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September 10, 1993

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

Your Eminence:

We recently received notice of a request that our pastor, Father Shnork Kasparian, be reassigned to the seminary in Jerusalem. However, we have received no communications from you regarding your decision.

It is the general feeling in our parish that Father Shnork's leaving will have a devastating affect on our community. There are several dozen families who have settled in this area from Azerbaijan, and their primary contact to our church is through Father Shnork. Without this contact, these people will more than likely be lost.

Father Shnork has also been a close friend of the St. Louis community and is extremely well respected by other religious leaders, and, in particular, the Catholic archdiocese of St. Louis and the diocese of Belleville, Illinois. We also fear that these ties will be lost if Father Shnork leaves.

Moreover, the ties to the young persons in our community will also be severed. Our parish council is composed entirely of younger generation persons; I doubt this commitment will last if Father Shnork leaves.

Last, several affluent parishioners have come to our community as a result of Father Shnork's efforts. The donations made to the church by these persons have been instrumental in keeping the church going financially. Again, if Father Shnork leaves, I doubt that these persons will feel as committed to the

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similarly held in the community. I hope that you keep these matters in mind when making your decision.

If you would like to discuss this situation with me further, please do not hesitate to contact me during the day at 314-289-4244.

Humbly yours,



M. Jane Matoesian
Parish Council Chairman