and tranquility to this church community.

This belief however was short lived, as I later learned that you also chose to dismiss the entire Parish Council without due notice nor with the courtesy of an explanation to the church membership.

To my further dismay, I now learn that you have unilaterally decided to appoint a new Parish Council with complete disregard to the sentiments and opinions of our church membership. Your list is not only regarded as biased, but possesses sufficient mystery in its preparation, that I can only view it with suspicion and with some subversive underlying motive.

I would be remiss if I did not express my displeasure with this intolerable act, but to also show my contempt with your selection of certain individuals who I find totally unacceptable.

My displeasure at this time can only be expressed by my unwillingness to recognize your new appointees, and to continue support of the Parish Council duly elected by our members. Furthermore, as unilateral decisions appear to be one of your acceptable working doctrines, I wish to advise you that I will encourage and support the local decision of our membership to call a General Assembly meeting to assert our democratic "right of choice" in selecting our Parish Council leaders.

Respectfully yours,

DATE

April 7/75

NAME

Armenian Catholic

ADDRESS

524 Madison St.
Elberon, N.J.

CC: Judge John Najarian

CC: Mr. B. Elian, Chairman, Parish Council

Mr. Armen Bulbulian, Mrs. Araxy Gokberk, Dr. Anna Haroutunian,
Mr. John Kaiserian, Mr. Haroot Karakashian, Mr. George Kazanjian,
Mr. Sarkis Dadourian, Mr. Hagop Zadigian.

Armen Atamian

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
and Members of the Diocesan Council
Armenian Diocese of North America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10015

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Respectfully yours,

DATE December 3, 1975

NAME Kohar "Kay" Zavian

ADDRESS 132 Terrace Road
Belmar, N.J. 07719

CC: Judge John Najarian

CC: Mr. B. Elian, Chairman, Parish Council

Mr. Armen Bulbulian, Mrs. Araxy Gokberk, Dr. Anna Haroutunian,
Mr. John Kaiserian, Mr. Haroot Karakashian, Mr. George Kazanjian,
Mr. Sarkis Dadourian, Mr. Hagop Zadigian.

Kay Zavian

December 14, 1975

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
and Members of the Diocesan Council

Armenian Diocese of North America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10015

Dear Surpazan Hayr and Council Members:

St. Mary's Armenian Church of Elberon, at the present time has 127 recognized dues paying members. Of this number, 70 of us who constitute a majority of our membership, wish to express their sentiments by individual petition concerning the removal of the properly elected and confirmed Parish Council and planned appointment of a new parish council by the Diocese. Two additional petitions are also included by individuals who are members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

We consider this an act of grave injustice with serious consequences, which seems to reward some of those who in our opinion were instrumental in creating our current problems.

We cannot in good conscience accept such appointments and are determined to pursue whatever means necessary to uphold the position of our elected officials.

We do hope that you will take these sentiments expressing the will of the majority into serious consideration and act accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted for
the Petitioners.



Vincent Karakashian

CC: Mr. B. Elian, Chairman, St. Mary's Parish Council
CC: Judge John Najarian, Chairman, Diocesan Council