February 20, 1945

Miss Lillien M. Bagdasarian 5 Charlotte Street Binghemton, N. Y.

Dear Miss Bagdasarian;

We received your letter of February 14th, together with the list of Armenian Youth in Binghamton, New York, also the general list of the Armenians in your community.

ne express our thanks and appreciate your promptness.

With Paternal Blessings,

Rt. Rev. Tiran Nersoyan Ordinary of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in America.

5 Charlotte Street, Binghamton, New York, February 19, 1945.

The Rt. Rev. Tiran Vartabed Nersoyan, The Armenian Prelacy, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Rt. Rev. Father:

I am enclosing herewith a set of index cards containing the names and addresses of Loosavorchagans who attend the Binghamton Armenian Church. You will please note that I have designated whether or not they are members of the Church.

I will inform you of any changes that may occur relative to the above.

We are looking forward to your initial visit here in July,

Respectfully,

illion M- Boglassican

(Miss) Lill

Lillian M. Bogdasarian

46 Laurel Ave Binghamt'n, New Y'rk N'v. 18, 1955

「「「「「「「「「「「」」」」

「「「「「「「「」」」」」

あるか のうちょう かんない いちないのない ちょうちょう ないのうちょう

Dear Surpazan Kalfayian,

I am writing to you directly, instead of through out Board of Trustees, to acquaint you more closely with the problems of our Sunday School and Church.

As you may know, our Sunday School was formed in October, 1952 under the direction of Father Torcom, following a request from our membership for some type of regular services. It was hoped at the time of the request to Surpazan Tiran Nersoyian, that we would be able to have regular services of the Badarak every six weeks or two months. He and Father Torcom felt that some services could be held throughout the year, and that a Sunday School would be of great help in holding the congregation together, and in training the new generation in the beliefs and practices of the church. So they appointed me Director of the Sunday Schools, and at the same time I believe, They appointed Father Popkin of Broy to be our advisor.

We had Our first services in the Sunday School immediately following my appointment, in November, 1952. During the first year, Father Torcom made several visits to direct and help us , and als o to hold Badarak services. We also had some other visits during that year, and it was felt to be mos t successful. The following September, we had Badarak the day after the wedding of one of our members. We als o had visits from three priests who were touring the country to collect money for various causes in the church, or in Armenia. At Easter, being unable to receive any answ er to our letters reguesting a priest on or near Easter, I myself called Surpazan Tiran on the phone, and he found himself free to come. For the firs t time in twenty years, this church had complete Good Friday abd Easter Services. They were a great inspiration to the congregation and to the Sunday School teachers and members. In June, another of our members was married, but the priest who performed the ceremony was unable to stay with us for Badarak on Sunday. Since last Easter we have not had anyone visit us, except Father Popkin whom we wrote and called many times. He came down one Sunday evening and met with the Sunday School teachers and helped us with our program. We have not had Badarak, since last Easter, a time of 8 months.

In these eight months, as head of the Sunday School, I find a slackening of interest in some groups and even among the teachers themselves. The situation has reached the point where I feel that the lack of interest from teachers, Trustees, Congregation and especially the Prelacy, all combine to make the job an impossible one. It is felt by some that it would be more valuable for the children, who are, after all, American, going to American s chools and proud of their American country and history, to join the American established churches to which their friends belong. In this way they will have a community and religious tie with their background. This is a very difficult argument to answer, especially when it comes from an Armenian to an American who has become interested in the Armenian Church. Because of thus feeling. I have announced to the Congregation that unless there is a renewal of interest and support both from the Congregation and from the Prelacy, that I will nº longer direct the Sunday School after Christmas. I feel very badly about this, for the Armenian Church is the only church in which I ever felt completely satisfied, and I am anxious for my children to know and love it. But, of course, with just a Sunday School, run by their mother, they cannot really learn about the church. Badarak and a close cooperation with a qualified spiritual leader are necessary for that.

It seems to me that in this very difficult year, it is the

responsibility of the prelacy to give us all the support that we need. Not just the support that you feel we need, or that you can give us with no inconvenience to yourselves, but that which we must have to continue in this work. I feel that if this attempt to reactivate the local Church is allowed to fail, that the congregation will disperse to other churches, and remain with them in spite of anything you, or anyone else might try to do in the future. It occurs to me that you yourself might find it poss ible to visit us, since it is only a short trip by train or car to Binghamton. In this way you could come to know us pers onally, and we know you, and you could see our problems at first hand.

How ever, if it is not your wis h to give us any support at this time, I shall regretfully clost the Sunday School, immediately for the Christmas.

Sincerely y^{urs}, Carol S. B^gdasarian (Mrs. R^bert B^gdasarian) September 30, 1986

Miss Lillian Mahakian 8 Lathrop Avenue Binghampton, New York

Re: Rev. Semerjian's picture

Dear Miss Mahakian:

We sincerely regret to inform you that we do not have a picture of the Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian.

We suggest you contact the Rev. Father, his address is as follows:

> Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian 276 Highland Avenue Worcester, Massachusetts

If we can be of any service to you in She future, please feel free to call on us.

Respectfully,

Isabelle Nalbantian Diccesan Secretary

8 Lathrop Ave. Binghamton, New York, Sept. 29, 1956.

Diocese of the Armenian Church, 630 Second Ave. New York 16, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Will you please send me immediately a picture of

The Very Rev. Mesrob Vartabed Semerjian

who will be in Binghamton to celebrate Mass on SundaynOct. 7th.

I must have the picture the early part of the week in order to get it to the Newspaper publishers for the weekly Church page.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cordially, Lillian B. Mahakian

March 29, 1971

Dr. Robert Bogdasarian Chairman of Parish Council St. Gregory the Enlightener Church 46 Laurel Avenue Binghampton, New York 13905

Dear Dr. Bogdasarian:

.____

Every year the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America undertakes a Mission Program in several parishes of the Diocese. This year we have designated July 1-8 as Mission Week. We would like to see one of these Mission programs come to your church during that week. We hope that you will regard it convenient to your parish.

This project has our wholehearted support and endorsement. We are all aware of the importance of this internal mission work, undertaken and sponsored wholly by the young people of our Diocese. Your parish will be free of any financial obligation for this project, as the ACYOA Central Advisory Council will underwrite all expenses involved.

The Mission Program consists of educational and religious instruction, pertinent discussion for all members of the parish, and visits by the Mission team to the houses and hospitals of the community. In general, the true mission of the Church is fulfilled as the team and the parish grow together in the realization of the fellowship of Christ. The practical implications of the Faith, witnessing to our beliefs in our daily lives, are both discussed and lived by the Mission team.

We know that the St. Gregory parish is without a permanent pastor, but the effect of the Mission Program and the enthusiasm it generates will still be great. We realize, also, that a summer date is not ideal, but feel strongly about the importance of this venture. The spiritual growth for all members of the parish and the Mission team warrant its taking place. In those parishes which have seen a Mission Program, an indelible mark has been left on young and old alike. The Mission has generated a new enthusiasm among the young, has done organizational work within the parish, and has created spirit of cooperation and service within the parish.

Dr. Robert Bogdasarian

1

We would like to see that, under your leadership, the Parish Council, the youth, and all Church-related organizations give their cooperation to this worthy project, as a total effort, to facilitate the work and mission of these modern "Disciples" of the Armenian Church. The mission team to visit your parish will consist of three or four young persons headed by a clergyman.

We need to be informed by you about the suitability of the date, and the feasibility of forming a committee to coordinate the project. This committee should consist of a representative of each and every church organization in the St. Gregory parish. The "Disciples" should be lodged in a seminary or college dorm in or near your city with the ACYOA taking care of the expenses. We would like to know if you can make lodging arrangements for three or four young people (girls and boys) and the priest/chaplain. Kindly inform us by Monday, April 12, as the time is very short for the numerous arrangements to be made by the ACYOA office and by your committee.

We look forward to your favorable reply.

Prayerfully yours,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate

ATM/1b

February 3, 1972

Dr. Robert M. Bogdassarian Chariman of Parish Council St. Gregory The Illuminator 12 Corbett Avenue VBinghamton, New York 13903

Dear Dr. Bogdassarian:

This is to inform you and the Parish Council, of St. Gregory Church of Binghamton, New York, that as was discussed by telephone, Deacon Raymond Arakelian and his wife Sandra will be coming to Binghamton the weekend of February 19-20, 1972, in order to meet with the Parish Council.

In your conversation with the Deacon, please bear in mind to discuss the scope of his service which we anticipate will involve primarily the Church Sunday School, the youth, worship services, plus any pastoral care his rank may permit. We will continue sending priests for Badarak periodically, at which time Deacon Raymond will assist the celebrant; on other Sundays he himself will conduct the services.

He will be known as the Deacon-in-charge of your parish three weeks out of the month. One week of the month, Deacon Raymond will serve in the Syracuse parish.

Your agreements with Deacon Raymond regarding his services in your church and the conditions of remuneration will be conditional, pending our approval upon reports from your Parish Council and Deacon Kasparian.

5

Dr. Robert H. Bogdassarian February 3, 1972 Page 2

We have appointed Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian, the Vocational Director of St. Nersess Armenian Theological School to present Deacon Raymond to you and to participate in your conference with him. Professor H. Dekmejian has consented to help Deacon Raymond to improve his knowledge of the Armenian language.

Deacon Raymond and his wife are scheduled to arrive from Jerusalem on February 14. However, we will be out of town until the 22nd of February.

We expect to be informed of the results of your meeting with the Deacon as soon as possible.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate

ATM/ec

cc:* Deacon R. Arakelian Deacon H. Kasparian

August 24, 1972

Dr. Nubar K. Astarjian / Secretary / St. Gregory The Illuminator Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Dr. Astarjian:

We appreciate your inquiry of August 13, concerning the proposed election of Deacon Raymond J. Arakelian as Deacon-in-Charge at your September 10 Parish Assembly.

Such an election would serve no useful purpose at this time, since the appointment has already been made. And Article 47 of the By-Laws provides for such direct appointments.

We repeat, therefore, that the item should not be listed in the Assembly agenda.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate

ATM/ec



BOARD OF TRUSTEES BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

> No. 44 Aug. 13, 1972.

Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate, Armenian Church of America 630 Second Ave. New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Grace :

We received your letter (a copy of) addressed to Deacon Raymond Arakelian & dated Aug. 8, 1872.

Regarding item #4 on the agenda of our special parish assembly of Sept. IO, I972, we of course know that you have appointed Deacon Raymond to our parish. However, we thought that in compliance with the bylaws of The Armenian Church Of America -articles 39 & 41- we were to place this item on the agenda to elect Deacon raymond officially as the elected Deacon-in-charge of this parish.

According to your instructions, we will remove this item from the agenda of the meeting of Sept. IO, 1972, unless you instruct us otherwise upong the light of information we submitted in this letter.

Respectfully . hubar astary Nubar K. Astarjian.

Secretary.

November 30, 1972

Deacon John Raymond Arakelian (Deacon-In-Charge) St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Deacon Raymond:

e sin de san

We read your letter of November 24th with considerable interest. The subject you raise can surely be important to all of us. But, for proper consideration, it should be posed in a more comprehensive manner.

We would like, therefore, to have you prepare a paper on the subject for presentation at our next Clergy Conference. It would be useful if the paper could be prepared well in advance so that we have a chance to discuss it.

We must add here that we are a little distressed by your manner of writing letters, and the agressive style you use in expressing yourself. You may write to us about any subject that is of concern to you; in fact, we urge you to do so, to discuss, defend and argue any point of view you may wish to put forward. But, it is imperative to maintain a sense of propriety, in expression as well as in attitude. It is our hope that we may get an opportunity to discuss this with you in detail.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manooglan Primate

12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

November 24, 1972

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

Corgererae Corgererae Corgererae

> While I was writing my letter concerning the question of the Deacon's clerics, I thought His Eminence should consider the possibility of reviving the order of "Deaconness" within the Church. This would insure a position for our theologically educated female seminarians instead of losing them because there is no position available.

a googen and a standard state

Their function might be similar to mine, in that they could work full time in a parish visiting the sick, working with youth, directing choir, making home visitations, being head of church schools and in any other capacity. They might also hold a service for Sunday worship and other services within the limitations of their rank. This could especially be useful where there is no parish priest and could also be useful to take the existing load off the priest in a large community.

I realize that as late as 1940 in Constantinople a Deaconnes served the Patriarch as Proto-Deacon.

Father Mesrob feels that we could revive this position within the Church as long as the female remained celibate. However, I feel that since Deacons are allowed to marry, we could also have married Deaconnesses. Also they should wear some type of distinguishing clerical garb.

Perhaps we should open our eyes to SEE what our goals are, to reflect upon the Church's Tradition to give us guidance for the future and to implement necessary steps of action for Christ's sake and for His Church.

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon Ray Arakelian

Deacon Ray Arakelian Deacon-in-Charge

for clergy Conference

May 18, 1973

Mrs. John M. Bogdasarian Chairman Women's Guild St. Gregory the Illuminator Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

1

Dear Mrs. Bogdasarian:

We received a report about the difficulties and inconveniences the ladies delegates had at their conference during the assembly in Worcester. It is regrettable that so promising a gathering should be frustrated by inadequate arrangements.

There were of course reasons why this happened, but it is not important to discuss these. The only important thing is that it should not have happened.

The points you list are well taken, fundamental in fact, and they surely will be implemented in the future.

Within the next month or so we expect to communicate with all our ladies groups, with respect particularly to our next steps.

Stay well, with God's blessings.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate <u>.</u>...

ATM/m



Women's Guild

12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

May 9, 1973

The Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manougian, President Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, New York 10016

Your Grace the Primate:

The Binghamton Parish Council appointed Mrs. Grace S. Baradet and I as delegates to the Ladies Conference to the 1973 Diocesan Assembly held in Worcester, Mass. on May 4-5, 1973.

We, as Treasurer, and Chairmen respectively, were honored to represent our Women's Guild at this very informative and interesting assembly.

However, we feel in order to avoid the chaos and confusion that ensued during the Ladies conference on Saturday afternoon, we would like to present our ideas in order to avoid this situation in the future.

- 1 At least one full day allocated for discussions.
- 2 Adequate meeting room be reserved for the Ladies Conference.
- 3 Registration should be held as delegates arrive and identification badges and materials presented to them.
- 4 When the meeting convenes, roll call should be taken, whereby delegates identify themselves and their parish.

It has been gratifying to be a part of the revitalization under your spiritual guidance, and we pray that your plans for the future of our church will see fulfillment.

Respectfully yours, alie P. Bogdasarian

Alise T. Bogdaśarian (Mrs. John M. Bogdasarian) Chairman Women's Guild

Mrs. Grace S. Baradet (Mrs. Richard Baradet) Treasurer Women's Guild

June 13, 1973

Dr. Nubar K. Astarjian Chairman, Parish Council St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church Yl Corbett Avenue VBinghamton. New York 13903

Dean Dr. Astanjian:

Thank you so much for taking the time to write to me regarding your impressions of the recent 71st Diocesan Assembly held in worcester. We were pleased to hear from you and to learn of your suggestions, which are indeed most helpful and shall be taken into account for the next Diocesan Assembly.

We are always very happy to hear from our members, and do hope that through our service to the Church we may glorify God.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate

ATM/sm

to answer



12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

May 31, 1973

Most Rev. Arcbishop Torkom Manougian, Primate & President of Diocesan Council Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. New York, N.Y.

Your Grace :

My participation in the proceedings of the 71st. Diocesan assembly was very gratifying to me, especially seeing so many Armenians getting together & discussing the affairs of our Diocese. Furthermore, the church complex at Worcester was a site that made me full of pride.Our brethern in worcester have accomplished a marvelous deed. Their hospitality was also outstanding. They should be congradulated.

If I may, I would like to state a few points of observation which might be helpful in future meetings of the Diocesan Assembly. Namely :

 It would probablly be appropriate for <u>one</u> of the parish council chairmen, on behalf of the rest, to say a few words at the dinner in their honor, to thank the Diocesan Council & the Primate for the honors bestowed upon them.

Color-coded badges could help distinguish voting delegates from others.
Larger letters on the badges would make them better legible.

I hereby would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for the honors bestowed upon us at that meeting.

> Respectfully yours, Tubar K. astarjian, M.D. Nubar K. Astarjian, M.D. Chairman, Parish Council

Dr. Nubar K. Astarjian, Chairman Parish Council Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church 12 Corbett Avenue Bringhamton, New York 13903

Dear Dr. Astarjian:

Thank you so much for taking the time to write to me of regarding your impressions and-suggestions at/the recent 71st Diocesan Assembly held in Worcester. I was very pleased to hear from you and to learn of your suggestions, which are indeed most helpful and shall be taken into account for the next Diocesan Assembly.

Jam always very happy to **XHEXH** hear from our members, and do hope that through our service to the Church we may glorify God.

Prayerfully,

厅衣

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate

ATM:hb

いたい静岡

September 9, 1974

Father Kevork Arakelian Pastor Saint Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New/Wirk 13903

Dear Father Kevork:

The Primate was pleased to receive your letter of September 5, and asked me to inform you that there are no changes in his schedule and that he will be with you in your parish on November 16-17.

Exact travel gians have not yet been determined; they will be communicated to you in due course.

On that weekend, in addition th the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, His Eminence would like a service on Saturday evening at 7:30p.m. as well as a meeting with your parish organizations. All members should like welcome to attend this meeting as well.

Please arrange these meetings according to your judgment and convenience and send the Primate a complete schedule.

Best wishes.

Sincerely.

Jack Antreassian

MK



met 7:30 service 8 meeting org

P coma

mender,

12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

September 5, 1974

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Mancogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

Your Eminence:

We are confirming the date of November 16th and 17th, for your pastoral visitation to our parish. Please inform us if there has been any change of plans. If there has been no change of plans, please inform us of the time of your arrival.

Your servant in Christ,

Jenge Chalelian

Father George Arakelian, Pastor

- ho change -

February 21, 1975

Rev. Kevork Arakelian Pastor, St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, N.Y. 13903

Dear Fr. Kevork:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian was pleased to receive your letter of February 18, and has reserved the weekend of October 4-5, for an official visitation to your parish.

The date has been tentatively reserved, pending confirmation from you.

Please let me hear from you so that the arrangements may be made final.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kambourian



12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

February 18, 1975

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

8-4-5

Your Eminence:

Your flock in Binghamton await your pastoral visit for this year. Please indicate to us which weekend is most convenient for you.

Your servant in Christ,

Ler Kevole Arabelia

Der Kevork Arakelian, Pastor

August 18, 1975

The Reverend Kevork Arakelian Pastor, St. Gregory The Illuminator Church 12 Corbett Street Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Father Kevork:

We were happy to receive your letter of August 14, and are in accord with the schedule of our October 4 visit as outlined.

We will leave making all the necessary arrangements to you.

We will be arriving Binghamton on October 4, at 9:36 a.m., Alleghaney flight 847. Our departure is scheduled for October 6, at 8:04 a.m., Alleghaney flight 550.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Primate



12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

August 14, 1975

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Mancogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

Eminence:

We are looking forward to your pastoral visitation on October 4th-5th, 1975.

On Saturday, Ootober 4th, we will host the Regional Meeting with lunch at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Meeting at 2:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., as per our conversation, we ask Your Eminence to ordain our male servers and choir members to the Order of Clerk, bless the veils of our female choir members, and consecrate our new Baptismal Font.

On Sunday morning, Matins will begin at 9:45 a.m.; Badarak at 10:30 a.m., with a dinner following Church Services.

We pray Your Eminence has a safe journey to the Holy See, and we ask Your Eminence to convey to His Holiness that the work of our Lord is being carried out, and the Light of the Enlightener continues to burn brightly in the Binghamton Community.

Your servant in Christ,

ook arakelim

Der Kevork Arakelian, Pastor

December 23, 1975

The Reverend Kevork Arakelian Pastor St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Father Kevork:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian is in receipt of your letter and was happy to hear from you.

As to possible dates for His Eminence's visit to your parish, at the present time, December 5 or 12, 1976 are available.

If either date is acceptable, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Kambourian Executive Director

SK:vb



12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

December 9, 1975

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

Eminence:

We realize you will be extremely busy during the coming Bicentennial year. Therefore, we ask Your Eminence to choose a date most convenient for yourself to make your pastoral visitation to our parish.

Your servant in Christ,

Der Klevork Arabelian

Der Kevork Arakelian, Pastor

Dec. 5 m. 12 1976

August 4, 1977

The Reverend Father Kevork Arakelian Pastor, St. Gregory The Illuminator Church 12 Corbett Avenue Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Father Kevork:

14

With reference to your letter dated June 24, 1977, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will be most pleased if you would kindly try to obtain at least the audio portion of the program which was aired in Binghamton, referred to in your above-mentioned letter.

With regard to His Eminence's visit to your parish in 1978, His Eminence was willing to change the date to June 10/11, 1978 and we hope that this date will be convenient for you.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian Secretary to the Primate



12 CORBETT AVE. BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13903 (607) 722-8801

June 24, 1977

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian 630 Second Avenue New York City, New York 10016

Eminence:

Received your letter #25323, informing us that an acceptable date for Your Eminence's visit would be June 3-4, 1978.

That particular date is inconvenient for us as that is the week-end of our annual dance. We do hope that Your Eminence has another open week-end to visit Binghamton.

Your Eminence also asked about the T.V. "tape" which aired here in Binghamton. Unfortunately the station erases the tape immediately following the program. Thus I was unable to obtain a copy. However, I am trying to obtain the "audio" portion of the program which, I am told, they do keep, that is if Your Eminence is interested in having a copy. Please let me know!

May we always be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Your servant in Christ,

evork Kochara Arabelian

Kevork Kahana Arakelian Pastor