

May 10, 1976

Mr. George N. Nahabedian
Diocesan Delegate
St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church
6700 West Diversey Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60635

Dear Mr. Nahabedian:

Enclosed is a message for your anniversary booklet. We regret very much that we will not be with you on this occasion.

We have also received your letter of May 4, and deeply appreciate the concern expressed for the welfare of the parish and the urgent need of a permanent pastor.

We share this concern, and hope that circumstances will enable us to resolve your need.

We have discussed this from time to time with your parish council chairman. Providing pastors for our churches remains our most urgent need. Unfortunately it is not susceptible to easy solution.

Stay well, with God's blessings.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

st

May 10, 1976

PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

Anniversaries can have special meanings for us on many levels. They can mark the end of a period and an occasion for reviewing what has been done; they can mark a new beginning and the commitment this implies; they can offer a brief moment of joy; they can concern us individually, or as parts of a greater whole; they can be a practical measure or an emotional experience.

Anniversaries can be one or more of these things. In the case of a parish, however, an anniversary is joy and solemnity mixed, because the parish, with its church at the center, touches not only our own lives, but the lives of generations before us, as it will surely touch the lives of generations that follow us.

How many of our people have passed through the Chicago parish during the half century of its existence! How many have found spiritual and cultural and social sustenance from the religious and communal life it has provided!

It is this priceless gift to our people that we celebrate on this 50th anniversary, a gift made by our people to themselves and to their brothers, through the church they came together to establish generations ago. And a gift continues to enrich us, in varying measure, now and as long as our faith endures.

We pray that God may grace the Chicago parish with His blessings, now, for another half century, always.

Prayerfully,

st

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian



St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church

6700 W. DIVERSEY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635
PHONE 637-1711

May 4, 1976

His Eminence
Archbishop Toros Manoogian
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian
Church of North America

Your Eminence:

During this past Diocesan Assembly in Philadelphia, I had the honor of conversing with you about our church, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago. During this conversation, we discussed the possibility of getting a priest for our parish. At previous assemblies, we also discussed this problem. On different occasions you asked if we are ready for a priest. Can we afford one? Do we have a clergy fund? Well Surpazan Hayr, I could finally say that the people of Chicago's St. Gregory parish are ready to receive a priest and support him.

Between our clergy and reserve funds, we have in excess of \$35,000.00 and can raise an additional \$5,000.00 if we had to. Our church membership has increased in number. We have an active Sunday school, Armenian school, Junior and Senior A.C.Y.O.A. and even sent a basketball team to the A.G.B.U. tournament in Detroit this past February. Yes Surpazan Hayr, we have come a long way.

As active participant and keen observer at this most recent Diocesan Assembly, it was brought to my attention that there are other clergy who may wish to be transferred. I also had the pleasure of conversing with Deacon Daniel Kochakian. He informed me of his ordination which will be taking place in the near future. Deacon Daniel is going to be a real asset to our diocese and you should be congratulated.

One of my father's last wishes was for me to continue to work for and remember our church. I ask you, please remember us. We need your help.

Your servant in God's Work

George M. Nahabedian
Diocesan Delegate
St. Gregory the Illuminator
Armenian Church of Chicago



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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635
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May 4, 1976

His Eminence
Archbishop Torcem Mancoogian
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian
Church of North America

Your Eminence:

As per our conversation of April 30, 1976 at the Diocesan Assembly in Philadelphia, we discussed the inability of your attending the 50th Anniversary Celebration of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago.

We, the committee feel your participation in this gala celebration would be tremendous for the parishioners of St. Gregory's and the Chicago area. I am aware that you have other commitments on Saturday, June 12, 1976 and Sunday, June 13, 1976; but any changes or adjustments in your busy schedule would be deeply appreciated.

If you are unable to attend, I would appreciate it if you would send a message to the parishioners of St. Gregory's. Your message will be published in our anniversary program book.

Your Servant in God

George M. Nahabedian
Chairman, 50th Anniversary
Committee