

January 20, 1979

Mr. Sam Chapootian
Parish Council Chairman
Holy Cross Armenian Church
580 West 187th Street
New York, New York 10033

Dear Mr. Chapootian:

We refer to Mr. Greg Kerkorian's statement to us that Father Vartan Megherian's medical insurance premiums have not been paid since March 1978. We also refer to Mr. Jack Pilibosian's statement that Father Vartan's IRA in the amount of \$750.00 has not been paid for the year 1978.

Both the medical insurance policy and the IRA Pension plan have been presented to and approved by the supreme body of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, namely the Diocesan Assembly.

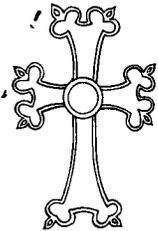
These decisions are not subject to the reconsideration of the parish council or the parish assembly, and until such time that a proposal is presented and accepted by the Diocesan Assembly, no changes can be made.

Therefore, it is mandatory that you immediately fulfill your obligations before the policies are cancelled.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

c.c. Father Vartan Megherian
c.c. Delegates: Mr. Shah Arslan,
Mr. Aram Jaboolian,
Mr. John Tembeck



HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA

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580 WEST 187 STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10033 • (212) 927-4020

Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian, Pastor

December 28, 1978

The Most Reverend
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate and President of the Diocesan Council
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Serpazan Hayr,

As you must be aware by now, the chairman of our Parish Council Mr. Sam Chapootian, at the Parish Council meeting of December 12, 1978, in the presence of the two Diocesan Council representatives Very Rev. Fr. Housig Baghdasian and Mr. George Mekenian, declared that the Parish Council will not continue to pay either the clergy insurance or the clergy retirement sum of \$750 annually, as decided in the Diocesan Assembly of 1977 in Providence, R.I., that parishes would pay. Last year, in 1977, the Parish Council had complied with the diocesan decision in both matters and had fulfilled its obligation.

This year's attitude of the Parish Council, due to lack of revenue from some of the church's affairs, has caused me undue anxiety, since I feel that I shall be needing these benefits more than ever, especially after the serious heart surgery I underwent this year, and a retirement pension will become so useful to me, or to Yeretzgin after my passing. The sad part is here that, after thirty years of service in this Diocese, these benefits can be so arbitrarily withheld without first obtaining the approval of the proper diocesan authority. What if, in the near future, the Parish Council should decide to discontinue the stipend of the pastor?

As one of the diocesan priests, I am appealing to you to find a solution to this matter, since the last payment on my insurance was made a few months ago by the Diocese and my benefits are again in imminent danger of cancellation. Furthermore, the amount of \$750 should be remitted before the year 1978 ends, for the clergy retirement fund.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Vartan Megherian

Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian

February 28, 1979

The Reverend Father Vartan Megherian
Pastor and President of the Parish Council
Holy Cross Armenian Church
580 West 187th Street
New York, New York 10033

Dear Father Vartan:

We have received a letter from Mr. Sam Chapootian which we do not feel is in proper form since it did not indicate the meeting date and did not indicate that the content resulted from a meeting of the parish council.

The Diocesan Council feels it imperative that according to the decisions of the Diocesan Assembly, the clergy insurance and IRA be paid forthwith to protect the interest of the pastor. This matter was discussed at length at the Diocesan Council meeting on February 23, 1979.

Be advised that we have received the reports of the election, which election is not confirmed pending compliance and payment by your church of the clergy insurance and IRA.

We direct you to call a special meeting forthwith with the current parish council members to vote on the issue of payment by your church of: (a) the clergy insurance, and (b) I.R.A. You are to have a recorded hand vote on this issue, recording the names of the affirmative and negative votes and the results thereof.

We also direct you to invite your Diocesan Delegates to this special meeting.

The results of the vote indicating by name the affirmative and negative votes of the two issues of payments are to be forwarded to us forthwith indicating any members who are absent.

Upon receipt of this information, we will then submit this matter to the Diocesan Council for appropriate action as the case may be.

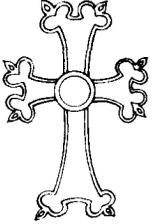
Any member of the Parish Council not cooperating with the intent of this letter or in any way interfering with the meeting referred to which may be obstructive to the intent of this letter should be reported to us in your letter.

Your Parish Council members should be on notice that any payments required for the payment of clergy insurance or IRA was the decision of the Diocesan Assembly and not to be negated or interfered in any manner whatsoever. Any action by any member of your council with the intent to defeat the decision of the Diocesan Assembly will not be tolerated.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

c.c. Mr. Sam Chapootian, Chairman
of the Parish Council
c.c. Delegates



HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA
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Rev. Vartan Megerian, Pastor

February 14, 1979

The Most Reverend
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Your Grace:

We are hereby acknowledging your letter of
January 30, 1979, in reference to the Health Insurance
Plan.

At the present time, until the new Parish Council
is formed, we will be unable to write an answer to
your letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Chapootian".

Sam Chapootian
Chairman, Parish Council

March 30, 1982

To Whom it May Concern:

I, the undersigned declare that the deaconate is part of the hierarchy of the Armenian Church, as it was in the early Church. A deacon is part of the ordained clergy and can serve the spiritual needs of the people and functions as assistance and special ambassadors of the Bishop.

The Armenian Church has maintained this traditional function of the deacon up to today.

This is to state that Reverend Deacon Bedros Ishan is an ordained deacon of the Armenian Church and presently serves in the Holy Cross Armenian Church of New York. He was appointed to this position by the primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

In witness whereof, I sign this declaration today the 30th day of March, 1982.

Prayerfully yours,

Father Houssig Bagdasian
Vicar General

March 20, 1985

The Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan, Visiting Pastor
Holy Cross Armenian Church
580 West 187th Street
New York, NY 10033

Dear Fr. Guregh:

We are pleased to advise you that the Diocesan Council at its recent meeting discussed in detail the need for a close attention to matters of special concern for our parishes, with a view to assisting them in whatever way possible.

To start with, it was decided to assign council members who will meet with the parish council and review problem issues and seek means of solving them.

The Diocesan Council members assigned for your parish area are:

Judge V. Gurahian
Mr. Edward Chapian

Please contact the above members at your earliest convenience and arrange for a meeting date.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc: Judge V. Gurahian
Mr. Edward Chapian.



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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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BISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN, PRIMATE

October 15, 1992

Mrs. Marion Haroutunian
260 South Broadway
Yonkers, New York 10705

Dear Mrs. Haroutunian:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 1992 addressed to His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. I appreciate your concern about the situation at Holy Cross Church. I would like to draw your attention to the following points.

1. Father Vahan Hovhannessian was not a member of the Diocesan clergy.
2. As a student in New York by special permission of the Primate and with consultation of Holy Cross parish council he was appointed as a visiting pastor to that parish.
3. As he was appointed by the Primate with the same procedure he was removed from his responsibilities at Holy Cross. The parish council obviously was consulted about it. At the request of the parish council once in a month Father Vahan will celebrate Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross as well as continue his Bible Study there.

I fully accept your concern about your church, but consider the fact that St. Vartan Cathedral did not have a permanent priest for the past year. We hope that Father Vahan as a young energetic and educated clergy can be of more help to the Armenian Church by using his energy at the heart of our Diocese at St. Vartan Cathedral. This will also help him and enlarge his knowledge and experience on the national and ecumenical spheres.

With prayers,

Father Haigazoun Najarian
Vicar General

HN/as

260 South Broadway
Yonkers, N.Y. 10705
September 29, 1992

Bishop K. Barsamian, Primate
Eastern Diocese Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Grace Bishop K. Barsamian, Primate:

It has come to the attention of N.Y. Holy Cross Armenian Church parishioners that a letter was not directed to the Parish Council relating to the change of duties for our parish priest Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian to work at the Diocese instead of remaining at Holy Cross.

Does not our parish belong and pay dues to the Eastern Diocese, and should not the Parish Council be formally informed of a change and be made aware of changes that are being planned, before they are undertaken.

Many parishioners feel disturbed by the above events and are distressed the Fr. Vahan is leaving our parish to be replaced by a priest that does not speak English.

c/c Diocesan Parish Council
c/c Holy Cross Parish Council

Very truly yours,

Marion Haroutunian
Marion Haroutunian