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**ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH**

**12-61 Saddle River Road**

**Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410**

**Tel. (201) 791-2862 \* Fax (201) 791-1329**

Հ. Վահան Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեան, Հոգևոր Հովիւ  
**Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian, Pastor**

February 7, 1995

Most Reverend Archbishop  
Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
New York

Your Eminence,

The annual Women Saints Day for the New Jersey Churches will be hosted by the St. Leon Women's Guild on Saturday, March 25, 1995 at St. Leon Armenian Church. This year we will commemorate Saints Ashkhen and Khosrovitoukhd.

A liturgical service will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of our Church. Following the church service there will be a luncheon program at the Abajian Hall of our Community service.

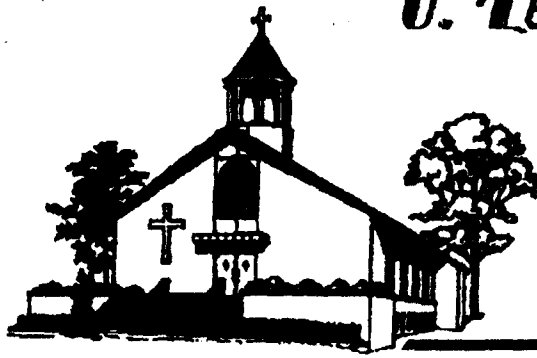
It is with great pleasure that I invite your Eminence to join us both for the Church service and the Luncheon program as guests of our church.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, I remain,

In Christ's service,

Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian

FVH/mm



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Հ. Վահան Վրդ. Յովհաննէսեան, Հոգևոր Հովիւ  
V. Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor

December 13, 1995

His Eminence  
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
New York

Your Eminence:

In response to your inquiry of December 13, 1995, wherein Your Eminence requested verification of the approval of the expansion program at St. Leon Armenian Church in 1988, please be advised that we have reviewed all our files that are available to us at this time and cannot find any correspondence with the Diocese related to this matter.

Our parish has proceeded with the expansion on the assumption that prior approval had been received from the Diocesan Council in 1988, when the project was first proposed. This was based on verbal communication of previous parish council members and members of the 1988 building committee. The present administration, unfortunately, could not verify whether this is true or not since our offices and files are in total disarray due to the explosion of the furnace in the basement of our Church, which caused also serious damages to our offices. We relied on the Parish Assembly minutes recorded in the Annual Reports of 1989 and of 1991. Both reports were submitted to the Diocese.

St. Leon's expansion program was first approved by our Parish Assembly in 1988, see attached Assembly minutes, with the condition that the project could only proceed after pledges for 75% of the cost of the project was received. This project was stopped shortly thereafter because of the earthquake and other problems in Armenia. The parish decided to postpone the project and direct our financial and human resources to help our sisters and brothers in Armenia. It is conceivable that because of this abrupt stop and of the impact of the disaster in Armenia, that the previous administration forgot to send the letter to the Diocesan Council. In 1993, the Parish Assembly confirmed the restarting of

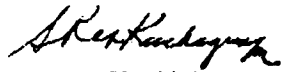
the expansion program with the same financial guarantees as approved in 1988. The Parish Assembly selected Sarkis Gabrellian and Sarkis Soutanian as co-Chairmen of the expansion committee.

A contract has been signed and work is proceeding on the addition to our offices, the enlargement of the Narthex, the widening of the sanctuary with the addition of an Armenian Dome. Repair work related to the explosion will be tied in with the expansion. Construction is expected to be completed in April of 1996.

The contract value of the expansion is \$480,000.00 and we have received commitments in excess of the 75% as required by the Parish Assembly approval. We expect to have commitments in excess of the total cost when the project is completed. This project will place no undue financial burden on our Parish or treasury.

We assure Your Eminence, that our proceeding on this project without Diocesan Council approval, was not done with any disrespect to the authority of the Diocese or knowingly in violation of the By-laws of our Diocese.

May the Savior of the world, whose birth we will soon celebrate, grant us all His peace, and a New Year filled with health, happiness and success. Asking for your blessings, we remain,



S. Rex Kachigian  
Parish Council Chairman

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian

FVH/mam



DIocese OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

December 27, 1995

The Very Reverend Father Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor  
St. Leon Armenian Church  
12-61 Saddle River Road,  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Father Vahan:

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 1995 in which you have explained the work on the expansion project of the Saint Leon Church building. We presented the plans to the Diocesan Council who expressed their pleasure in your parish's initiative to keep up with the expansion of your parishioners and provide for them a comfortable home to worship and meet in.

We are convinced of the sincerity of your project and heartened by your desire to complete it, however, before proceeding any further toward completion, the Diocesan Council noted that, in accordance with the Bylaws - particularly citing #14 J and K - this project in its present form must have the approval of a Parish Assembly. Your Assembly's approval for such an initiative is crucial and must be then forwarded to the Diocesan Council who, in turn, shall acquire the concurrence of the Diocesan Board of Trustees before granting approval for the expansion of the complex.

You have mentioned that the 1993 Parish Assembly confirmed the restarting of the 1988 expansion project, but no documentation about the resurrection of this program exists with us. Therefore, we ask you to send to us presently all the documentation relative to the Saint Leon expansion project - especially the Assembly approval - with the supporting financial guarantees as they appear recorded in the minutes of the Assembly, so that it can be sent to the Diocesan Board of Trustees for their approval. This process is necessary to comply with the Bylaws regarding decisions by the Diocesan Council relative to construction of real properties (See Bylaws p. 6).

We pray that your work moves forward and that this issue will be resolved soon. May the joy that comes from celebration of Our Lord and Saviour birth inspire you all to realize the desires of your hearts.

With prayers,

*Abp. K. Barsamian*  
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate

AKB/as



MONDIAL INTERNATIONAL  
CORPORATION  
661 HILLSIDE ROAD P.O. BOX 889  
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK 10803

ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND • 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885, (212) 686-0710

December 29, 1995

*Under the Auspices of:*  
His Holiness KAREKIN I,  
Catholicos of All Armenians

Alex Manoogian  
*Honorary Chairman*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*Executive Director*

St. Leon Armenian Church  
12-61 Saddle River Road  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian  
Pastor

Mr. S. Rex Kachigian  
Chairman

Dear Rev. Fr. Vahan & Mr. Kachigian:

Contents of your letter of December 8, 1995 were discussed during ACEF' Finance and Investment Committee meeting of December 28, 1995.

The decision was unanimous. ACEF will honor your request for a loan of \$150,000.- to be repaid within five years. Furthermore, the interest rate will be the same rate/year ACEF would be paying out, to the designated recipients.

We concur with your statement that ACEF would be given two weeks advance notice.

We wish you all success in your major renovation project, to your house of worship.

May the New Year see the realization of your plans.

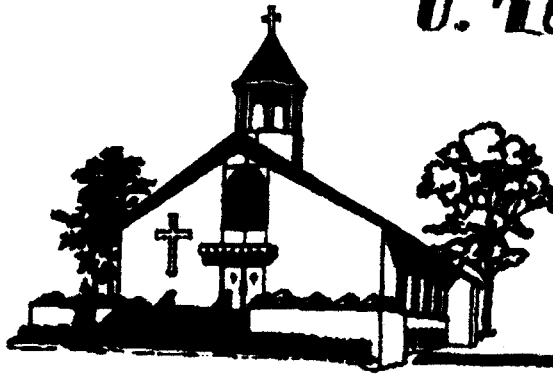
Respectfully,

ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

Suren D. Fesjian  
Chairman

✓ cc: H.E. Abp. Khajag Barsamian

SDF.vk



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V. Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor

February 23, 1996

His Eminence  
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

As per our conversation last week, I am sending you this letter to officially seek your permission and blessing for me to take a six-month sabbatical period from my parish responsibilities. As you know, I am working on my Doctoral dissertation in Biblical Studies at Fordham University. I have already completed Chapter One of the Five-Chapter dissertation. The remaining work, however, requires a full-time attention on my research, for which I will need the six-month sabbatical.

With your Eminence's permission, I would like to take this sabbatical beginning Monday, March 4, through August 31, 1996. During these six months I will be conducting the Friday evening Lenten Vigils and the Holy Week Services beginning with Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday in my parish.

Asking for your prayers, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian*  
Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian



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**Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor**

February 14, 1995

Maestro Khoren Mekhanjian  
c/o Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Maestro Mekhanjian:

As per His Eminence Khajag Barsamian's instructions, and following Father Vahan Hovhannessian's suggestion, I contacted all Church Choir members and informed them of the tentative rehearsal schedule for the Feast of Vartanantz. I regret that none of our members will be able to attend rehearsals, due to commitment to their employment.

This is to confirm our telephone conversation with Ara Akian. Father Vahan and I look forward to future joint programs.

Sincerely,

George Paroonagian,  
Choir Director

GP/pnt

CC: Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate ✓  
Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Very Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian  
St. Leon Armenian Church  
12-61 Saddle River Rd.  
Fair Lawn, IL 07410

October 16, 1996

Dear Fr. Vahan Hovhavessian,

Enclosed is a copy of the Louma billing that was sent to you. According to our records this has not yet been paid. If this is not correct please let me know.

Your prompt attention to this will enable us to fulfill the Diocesan obligation to His Holiness.

Sincerely,

John Phillips  
Administrator

cc: Sarkis "Rex" Kachigian  
Primate





DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

July 9, 1996

The Very Reverend Father Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor  
St. Leon Armenian Church  
12-61 Saddle River Rd.  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Father Vahan:

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, has asked that I write to you regarding your appointment as a representative of the Armenian Church to the Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic National Consultation.

As you may be aware, this bi-lateral group composed of clergy and lay men and women dialogues on issues that have been impediments to the full eucharistic unity between the Roman Catholic Church and the various Oriental churches. Since 1976 when this group was formed, the National Consultation has existed to foster closer relations among its member churches exploring through dialogue ways that our two traditions may move closer to the unity of the church which Our Lord desires.

We know you have an interest in such issues and this ecumenical dimension of the Church. I therefore invite you to join our team which presently attends the Annual gathering (usually convening in the month of June) and offers the Armenian Church's teaching, posture, and considerations regarding relations with the Roman Catholic Church.

Please let me know if you are willing to accept this appointment by July 31, 1996.

Looking forward to the pleasure of sharing our common service in this ecumenical ministry.

With my prayers,

Father Garabed Kochakian  
Chancellor

FGK/as