

January 26, 1983

Mr. John Merigian  
508 E. Ann Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Dear Mr. Merigian:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has received your letter dated January 19, 1983 and asked me to thank you for your deep concern for the welfare of the Armenian Church.

His Eminence will be in Detroit on January 29 through January 31, 1983 where he may be able to see you personally if his schedule permits.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian  
Secretary to the Primate

Jan. 17, 1993

Your Eminence,

Greetings and God's blessings be to you now and throughout the coming year anointed shepherd of the flock of our Lord. I pray that God's health and strength are with you during these days of darkness and turbulence. I pray that God will guide and lead you in all the steps that you take. And that as the darkness increases, that the light of His truth will lead you and make clear the path that sets before you.

I am grieved at the state in which our Church stands. And what grieves me most is the sense that the darkness is increasing and the clouds overhead are darkening. When I recall a long conversation we had in November of 1991 I am struck by the things that have taken place since. I remember having a sense that the four patriarchates of our Church were unstable, and that Jerusalem and Antelias were certainly the most susceptible to falling apart. With the difficulties in Lebanon over the past year I knew that ever greater difficulties were yet to come upon us. Now, these past few months, Jerusalem is falling apart, and with grief I await the further uncovering of the afflictions that continue to fall upon us.

Soorpazar haye, we spoke about these things months before the first clouds of smoke arose. And I believe that the Lord was very present as we spoke at length about the times we are facing. None of the events of these past months surprise me, I see God's hand is moving. What does surprise me is that many others are caught unawares. For again we are passing through a time where a voice is crying out in the wilderness "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." I hope and pray that we as a people are ready to hear the voice of the Lord, but I fear that we are not.

I am not saying, Soorpazar haye, that the Apocalypse is at hand. But I will say that God is moving in significant ways throughout the face of the earth. I am aware of tremors of the Lord's movements throughout the Catholic Church and various protestant churches. And I see His Spirit moving in the Greek Orthodox Church. We must not think that the disturbances within our branch of the Body are without cause or purpose. But it is time for us to seek God for His intentions and purposes. It is time for us to humbly approach the altar of the Living God and offer ourselves in complete submissiveness to our Father's will. If we as a people and as a church

are to survive through this century, then we must know what God's will for us is and we must find out what His plan and means to bring life back to the Armenian people is. For too long we have been trying without success to eradicate our problems according to our <sup>own</sup> plans and abilities. Do we have time to continue trying our own plans for renewing the Armenian people? Or is it time for us to genuinely, truthfully, wholeheartedly approach God for His solutions to our problem?

We, as a people, are very stubborn. This is our blessing and curse. For sometimes we are too stubborn to open our hearts to listen to the Lord and to obediently submit to His will. But, once we do, the stubbornness to obey God's will is unshakeable as is evident in the bounteous martyrdom of our ancestors. May we too be counted worthy to someday share in the glory they have earned.

I write this to you, your eminence, because of the love that I have for you. I know the weight of the responsibility that you carry, and I am not talking about that being before men. Rather, I refer to the responsibility you carry before the Lord. And it is as a bishop caring for the lives of thousands and thousands of souls that you stand before the Lord. And your accountability before Him must be an awesome responsibility, one which would frighten any

God fearing man. And yet I know that His grace is sufficient for the task He sets before you. And because of this realization of your cross that you bear for Him, and because of the love He has placed in my heart for you that I write to you these words, and that I pray for you always. And I ask you sojourner here, to seek the Lord. To seek out His direction and plans. The Israelites heard and followed the voice of the Lord. We have been given Christ, the fulfillment of the law, and we have been given the Spirit. Should we not more clearly than the Israelites of old know the will of God? And hearken to His voice?

I pray that God will reveal His mind to you as you seek Him. You are our shepherd, and the flock will follow you. I pray that God's word and voice will be clearly in your ears and heart. And know that we will continue to pray for you, for this too brings us joy.

Our outreach work is going well. God has been doing powerful things in many young men's lives. We await His further work in adding to our numbers. By this summer, with God's will, we hope to have a good handful of committed brothers to work with us in serving the Lord and our people. We have had many visitors and God continues to work in their

lives as they stay with us. It is such joy to help people grow closer to the Lord. To see them come to know the love and presence of the Lord, not in an emotional way, but in a way that changes their lives is a great blessing. I will write you another letter on how the outreach is going in another letter soon.

Soorpazar hayr, please write to me, even just a note, if the words I have written have spoken to you. As I took some time to pray I felt inspired by the words of Narek to ask God for words of inspiration. Narek has taught me much, and I am sure the lessons will continue.

I do look forward to speaking with you sometime soon, and I pray that God would allow me this blessing. I do miss the time that we spent together when I was doing some work at the diocese. And I thank the Lord for that provision. But now I press on to see what the Lord has for me and for all of His servants, and for our church. May God stir up the Spirit within our people and cause us to joyfully pursue the path of Christ our ancestors have cleared before us.

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
pour out His Spirit upon you and lead you  
in the ways of peace, truth and love.  
Prayerfully yours in Christ,  
John

Your Eminence,

Greetings and God's blessings be to you anointed shepherd of our people. I pray that God is leading you and strengthening you as you guide and tend His flock. I also pray that He is granting you time to be refreshed in His Holy Spirit, time to savour His glorious presence.

I was very saddened to be unable to see you when I was at St. Nersess this past summer. And I pray that you are healthy now, and that you shall continue to be so. Soopayan hay, please be attentive to the Spirit when He invites you to rest, for God gives to His beloved rest. God has placed you over us as our spiritual father, and indeed I am thankful. And I pray that He will not allow your busy schedule to keep you from us for any reason, especially because of health. May He strengthen you, your eminence.

I am writing to you to share how things have been going with our outreach work. He has blessed us with several very generous benefactors, the last of whom (or I should say the most recent) are the

Mardigians. Truly I thank the Lord for them. They truly have a heart for the Armenian people, and this is refreshing indeed. They were both very enthusiastic and encouraging about our work. And it seems they are interested in helping us to serve our people in this work. This too was a great blessing from the Lord.

In our work things are going well also. We hold Armenian student club meetings in our house every other Monday evening, and we have been averaging over 20 a meeting. We have refreshments and Armenian music and socializing before the meeting, and we sing songs together afterwards. It seems everyone looks forward to our Monday night gathering. We are also planning to begin a series of alternating Tuesday night activities oriented around Christian topics. Some have shown an interest in some sort of Bible discussion. I am already working with several young men on a one to one basis. And God is really blessing this endeavor. This is a time consuming approach but seems to be the most effective, and after all, this is our example from Christ Himself anyway.



with renewed strength and longing to see His will done on earth as it is in heaven.

And I trust that God will be adding to our numbers in the coming months. I have seen the budding of the hearts of several people and it is only a matter of time until God bears forth fruit.

Well, Soopayan says, I must bring this letter to a close, I have taken up enough of your time. I know that this is a great request, but please pray for us and our work. Even just now pray that God will lead us and lead others to Himself through us. And if and when you can, please remember us before the Lord during your celebrating His sacrifice.

We look with affection towards our seeing you again. I personally look forward to having a chance to sit and discuss the vision and His work, and our church.

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Bless you with every blessing of His Holy Spirit. Prayerfully yours in Christ,  
John Menzies

John Kazanjian is doing quite well. He is daily growing in the Lord. He is hungry for teaching and attentive to God's word and voice. And I am convinced that the time he has set aside to grow in the Lord shall be a great asset in his future service to the Lord and His people, whatever that may be. and although we are only beginning to work it seems that God is drawing us close together as brothers in Christ. For this too I am very thankful.

In my life things are going well also. I must confess that recently I have experienced some trials and temptations to doubt whether our people will ever truly return ~~to~~ the Lord, and the fullness of the faith of our church. And at these times the Lord reminds me that this is His responsibility, not mine. And that my mission and service is to be obedient to His will and calling. And to have faith; the faith of Abraham, of Moses, of the prophets, who looked to the Lord without having seen the fullness of the promise. But who by their faith in the Lord were counted among the righteous. And so He reminds me, and I press on

October 24, 1984

Mary Ann Tutunjian, Secretary  
c/o St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, NJ 07740

Dear Ms. Tutunjian:

We received your letter dated October 7, 1984 requesting guidelines for the purchase of property and/or new construction of churches.

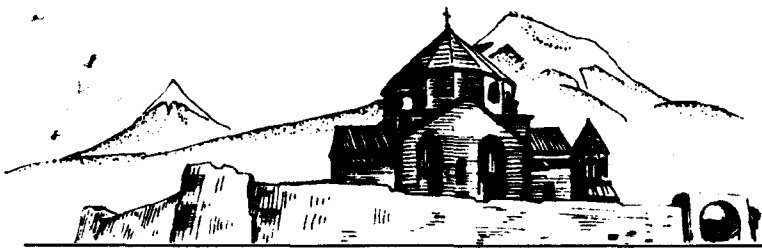
In order to obtain the proper information concerning the aforementioned subject please refer to the Bylaws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese - 1982 Edition). The pages listed below in the bylaws book refer to the subject matter, pages 15, 19, 27, 59, 61, 73, 75, 77.

A copy of the bylaws book should be available in your parish council office, and if not copies are available for sale from the Diocesan bookstore.

If there is any further information required, please contact us.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson  
Director of Finance



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St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, New Jersey 07740

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Rev. (Father) Guregh Kalfayan  
Pastor

7 October 1984

Dear Mr. Stinson,

Please send the latest copy  
of your guideline for:  
The Purchase of Property or New  
Construction for churches..

Sincerely,  
Mary Ann [Signature]  
Secretary

November 14, 1985

Mr. Steven Mangigian  
538 Walnut Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Dear Steven:

Upon our return from Holy Etchmiadzin, we read your letter of mid-October with both regret and joy.

We are, of course, sorry that you are not ready to devote yourself to a training for a full time youth leadership. However, it is wonderful to hear how seriously you take your own commitment to the Lord's service. Indeed, there is a great deal to learn and discover and you are right to pursue an appropriate course.

God bless you and we look forward to the day when you will be ready for a more precise calling within the Church.

May God's Spirit imbue all you do with His light and grace.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manougian  
Primate

10/12/85

YOUR EMINENCE,

GREETINGS to you from ANN ARBOR! I hope and pray that the Lord is Blessing you right now.

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner but when I got back from New York, I was faced with moving into a new house. I am now just finding my way around my personal property. I do believe though that during this time, the Lord has revealed some things to me in Prayer. The Lord is moving me ahead right now. He is calling me to go back to school to fulfill my undergraduate work. I believe that God really wants me to get some fundamental responsibilities in my life out of the way. I believe that by pursuing and fulfilling my basic bachelors requirements I can better serve my church in a greater capacity in the future. So at this time I would have to decline any possibility of working in the diocese. I really do believe that you would much rather see me fulfill my school requirements first before pursuing anything long term. I also think that I would have much more freedom in the future to perhaps respond to higher calling that God might have for me within the church.

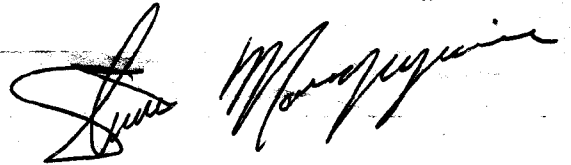
I think it would be ridiculous for me to try to lead you to think one thing but then to turn around and do another. Frankly, our church does not need people like that! Our church needs

people that are committed to our Lord Jesus Christ, in seeing his kingdom advanced, and in seeing unity within the church.

These are things that I strive for, and the only criteria that I live by.

In closing, I do pray that you would support me in my decision and I would greatly appreciate your prayers. May the Lord continually pour his Holy Spirit on you and may you continue being a reflection of Christ's radiant light!

IN SERVICE TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE,

Two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be in dark ink.