

St. John's Armenian Church
of Greater Detroit



Ար. Յոհաննէս Երզրէլեացի Եկեղեցի
Մեծազոյն Տիրույթի

Very Reverend Father Baret Yeretizian, *Pastor*

Հայր Պատրոս Ծ. Վրդ. Երեզելեան, Հովիւ

March 3, 1997

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

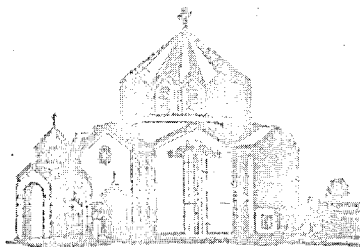
Dear Surpazan:

On February 21, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit held its Annual Parish Assembly. The Assembly went according to the rules and procedures of its bylaws in harmony and without dissent or objections.

Sincerely,

Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian
Pastor and President
St. John's Armenian Church

BY/nlm





DIOCESE OF THE
ARMENIAN
CHURCH OF
AMERICA
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His Holiness Karekin I
Supreme Patriarch and
Catholicos of All Armenians

His Eminence Archbishop
Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Eastern Diocese

April 21, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Korkoian:

The Diocesan Council devoted considerable time to review the proceedings of your Annual Parish Assembly, as well as the complaints received from several parishioners regarding breaches of the Bylaws, particularly Article 14B requiring a ballot "at least double the number of vacancies" to be filled.

Your ballot was deficient for (a) the Parish Council since it had nine candidates for six positions, and (b) the Nominating Committee which had five candidates for five positions. These deficiencies were not cured by supplemental nominations from the floor.

The Diocesan Council, therefore, decided not to approve your election with regard to the Parish Council and the Nominating Committee. We hereby direct you to hold a Special Assembly for the sole purpose of electing six members to the Parish Council and a Nominating Committee. In convening the Special Assembly, please adhere to the Bylaws, specifically Articles 16 and 18.

We recommend the following course of action for the Special Assembly (a) it may be held on a Sunday, immediately following Church services, and (b) make a new ballot by adding sufficient names to your original ballot.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

Մի Մարմին...Մի Հոգի...
Մի Տէր...Մի Հաւատք...

Eph. 4:4-5

One Body...One Spirit...
One Lord...One Faith...

Eph. 4:4-5

630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4806

Telephone 212.686.0710
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Archbishop K. Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Your Eminence,

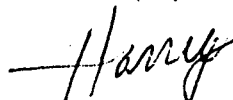
As a long time member of the Armenian Church and a concerned member of St. John's Parish of Greater Detroit, I feel that I must write this note to you.

The recent election held at the Parish Assembly was a continuation of practices that have been in flagrant violation of the Diocesan By-Laws. For the past few years nominating committees have disregarded the provision for nominating at least two candidates for each office. Since there has been no reaction from the Diocese toward these "illegal" acts in the past, this past election exhibited the most blatant manipulation to determine election results by nominating only the number of candidates as there were vacancies for the future nominating committee. To think that in a community the size of ours only five persons could be found to run for nominating committee (and only four candidates in addition to the incumbents for Parish Council) is absolutely ridiculous. I am personally aware of a number of people who were not approached. What is particularly exasperating is that a current member of the Diocesan Council is among the "chosen" candidates and has not spoken up to indicate that the Diocesan By-Laws contain the provision in order to avoid the practice of nominating committees choosing the officers in a Parish (a practice that had existed in some Parishes). To allow this election to stand after a proper complaint has been made, particularly in view of actions taken to overturn similar situations in other Parishes indicates a disregard for the Diocesan By-Laws and the welfare of the St. John's Parish.

Surpazan Hayr, I do think that if this disregard for proper procedure is allowed to continue, we run the risk of people discussing the issue in the press, which would not be a desirable situation.

I trust that you will make the proper decision in handling this matter.

Sincerely



Harry Terzian