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*St. Gregory The Illuminator
Armenian Apostolic Church*
110 Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01830
508-372-9227

July 23, 1993

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I have been serving as the pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.

In these past months I have been observing, evaluating and participating in the daily administration of the parish as well as interacting with the various church organizations. I have also been performing liturgical services on Sundays along with those services performed for weddings, funerals, baptisms and hospitalized and homebound parishioners. I am happy to report that the parish is functioning and alive and well, however, we can build upon the existing foundation to ensure that our church, St. Gregory's will flourish, prosper and grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on programs, activities and projects which we are undertaking at this time:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Sunday School classes will resume in the fall. A pre-school class will be added this fall for children ages 1-4 in order to encourage the young families of our community to come to church and participate on a regular basis. A day long retreat will be conducted for the children and their families during the month of August. Information will be forthcoming.
- LITURGICAL** - We have started a deacon's training program for our altar servers which has led to the elevation of one of our servers to the order of stole bearer and we anticipate continued advancement as classes continue. We have also started acolyte training for our young boys. You will see them participating at our Sunday Badarak's. This will also lead to their receiving the four minor orders of the Armenian Church. We have also re-established choir rehearsals on a monthly basis. They will resume in the Fall. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to participate.
- ADMINISTRATIVE** - Recently the church has acquired a computer and printer. This will enable us to update church records, develop documentation and correspondence and begin our latest project; a census of the parish. You will soon be receiving a packet in the mail concerning this matter. Please take time to respond and return the data as requested. We will also be able to print and layout our church newsletter, Loosavorich enabling us to save money otherwise spent for these items.

ORGANIZATIONS - Our church picnic was very successful. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves. As you may know, we recently participated in Festival '93, Haverhill's carnival. The Sr. luncheons continue to take place every Tuesday afternoon and kheyra dinners once a month are being sponsored by the ladies aide. The Mr. and Mrs. Club, Women's Guild and the Sr. Group have recently purchased new chairs for the church. They have arrived and may be seen and used in the church hall. Fundraising activities are being planned by all the organizations. Any suggestions you may have are welcome.

ECUMENICAL -As a member of the Greater Haverhill Clergy Association, I have been in contact with other church communities. I am also a member of the New England Regional Council which meets monthly to discuss the concerns of the Armenian churches of the New England region. These concerns are then reported to the Dioces for informational purposes.

I have enjoyed working in this community and look forward to continuing to serve you as your pastor. My office hours are 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or by appointment. I have enclosed my business card for your convenience should you have to contact me for any reason. Please note that my home number has been changed.

Again, it has been a pleasure serving you. I pray that God watches over our parish and gives us guidance as we continue to work for His Glory.

Prayerfully,



Fr. Sahag Kaishian

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Enclosure