

To: His Grace Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
From: The Representatives of the Ann Arbor Armenian Religious
Community
Re: Status of the Ann Arbor Armenian Community
Date: April 30, 1993

The purpose of this letter is to provide a formal reporting of the activities of the Ann Arbor Armenian Community to Your Grace and to extend an offer to meet with the representatives of the Ann Arbor Community during Your upcoming May visit to Michigan.

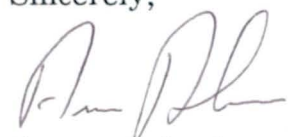
During the past year Ann Arbor Armenian community members gathered, informally at first, to discuss the community's spiritual needs. After prayerful consideration it was democratically decided that we wanted to work towards the creation of an Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church here. In September of 1992 Armen Asherian, John Kazanjian, Steven Mangigian, and John Merigian were chosen as a council to represent the group.

In November the four of us met with Fr. Paren to discuss the desires of the community. We expressed our desire to have regular services in Ann Arbor. To make sure that our activity were well within the teachings of the Armenian Church we submit ourselves to the authority of the Church by way of Fr. Paren's spiritual authority as pastor of St. John's. Fr. Paren enthusiastically endorsed the project, recognized the four of us as representatives, and provided liturgical robes. He indicated that he would present our desires to both Your Grace and to the St. John's Parish Council. Fr. Paren had also hoped to visit our community once a month to provide Holy Communion, however he later informed us that it was not possible.

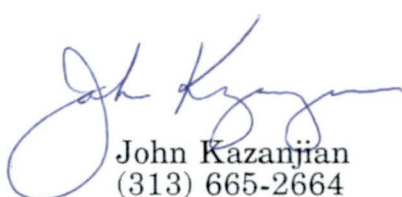
Since this meeting we have held prayer services (taken from the Divine Liturgy) on the first and third Sunday of every month. Our services have been attended by groups of 16 to 25 people. We have also prayed requiem services for the father of two sisters from Baku, for the mother of another woman from Baku, and for the victims of the Sumgaite Massacre. Deacon Michael Ohanesian has been helping us, and visiting needy families. We have also started a practice of having "general Christian fellowship meetings" on designated Wednesdays. Since our meeting with Fr. Paren, John Merigian had to resign from his position due to a work relocation in Texas. However, we three council members still continue to meet regularly to advance the community's needs.

It is our wish to maintain good, close ties with our Diocese and with you. We hope that this work will strengthen the greater Armenian community and will act as a model which can be used in other Armenian communities. Our phone numbers are provided if you wish to meet or contact us.

Sincerely,



Armen Asherian
(313) 747-3849



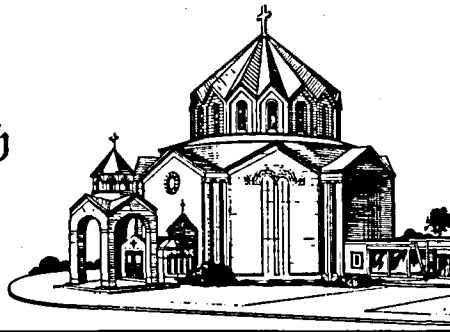
John Kazanjian
(313) 665-2664



Steven Mangigian
(313) 426-3404

St. John's Armenian Church

OF GREATER DETROIT
VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
Pastor



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ՍԵՇԱԳՈՅ ՏԻՔՐՈՑՅԻ
VERY REV. FR. SAMUEL AGHOYAN
Assistant Pastor

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★ Phone: (313) 569-3405 ★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

July 27, 1993

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Eminence:

As you are aware, certain Armenians of the Ann Arbor, Michigan Community are working towards establishing a Mission Church in their area.

Their main problem is the channeling of donations. They have individuals who wish to donate to help cover expenses incurred, but unfortunately lack the channel to do so.

They would like to, if possible, temporarily operate under our non-profit status. They would have the checks made payable to St. John's Armenian Church and have the money managed from funds dedicated for Ann Arbor Armenian Account.

Respectfully Yours,


Edward Haic Korkoian,
Chairman Parish Council

EHK/me



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

August 12, 1993

Mr. Edward Haic Korkoian,
Chairman, Parish Council
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Mr. Korkoian:

We have received your letter of July 27, 1993 requesting temporary permission for the Mission Parish of Ann Arbor to operate under your non-profit status. Until such time as they are independently registered, we grant permission to your request.

Please keep us apprised of any further developments of which we should be aware of.

With prayers,

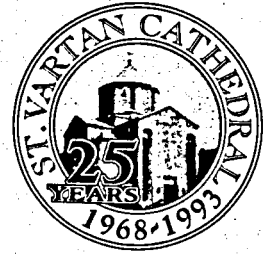
Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate



October 26, 1993

The Very Reverend Father Baret Yeretjian,
Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Father Baret:

We are pleased to inform you that the Armenian Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan has been officially organized as a "Mission Parish" within the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Since this community falls within the jurisdictional territory of the St. John parish and has been guided by their leadership up to the formation of their own Parish Council which we have sanctioned, we wish to continue this harmonious relationship between them and the St. John parish as this new parish grows and develops.

Therefore, we appoint you as the President of the Parish Council of this new Mission Parish and are confident that under your leadership and guidance they shall grow into a strong community.

We ask that you periodically keep us apprised of the life and activity of the community. Wishing you every success in this new endeavor.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

Enclosure

Ann Arbor Armenian Church Council

Chairman: Steven Mangigian
4578 Gregory Road
Dexter, MI 48130

Vice-Chairman: Armen Asherian

Treasurer: Maro Telfeyan

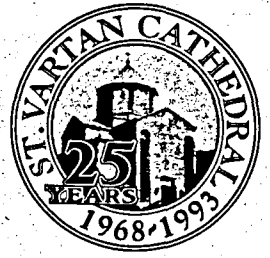
Secretary: John Kazanjian

Advisors: Deacon Michael Ohanesian
John Ohanian



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate



October 26, 1993

Mr. Steven Mangigian,
Chairman
Armenian Church of Ann Arbor
4578 Gregory Road
Dexter, MI 48130

Dear Mr. Mangigian:

It is our pleasure to inform you that we have favorably considered your request to be officially established as a "Mission Parish" within the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

We have followed the growth, development and activities of your community for sometime and now feel assured that you are truly on the right road toward the formation of a full parish in Ann Arbor for the faithful Armenian Community.

We are certainly blessed as a church to have persons such as yourself and the others of your council who have given of their time and talent to bring the good news of the Holy Gospel of Christ to the Armenian faithful in Ann Arbor. We pray that the Holy Spirit continue to guide you in your ministry and mission.

We hereby appoint the following persons as the official Parish Council of the Armenian Church of Ann Arbor:

Steven Mangigian	- Chairman
Armen Asherian	- Vice Chairman
Maro Telfeyan	- Treasurer
John Kazanjian	- Secretary
John Ohanian	- Advisor
Deacon Michael Ohanesian	- Advisor

We have also appointed the Very Reverend Father Baret Yeretzian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church of Southfield as the President of your new Parish Council and have informed him of your official status.

Hereafter, you may enter into direct contact with Father Baret Yeretian regarding the growth, development and governance of your community.

We pray for you on this new journey of faith and are assured that your work will bear much fruit.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

cc: Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretian