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St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



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REV. FR. HAIK DONIKIAN
ASSISTANT PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

VERY REV. FR. PAKEN ANOUSHIAN
STUDENT PRIEST

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

PHONE: 569-3405

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

July 23, 1982

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

Your Eminence:

The Parish Council received the response to our letter dated May 27, 1982, which was addressed to Your Eminence. Again we were very disturbed; the response is from James Magarian, the Executive Secretary of the ACYOA. If we wanted a reply from him we would have written to him.

Mr. Magarian's letter of June 17, 1982 states that we were the only Parish to offer any negative criticism of the sixteen teams that participated. May I remind Your Eminence that St. John's has participated in every tournament since 1972. In 1981, the tournament was held in Chicago and all other tournaments were in the East. The teams that participated in Chicago were Wisconsin, Palos Heights, Chicago, and Detroit. There were no teams from the East.

Mr. Magarian also states that in planning such tournaments, we assume very little. I am surprised at such a statement concerning an event that involves the entire Diocese. May I suggest that announcements and registration forms also be sent to the Parish Priest and the Parish Council Chairman to make sure that deadlines are met.

Mr. Magarian continues that there are Official Rules and Regulations concerning the tournament. St. John's is requesting a copy of all Official Rules and Regulations concerning the ACYOA.

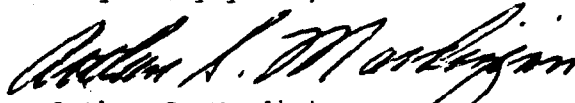
Mr. Magarian also says that we were fortunate to have a chance to play in four games; what has this to do with the tournament? I resent the reference to the size of our Parish and that we can produce only seven players.

As far as the schedule of playing all the games on Saturday is concerned, I would like to point out the fact that in some of the previous tournaments games were played on Friday evening and the tournament was concluded on Saturday.

We have always encouraged our teams to participate in the activities of the ACYOA. The members of our ACYOA Chapter have borne the brunt of the expenses in participating in the tournaments.

We will wait for your response before we make any final decisions concerning our future plans.

Very truly yours,



Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/rb

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

17 June 82

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623

ARTHUR S. MARDIGIAN
Chairman - Parish Council
Saint John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Mr. Mardigian,

We are in receipt of your letter to the Primate, dated May 27th, regarding the 1982 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament. His Eminence directed that we respond to some of the more important points in your letter.

While we appreciate the concern and input by the Parish Council for the well-being of this popular annual Tournament, we cannot help but notice the singular perspective of your comments. Of the sixteen teams participating this year [a record], your Parish is the only one to offer any negative criticism. Moreover, we have received praise regarding the Tournament and weekend festivities from other parishes, including people who attended.

In planning such tournaments, we assume very little. This especially includes local or distant parish participation. Announcements and registration forms were sent to all parishes of our Diocese, with sufficient time for response before the prescribed deadline. Your Parish did not respond by the deadline. In addition, special treatment is not given to past participants - winners or losers.

The annual ACYOA Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament is not a "challenge", as provided in the Official Rules and Regulations for other times of the year. Therefore, past champions are not recognized for special or conditional treatment. Your letter is careful not to accuse the Tournament hosts [ACYOA Central Council] of treating your Parish team unfairly. This is good, for they were not. All teams participating are treated equally - local and distant, large and small. This is the only way we shall allow the Tournament to be held.

Regarding the schedule of games, we remind the Parish Council that the Tournament is "single-elimination" competition. Your Parish team was fortunate to have the chance to play in four games. Some teams played in only one game. Your team could have lost its first game and faced immediate elimination. The whole point of the Tournament is to play basketball, not to sit and watch from the side-lines. Indeed, it is a shame that such a large parish as yours can only produce seven players for the men's team. Most parishes are not as fortunate and do not have such resources.



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

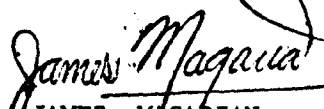
In addition, your letter fails to mention that your Parish team did not have to play "back-to-back" games, as some teams did. These "rest periods" were a result of proper scheduling. Your letter also leaves out the fact that your Parish women's team won the championship in their division.

There have never before been sixteen teams competing in this Tournament. The ACYOA Central Council did a fine job in organizing the entire weekend festivities, especially the fair scheduling of games, in light of receiving registration forms and team fees late. A fine job, that, we admit, can be improved; but nevertheless successful - despite the fact that none of the Council Members reside in New York City!

We feel that some of the points expressed in your letter are worthy of consideration, and we appreciate your interest.

Our concerns are mutual.

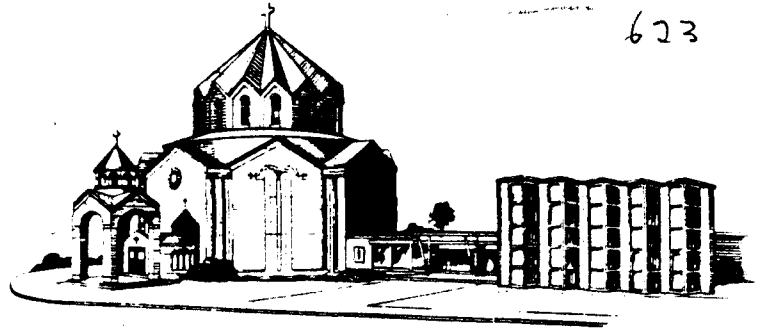
Yours sincerely,


JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary
ACYOA

c.c. ✓ Primate
ACYOA Central Council Chairman
1982 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball
Tournament Coordinator

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SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 4807

May 27, 1982

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

Your Eminence:

The Parish Council is very disturbed over the courtesies that were extended to the St. John's A.C.Y.O.A. Men's Basketball Team for the Annual Archbishop's Tournament held in New York, April 17, 1982.

Our team was not notified in advance that they would have to play 4 games in one day while other teams drew a bye and played only 3 games. Our team was told that someone was trying to get in touch with them on Friday, April 17, 1982 to inform them that they had to play 4 games in one day. Our team was in route when this person was trying to get in touch with us the day before the tournament. In all other tournaments that we have participated in all byes and other courtesies were extended to the defending champion. The St. John's A.C.Y.O.A. had won the Archbishop's Tournament in 1980 and 1981.

Some of the players on our mens team suffered severe injuries due to the fact that they had to play games at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Basketball is an extremely physical and demanding sport and having to play 4 games in 8 hours is ludicrous.

Our team was told that the schedule and byes were determined by the date that the entry fees were received. I have never heard of this criterion for determining a schedule. St. Gregory of New York is next door to the Diocese and Detroit is 4 days by mail, and then there are always delays in the mail.

We believe that the A.C.Y.O.A. did a terrible job in preparing for the tournament. If the format and rules governing the tournament are not revised so that everything is finalized at least one week before the tournament, we will have to take a long and hard look before we allow our teams to participate in the tournament again.

We must question the leadership of the A.C.Y.O.A. in the planning of their activities. It does not seem possible that this organization with a full time director would not consider all factors before making their final decisions. If the A.C.Y.O.A. is to be a vital integral function of the Armenian Church there must be a drastic improvement in their thinking and presentation of the events that involves all chapters within the Diocese.

Very truly yours,



Arthur S. Mardigian
Chairman, Parish Council

ASM/rb