

Քիւ 26484
Յունիս 22, 1979

Հոգեշնորհ
Տ. Փառէն Ծ. Վրդ. Աւետիքեան
Հովիւ Ս. Յովհաննէս Մկրտիչ Եկեղեցւոյ
Նախագահ Ժիական Խորհուրդի
Ստուծֆիլա.

Սիրելի Հայր Փառէն,

Ասացած ենք Յունիս 18, 1979 թուակիր ձեր նամակը եւ
ներփակեալ Յունիս 5, 1979ին գումարուած համայնքիդ Մաս-
նաւոր Ժիական Ժողովի ատենագրութիւնը:

Ձեր նամակին մէջ յիշուած հարցը ներկայացուցինք Թեմա-
կան Խորհուրդին, որ համաձայն գտնուեցաւ Մասնաւոր Ժիա-
կան Ժողովի որոշումին՝ 200,000 առլարով մասնակցելու
Ս. Յովհաննէս Մկրտիչ Եկեղեցւոյ Մշակութային Կեդրոնի
ընդարձակման եւ այլ բարեգարդումներու համար նախատեսուած
երկու միլիոն առլարի ծախսերուն:

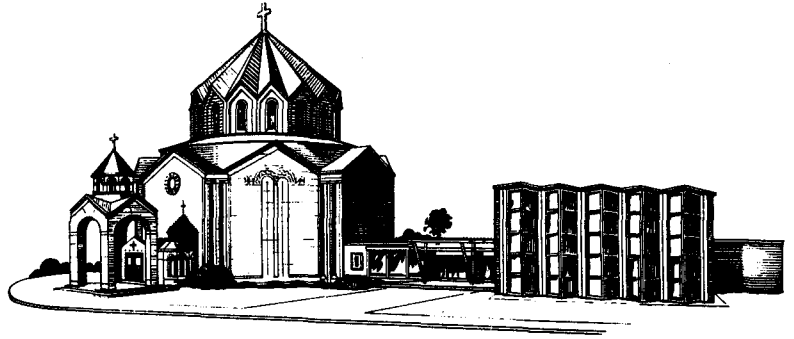
Ձեզի եւ Ժիական Խորհուրդիդ անդամներուն կը ցանկանք
բաջաոդջութիւն եւ ձեր եկեղեցանուէր ու ազգանուէր բք-
րի ծրագրումներուն իրականացում:

Սիրոյ ողջունել

ԹՈՐԳՈՄ ԱՐԷՅԳԻՍԿՈՂՈՍ
Առաջնորդ

ՍԲ. ՅՈՎՀԱՆՆԷՍ ՄԿՐՏԻԶ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ՄԵՐԱԳՈՅՆ ՏԻՔՐՈՑՔԻ

St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ PHONE: 569-3405

★ SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

June 13, 1979

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian,
Primate and President of the Diocesan Council
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

On Tuesday, June 5, 1979, a Special Parish Assembly was convened at St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit for the purpose of presenting the proposed plans for the expansion of the St. John's Armenian Church Cultural Center.

The enclosed minutes of the Parish Assembly indicate the manner in which the St. John's Assembly expressed its consent, and charged the Armenian Apostolic Society to execute its plan for the proposed expansion of St. John's facilities. The Assembly authorized the Parish Council to appropriate \$200,000.00 from Parish funds for this project.

Just as a reminder, I wish to point out to Your Eminence, the special position that the Armenian Apostolic Society holds as the owners of St. John's properties, and the relationship which the Parish has with the Society. Thus, the manner in which the Parish Assembly accepted the proposed plans and made the appropriation should be self-explanatory.

The expansion will consist of the following: Expansion of the present lobby; new offices and renovation of existing offices to meet new needs; expansion of kitchen facilities to meet new needs; addition of a museum, a library, and storage rooms; conversion of the present chapel into a multi-purpose room, maintaining the altar intact for services; renovation and expansion of the Armenian-American Veteran's Building in the areas of enlarging and refurbishing the club room, enlarging and renovating the athletic court, and enlarging and refurbishing shower and locker room facilities, so that the Veteran's Building can be used as a Youth Center and as a Senior Citizens Recreation Facility.

On behalf of the Parish of St. John's Armenian Church, I request approval from the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees for the St. John's expansion project.

Respectfully yours,

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Father Paren Avedikian
Pastor

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT
SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Tuesday - June 5, 1979

Father Paren Avedikian offered the prayer of invocation at 8:30 P.M.

Mr. Richard Apkarian, Chairman of the Parish Council stated that the meeting was official since there were ninety-five members in attendance, which constitutes a quorum according to Article 17 of the Diocesan Bylaws.

95
minutes

Mr. Apkarian explained that during the last few years many suggestions have been presented to the Council as to the needs of our parish for improvement. After many meetings, the suggestions have been conveyed to the Apostolic Society. The Apostolic Society retained the services of Architect, Suren Pilafian, to present plans for the expansion of the entire complex. Mr. Pilafian has presented the final plans to the Apostolic Society in the presence of the Parish Council, and together they have accepted these plans which will be presented to this Special Parish Assembly today.

The Apostolic Society in turn appointed a Building Committee. Members of this Committee are Father Paren Avedikian, Daniel Shahan, Chairman, Martin Apkarian, Richard Apkarian, Harry Terzian, and Armen Hovnanian. Mr. Alex Manoogian and Mr. Edward Mardigian are Ex-Officio members of the Committee.

Mr. Martin Apkarian was called upon to explain the need for this expansion. He stated that we do not have facilities for our youth, not enough meeting rooms, we have outgrown the kitchen, which is not adequate at the present time for our needs, we need room for the artifacts and antiques which we have collected, not enough office space, and no facility for small gatherings.

Mr. Edward Mardigian was called upon to present his views on the project. Mr. Mardigian pointed out that the Apostolic Society is only trying to carry out the requests of the parish. He stated that the expansion program, which will be presented by Mr. Suren Pilafian, will greatly enhance our facilities. Mr. Mardigian stated that he realizes that this is a very large project and that in round figures it will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000, but that the Apostolic Society feels that it is a worthy cause and he and Mr. Manoogian will support this project if it is approved by the parishioners today.

Mr. Pilafian presented the plans with slides and explained all the phases of the expansion in great detail. Here is a summary of Mr. Pilafian's presentation.

A museum will be built for the artifacts with an adjoining library. The present lobby will be doubled in size, the front entrance to the lobby will be changed with a canopy added. A reception room will be added, the offices will be increased and expanded to include a room for the Parish Council, assistant pastors and equipment room, storage rooms, a two room custodian's apartment, rooms for nursery and toddler's, the kitchen will be enlarged and refurbished completely and outside grills will be constructed, covered with a canopy for cooking both in the winter and summer.

✓

The Chapel will be renovated completely, with lower leveled floor, to serve as a multipurpose room.

The Veterans Building will be completely renovated and enlarged to serve as a youth center.

Mr. Pilafian was asked what the length of time was for completion of this project. He answered, approximately two years.

2 yrs.

A question was asked as to whether or not a senior citizens housing was included in these plans, the reply was no.

Mr. Jack Kazanjian asked that when the kitchen project is started how will it affect the general operation of the kitchen since it is used constantly for weddings, bazaar, other church affairs, and rentals. Father Paren explained that the construction will be done the first four days of the week. All weekends will be free so that there will not be interference with our activities or rentals.

Martin Cholakian asked whether the Veterans Building will be used for the Church School or what the plans are for the younger children, whether they will be coming over to the Cultural Building for classes.

Richard Apkarian explained that we anticipate utilizing the AGBU School to its fullest capacity so that our children will have classrooms on Sundays. Mr. Cholakian again asked if the gymnasium would be used for Church School when the expansion is completed. Father Paren explained that this was an internal Church School problem and the Church School will decide where the different departments will conduct classes.

Mary Ann Karakashian asked where the Church School will be housed, and was told that the Church School will be housed in the Cultural Building, the AGBU School and the Veterans Building.

Mr. Zartarian stated that from what he understood we are going to expand 40% and asked what the cost of operating our facilities would be. Mr. Harry Terzian was asked to answer the question, and he explained that in the areas of utilities and maintenance the increase will amount to approximately 20% of our budget of 1979 in these specific areas.

Mr. Hrant Aginian asked what security measures would be taken. Mr. Apkarian explained that we currently have a security system, and we will expand our system to include the expansion.

Mitzi Negohosian asked about security during the day when the doors are open. It was explained that the Building Secretary's office will be placed so that she will be facing the lobby to observe the traffic.

Mr. Aginian asked whether more doors will be added in this expansion plan. Mr. Pilafian explained that no outside doors will be added.

It was asked if permission from the City of Southfield has been obtained for construction. Mr. Apkarian explained that we had procured the approval of the City for the plans.

Mr. Aginian asked if a curator was to be hired to care for the museum. Richard Apkarian stated that there will be someone on the staff for this purpose. It was asked what the salary of such a person would be. It was stated that the salary would be in the neighborhood of \$15-\$18,000 a year. The Assembly felt that we could not get anyone for such a small salary.

Father Paren explained that just that same morning he had a meeting with someone who was very well versed in this area, and he asked this person what salaries curators receive in the well known small museums in New York City. This gentlemen said that curators are a different breed of individuals, not working necessarily for the money, but making sure that after their death their name survives. He stated that curators are interested in research and Father Paren hoped that we would be able to get such a person. This man, whom Father Paren talked to, said that in well known small museums in New York City the salary for curators was around \$16,000 a year.

Mr. Chelebian stated that there are at least fifty graduates from the AGBU Alex Manoogian School and will they have facilities in these plans. Father Paren explained that all the community youth will be given opportunity to plan their activities in the expanded facilities.

Mitzi Negohosian asked if additional restroom facilities were in the plans. Mr. Pilafian stated that no additional restrooms would be added because he felt that we have adequate restroom facilities.

Harry Amirkanian asked what sort of financial planning has been made for such a large project, and whether or not the Apostolic Society has funds to undertake this project, or do they need outside help. Mr. Edward Mardigian explained that this will take approximately two years, and we are hoping that we can have a campaign after the approval of this expansion, to raise funds on a two year basis with pledges as we did in the past for our present buildings. Mr. Mardigian stated that if a two year period for pledges is not adequate, a loan may be acquired to pay off the project and then go in to the third year for more pledges.

Martin Cholakian asked if the Building Committee will be expanded, and also if there will be facilities for the youth of our community in these plans.

Richard Apkarian explained that the Armenian American Veterans Building will be used solely for the youth and also the Senior Citizens. He explained that the Veterans Building will not be rented out and will be strictly used for the youth.

Mrs. Nvart Alexanian asked what is being done as far as publicity on this expansion program and suggested that intensive publicity be started for this purpose. Mr. Apkarian explained that publicity will be taken care of.

Jack Kazanjian complimented Mr. Pilafian on the plans presented and felt that this undertaking will be a simple project for our community, and that \$2,000,000 is not a large figure for such a beautiful complex.

Mr. Cholakian stated that with the Diocese of the Armenian Church, the AGBU Schools and St. John's Armenian Church constantly seeking funds we are being naïve in saying that we can pay for this cost in two years; he suggested that this project be set up for a longer period. He also stated that many of our people are supporters of the Pacesetters Committee, raffles for our Bazaar, and of the AGBU School golf outings.

Richard Apkarian repeated what Mr. Mardigian had said that if the fund raising for a two year period does not answer our needs, we will then go into fund raising for the third year.

Jack Kazanjian stated that our community needs these facilities and must have such facilities. He felt that our people need this project to work for because they have been stagnant for some time. He stated there would be no problem in securing funds for this worthwhile undertaking. ✓

Mr. Martin Apkarian stated that the Armenian Apostolic Society is endorsing this project. Mr. Apkarian stated that the Apostolic Society needs the endorsement of this body to start this project and also raise funds for this expansion program.

Mr. Alex Manoogian stated that we have had large projects in the past, that twenty years ago when the property for these buildings was purchased everyone wondered how it was going to be paid for. Again when the Church was to be built it seemed impossible to pay for such a large undertaking, but all of these facilities were paid for in a short period of time. He stated that we need this expansion program, we need a place for our youth, which they do not have in the cultural hall, and thanked the Veterans for the use of their building all this time for our youth. Mr. Manoogian reported that it will take \$750,000 to expand the Veterans Building for the use of our youth. He was very confident that this expansion program will be a success. He felt that we will have a two year fund raising campaign and if necessary will go into the third year for additional funds.

Mr. Kazanjian made a motion, seconded by Mary Simonian, to proceed with the plans presented by the Apostolic Society for the expansion of these facilities.

Mr. Cholakian objected to the statement made by Mr. Kazanjian that our community has been stagnant for some time. He was called out of order.

The motion was voted upon and passed. Four votes were cast against the motion.

Mr. Ashod Torosian wondered if the people present at this Assembly were all dues paying members, eligible to vote on this issue, stating that if they do not pay dues they will not pay for this project.

Mr. Richard Apkarian said it should not be a problem to have enough dues paying members to pass this, that our people are trustworthy and honest, and

and would not vote if they were not members.

Mr. Apkarian stated further that it is imperative that our parish support this project and that the Parish Council has met on several occasions and discussed a pledge that should be made for this project by the Parish Council on behalf of our Parish, and recommended the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. Martin Cholakian made a motion, which was seconded, that \$200,000 be pledged by the Parish Council. ✓

Mr. Martin Manoogian asked how they plan on raising the \$200,000.

Richard Apkarian pointed out that the Parish Council received close to \$70,000 from the church organizations last year, and anticipate raising an additional \$40-\$60,000 over the next few years, and in addition, plan to withdraw from our savings account \$75,000 to \$100,000. ✓

The motion was voted upon and passed. Three votes were cast against the motion. ✓

Richard Apkarian stated that he was very proud that this assembly had passed the motion.

Mitzi Negohosian asked where the project will begin first; whether it will be in the youth center first, museum, or if they knew at this point where they will begin. Richard Apkarian stated that the entire project will begin at one time.

Mr. Edward Korkoian asked if there were any plans for the Senior Citizens Housing in our community in the future so that this question can be finalized once and for all. Mr. Apkarian stated that there is a program in the works but we are not ready to present it yet.

Father Paren then expressed his happiness and joy that this Assembly adopted both the concept of the expansion as presented by the Apostolic Society and made the appropriation on behalf of St. John's for this expansion project. ✓

Father Paren commented that in Detroit we try to do things in class and are only trying to live up to the reputation and way of behavior we have thus far displayed. He asked that we not be disappointed by the number of people here today and felt that there are hundreds of parishioners who will support this project -- some with very large contributions and some with small donations; but everyone's donation will be accepted gracefully, and eventually we will try to address ourselves to the needs of this community in all aspects.

The benediction was given by Father Paren at 10:45 P.M.

Dr. Michael Armodlian
Dr. Michael Armodlian
Parish Council Secretary

Fr. Paren Avedikian
Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor

Richard M. Apkarian
Richard Apkarian
Parish Council Chairman