

February 14, 1974

Rev. Father Diran Papazian
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church
666 Richmond Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44143

Dear Father Diran:

We were happy to receive on February 13 your letter of February 16 (?), together with the various reports and results of the parish assembly. We will look forward to receiving a copy of the minutes as soon as they are ready.

Meanwhile, we have a number of observations to make.

With regard to the election of parish council members, it appears obvious that the election was not by secret ballot, which is a requirement of the by-laws. Further, election of officers has apparently taken place even before the election itself has been confirmed and approved by the Primate. We must have further clarification on these matters before taking any action.

A further observation relates to paragraph C on page 5 of your report, and the reference to "the first time a woman was preaching in an Armenian Church." We had seen a news item on this in your church paper "Paros" and chose to overlook it, but an official presentation in your report must be noted. We must count the reference as inaccurate and perhaps misleading, since only the Primate can give special permission to preach in our churches to any who are not by our canons entitled to do so.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate