



Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

101 Ashmead Road

Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

(215) 663-1600

Հայկազուն Մ. Վրդ. Մելիզոնեան, Հոգևոր Հովի

VERY REV. HAIGAZOUN MELKONIAN

Pastor

June 29, 1993

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

*"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also
in much, and he who is dishonest in a very little is
dishonest also in much." Luke 16:10*

Your Eminence:

The tenuous situation in which we find ourselves is not only due to the unwarranted hysteria connected to the present AIDS epidemic, but lies much deeper. We have placed ourselves in a situation where our faithful are now questioning the basic tenets of our faith, doctrines and dogma which have been sacred from the very inception of Christianity and the foundation of orthodoxy.

Over the past few decades many questions have remained unanswered. Much too often a vociferous minority have forced their will upon a faithful majority. They have not only challenged Church authority but have successfully convinced church leaders that all 'change' is innovative and therefore good, this is false and misleading logic. Especially after the majority of our faithful have been scandalized and the very credibility of our clergy reduced to nothing.

For reasons beyond my comprehension, many of our own clergymen have participated and encouraged this unfortunate breakdown within the Mother Church and even worse, delight in the loss of credibility of our Church hierarchy. Nothing remains beyond question, no truth immutable, no tradition sacred and no vow unbreakable.

Serious study, theological scholasticism and research have been abandoned for pseudo-scholastic and superficial yet sensationalized commentaries. The media has been supplied with supposedly authoritative articles which have been based on a single rubric or line from an ecclesiastical work taken out of context in order to prove erroneous suppositions, often written by our own clergy.


Մ. Երրորդութիւն Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի

As we have failed to remain faithful in the least it is not surprising that now our very faith is questioned in greater matters. Now we are faced with a doubting minority, once again led by a handful of clergy whose arrogance has made them forget not only their vows of obedience but which allows them to suppose that their conceptions and/or decisions are in fact superior to Scripture, Holy Tradition and the teachings of the Holy Fathers.

Today, the Holy of Holies, our Lord's own incorruptible and life-giving Body and Blood has become subject to their scrutiny. I am not surprised but saddened. Who would believe that the very words of Scripture which the Church herself has sanctified would come back to her in judgement? "He who is dishonest in very little is dishonest also in much."

Our faithful majority does not desire change. They look to the Mother Church as a place of tranquility, stability and of universal truth. A place where they can find anchor in a constantly changing world. Change merely for the sake of change is not the answer, now is the time to address the needs of the many and reestablish the role of the Church within their lives.

Your Servant,



Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian

Enc.