

December 21, 1955

Mr. Harry Atkian
Secretary Buying and Building Committee
2368 Belvoir Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Atkian:

Our Vicar, Rev. Vartan Megherian has brought to our attention your letter of November 23, in which you have stated that under his presidency your Parish Assembly had elected a new Building and Buying Committee and you presented to us the list of the committee members.

We learned with pleasure that your committee is making a final attempt to secure a church and a center for our congregation of Cleveland.

We would like to remind you that your committee should work together with your parish council and any final decision about purchasing a property or a lot should be approved by us and the Diocesan Council.

We are certain that with God's help you will succeed in your good intentions. May our Lord bless you and guide you in your good purpose.

Paternally yours,

Mampre Archbishop Galfayan
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of No. America

sm:na

returning

2368 Belvoir Blvd.
Cleveland 18, Ohio
November 23, 1955.

Fr. Vartan Megherian
Vicar-General of the Diocese of the
Armenian Church of North America
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Father Vartan,

As you know, at the time of your last visit and under your presidency, a new Building and Buying Committee was elected by the Cleveland Parish Assembly.

At the first meeting on Monday, November 21, 1955, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Arslan Arslanian; Secretary, Harry Atkian; and Treasurer, Paul Apkarian.

In the event of real estate transactions, we would like to know if we should negotiate directly with the Diocesan Office or whether our dealings with you should be through the Parish Council. It may interest you to know that we are incorporated as a Parish in the State of Ohio.

We request your prayers for our success in establishing a church building in Cleveland.

Respectfully,

Harry Atkian

Harry Atkian
Secretary: Buying and
Building Committee.

your committee.
With the Parish Council

April 26, 1971

St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church
666 Richmond Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44143

Attention: Mr. Russell Arslanian
Treasurer of Building Committee
and Parish Council Chairman

Gentlemen:

In response to the letter from Mr. Robert A. Jones, dated April 21, 1971 you are advised that the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees resolved to obtain a real estate mortgage loan in the amount of \$110,000, from The Cleveland Trust Company for a period of eleven (11) years, with interest at the rate of 8% per annum, and in case of default in payment of the note and/or terms of the mortgage, interest will be at the rate of 10% per annum. Loan to be used for the construction of a one story brick cultural hall.

The Diocesan Council and Board of Trustees also resolved to delegate Russell Arslanian, Treasurer of Building Committee and Parish Council Chairman; Samuel Mirakian, Assistant Treasurer of Building Committee; Deeran K. Krikorian, Chairman of Building Committee and Noubar Abdalian, Vice Chairman of Building Committee, to obtain the aforesaid loan from The Cleveland Trust Company and also delegate and authorize any two of the aforementioned officers of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church to sign checks and orders in connection with the disbursement of the proceeds of said loan for the construction of the cultural hall.

Continued

April 26, 1971

St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church

We have already forwarded to your attention properly executed resolutions. This letter will also consent to the changes in the aforesaid resolutions to the extent of the reduction in the interest rate from 9% to 8% and the reduction of the monthly payments from \$1,394 to \$1,335 per month.

This letter is also to advise The Cleveland Trust Company that the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America does not do business in the State of Ohio, but merely holds title to property in the State of Ohio.

With Paternal Blessings,

Torkom Manoogian, Archbishop
Arachnord (Primate) of the Diocese
of the Armenian Church of America

The Cleveland Trust Company

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

April 21, 1971

Reverend Zaven Arzoomanian
Secretary of the Diocesan Council
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

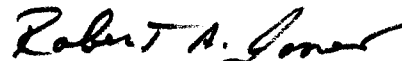
Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a letter from Arachnord Torkom Manoogian, Archbishop and Primate to St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church. Would you please have the enclosed letter transposed on your letterhead and have the letter signed by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

When the letter has been written and is signed by the Archbishop, please forward it to my attention in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. This letter is the last document we need in order that we may have the loan documents executed. I hope you will have no objections to having the letter signed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the undersigned at our expense at - - Area Code 216, 687-5188.

Very truly yours



Robert A. Jones
Real Estate Loan Department

RAJ:c
encls.

July 18, 1972

Mr. George R. Sakian
954 Dalewood Road
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Dear Mr. Sakian:

We were very happy to receive your letter of July 11th. Your high regard for Father Arshag can only warm the heart of a Primate. We deeply appreciate your communicating to us these feelings and the concern you have for our Church and community.

We are aware of the circumstances you detail, and of the good work Father Arshag has done in Cleveland, and of the potential for growth that exists. So it must not be thought that a transfer in this instance was conceived whimsically.

Our concerns, however, embrace our entire Diocese with its forty-six parishes and manifold needs. This overall view has constrained us to make a number of moves among our clergy, one of them being that of Father Arshag. And the circumstances are such that if one such move is aborted, all will be affected, and perhaps negated. Then nothing will be solved.

We are confident that the new pastor we will assign to Cleveland will bring a full measure of service with the help and cooperation of our faithful.

By the same token, Father Arshag will bring his excellent abilities to the leadership of another part of our Church.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

954 Dalewood Road
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

July 11, 1972

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

My Dear Bishop:

With complete respect to our Primate, I would like to write a few lines in regard to the recent letter of transfer affecting our Pastor, Arshag Khatchadourian, St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church of Cleveland, Ohio.

In no way is this letter being written to conflict with the reasoning of the decision made for such a transfer but to point out important facts which should be considered before making such a move.

As you are aware, the City of Cleveland strived for years to establish its own church and finally succeeded in 1964 to open the doors of St. Gregory of Narek to a small parish which has, since then, set future goals.

In 1958, when plans were being considered for the church, the area surrounding the church property in Richmond Heights was merely a quiet, suburban, residential development with little, if any, activity.

Since the building of the church, the city of Richmond Heights has awakened to a commercial giant with shopping centers, exclusive banking institutions, dining and entertainment centers, theatres, etc. There is no end in sight for this growth.

The significant point that I wish to stress is that our church and its location is in the midst of this growth and we have been directly recognized and involved in this progress. I will say, and I am sure that many will agree, that this recognition can be attributed to the efforts of Father Arshag who has gained the friendship and cooperation of our neighboring churches of various faiths throughout the Hillcrest area.

The involvement in the Hillcrest Ministers Fellowship Association has indeed experienced me with the association of some of the finest speakers of the various faiths.

The Easter Holy Week participation has proven the significance of strong fellowship with visitations from other churches and Father Arshag doing likewise. This is a strong example of brotherhood and how bad we need it.

As superintendent of the Sunday School for three years, I enjoyed the complete cooperation of Father Arshag which resulted in success and this can be proven by the past records. My only objective during this period was to maintain and improve the functions and purpose which is not an easy task in a small community spread thin throughout a large city. Nevertheless, Father Arshag, the Sunday School Staff, and I managed to get the job done.

July 11, 1972

In direct connection with our church, as you know, a cultural hall with classrooms is undergoing the final touches toward completion.

Father Arshag is completely aware of this building program and the future objectives of the church. In addition, he is acquainted with practically all of the Armenians throughout the city and most of all had definitely blended St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church in the growing city of Richmond Heights.

A new pastor in our community would require at least two or three years to achieve this experience and in turn take a spread-out community like Cleveland equally as long to familiarize themselves with his characteristics and working talents.

I can continue endlessly with specific facts and names in an effort to convince you that the transfer of Father Arshag does nothing but place a burden on our community. In the last eight years Father Arshag is the third member of the clergy to represent Cleveland and I feel we have found a devoted and well-liked pastor to which we are entitled.

In concluding the text of this letter, I am strongly urging that the transfer of Father Arshag either be pointed in the direction of another parish or dissolved in its entirety.

It is imperative that the St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church with the guidance of Father Arshag continue with its task of buckling down to business in order to achieve a good end result.

I am hoping that this letter will encourage you to reconsider your decision and, if necessary to answer any questions, I will be honored to do so.

Respectfully yours,


George R. Sakian

July 18, 1972

Miss Marie S. Bosnoian
1572 Cohassett Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Dear Miss Bosnoian:

We received your very touching letter and must say that your sentiments are very warm and well expressed. It is good for us to know that our faithful feel the way you, Mrs. Bosnoian and the Aurelian Family feels.

We know, of Father Arshag's value; we know that there are disagreements in all parishes, and we know that these will always exist. But in no way do such things enter into our decision to transfer Father Arshag to another parish.

It is strange, but this seems to be the first thought to enter the minds of our people whenever a priest is transferred. It is immediately assumed that some people have criticized the priest, and that as a result, the Primate has been forced to transfer him.

This is not the case.

The case is simply that, while we are deeply concerned with the Cleveland parish and with each of our other parishes, we must have the picture of our entire Diocese before us, since all of our parishes are part of that whole. The welfare of the Diocese is paramount, since its general condition will reflect immediately on all parishes.

(continued)

Miss Marie S. Bosnoian
Page 2

July 18, 1972

At the present time, it is essential to make a number of reassignments in our pastorates, and Father Arshag's must be included among them. Since these reassignments are all inter-related, if one assignment is aborted, all will fail, and we will be left with a mass of unsolved situations such as parishes without priests, etc. It is in this context that this move must be viewed; in the context of the Diocese as a whole.

We are confident that the new pastor who will be assigned to Cleveland will serve the needs of the parish admirably, with the devoted participation of the faithful, of course. And Father Arshag will continue to bring his abilities to the service of our Church in another place.

It remains for our people in Cleveland to believe that this is the best solution for the Diocese as a whole, and to reject from their thoughts, any suggestion that anything personal is involved; it is for them to rally to the support of the new pastor out of respect for the work done by Father Arshag; out of love for our Church itself.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

1572 Cohasset Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
July 10, 1972

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Archbishop Torkum Manogian, Primate

Your Grace:

I am writing this letter in behalf of Father Arshag to remain as Pastor of our Church. In the last 5 years that he has been here we have accomplished much in the way of the church, choir, sunday school, various church organizations and new parish hall. Father Arshag has taught us the "Chants" of Komitas and various other Armenian music, which enabled us to give concerts besides taking part in the special celebrations, which are a part of the church. I am sure as a man of the church he has tried to fulfill his duties to the best with the cooperation he received. In every community there are disagreements, misunderstandings which have to have cooperation from both sides to accomplish many things and the church should always be foremost in the mind and not personal feelings. The saying "The grass is always greener on the other side" this may seem true when you are on one side, but when you cross over you may find something else not to your liking, which if the community thinks this way and feels that this change is necessary, then it should be with an open mind and not for personal feelings.

Many have drifted away from there Armenian heritage and church, but they are only hurting themselves not the one that has caused it, if they believe that this was so. We left our Protestant church when St. Gregory of Narek Church was ready and have always been loyal to the church and Armenian heritage, we previously attended both churchs going from one church to the other when we had visiting clergy. The thing to do is iron out the problems of the community not run away from them. There are times that a change is necessary, we understand that, never the less we feel that special consideration should be given on this decision to relocate Father Arshag. If it is the will of "God" then we must abide by it.

Mayor Richard St. John of Richmond Heights, my personal friend for years stated to me that he thought and respected Father Arshag and that he is a credit to the community, also the Fathers of St. Paschal Church, and the combined efforts of the community under the leadership of Father Arshag to bring three denominations together to have christian unity is surely something to be proud of, plus church visitations and combined efforts of the women to meet and exchange their views on religion and social activities.

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Archbishop Torkum Manoogian, Primate

Since Father Arshag has been here we Armenians and our church has prospered in the field of knowledge and advancement among the ethnic and non-ethnic groups, making the community aware of us in our rich background and our contribution to the christian world.

May the grace of God always bless you and keep you in good health to always guide all people in the right way.

Sincerely,

Marie S. Bosnoian

Mrs

Marie S. Bosnoian
Mrs. Roxie S. Bosnoian
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Aurslanian and Daughters

August 7, 1972

Mr. Ara Alan Borazanian
4608 Wilburn Drive
South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Dear Mr. Borazanian:

We were very happy to receive your letter of July 31, and learn of your high regard for Father Arshag and the service he has rendered in our Cleveland parish.

We share that feeling, of course, and rejoice in the warmth of feeling he has created. But we as Primate -- and in fact all the faithful of our Church -- must be concerned with the needs of our entire Diocese, which has forty-six parishes, all of them important and worthy of our thoughts.

It is the general view and the general need that have compelled us to make a number of clergy reassignments, in which Father Arshag is included.

He will continue to bring his valued service to our Church, just as we are sure our faithful will in all our parishes.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

ATM/ec

July 31, 1972

4608 Wilburn Dr.
S. Euclid, Ohio, 44121

Your Grace

As a lifelong member of the Armenian community of Cleveland and also the St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church, I am deeply concerned over the present decision of the New York Diocese to transfer Rev. Arshag Khatchadourian from the Cleveland area. I would like to impress upon those responsible for such a serious decision the grave consequences this decision will have on the youth of the Armenian community of Cleveland. Rev. Khatchadourian has gone to great lengths and made much progress in reaching the youth of our Parish in the short time he has been with us. Many young Armenians in our area who might otherwise have been lost have become aware of the Armenian Church and their heritage through Rev. Khatchadourian's tireless efforts. He has concerned himself with the problems and the questions of our young and for the first time the young feel that they can communicate and share their views and experiences with someone in the so-called "establishment." To take Rev. Khatchadourian away from us now would only serve to retard the progress he has made with our community's youth. Through Rev. Khatchadourian the Armenian Church has become a vibrant and relevant force in our social structure which our youth can identify with.

In closing I would just like to add that no other Parish priest has been able to create such a rapport with our youth as Rev. Khatchadourian. For the youth of Cleveland feel that Rev. Khatchadourian is one of them and also that he is genuinely concerned with their concerns. I fear that if he leaves us now his work will be left unfinished because no one else will

will be able to take his place in the hearts of Cleveland's
Armenian youth.

Respectfully yours,

Alan Borazanian

Ans Alan Borazanian

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ST. GREGORY OF NAREK
ARMENIAN CHURCH

REV. FR. DIRAN PAPAZIAN
PASTOR

Area Code 216—Tel. 381-6590

666 Richmond Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44143. U.S.A.

February 20, 1978

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Your Grace,

We have discussed several times over the preceding 18 months the need for Cleveland to have the services and attention that only a dedicated, full-time priest can provide. Our community is small, but nonetheless, has been able to meet all its obligations and responsibilities to the Diocese. We know our request to you for a change of priest has placed you in a delicate position.

In our last telephone conversation, I related to you that Fr. Diran Papazian informed the parish council that he had called you and asked to be placed in residence in Detroit pending a future assignment. You, in turn, advised me that no such call had been made to you, but that you could consider such a request from Fr. Papazian if it was in writing and contained a stipulation that neither St. Gregory of Narek nor the Diocese would be responsible for any financial obligation to Fr. Papazian.

This matter was raised at our parish council meeting on February 13, 1978. Fr. Papazian insisted he not only called you but followed the telephone call with a letter stating that he wished to resign as of a certain date and was willing to be placed in residence in Detroit and serve the diocese as a visiting priest. Fr. Papazian went on to say that you had called him and refused to accept his resignation, asking that he remain in Cleveland until you released him. Fr. Papazian refuses to take any further action and stands on his letter of resignation.

Your Grace, our position is unchanged. The parish council still wants Fr. Haigazoon Melkonian transferred to Cleveland and Fr. Diran Papazian removed. We beg you - please make the change now! Our community deserves due consideration. We have permitted inadequate leadership in Cleveland for more

Handwritten initials

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
February 20, 1978
Page 2

than five years and surely we are not asking for the transfer for the mere sake of change. Our community is suffering dearly and we must alter the direction now if we are to meet our commitment to grow and prosper.

There is presently a growing feeling within the entire community to conduct a special parish assembly and officially terminate Fr. Papazian's pastoral duties in Cleveland.

This letter is not written to make a demand but rather to note we assume full responsibility in the necessary removal of Fr. Diran Papazian from Cleveland and ask you to alter the course in which we are presently entrenched.

Please, let us hear from you soon.

Very truly yours,



Robert Bagdasarian
Chairman, Parish Council

RB:tb *By Telephone - March 15/78*