

# Bandazian & Co.

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March 2, 1993

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10016-4885

My Dear Surpazan Hayr:

It was most distressing and disappointing to hear our Priest, Father Oshagan Gulgulian tendered his resignation at our Parish Assembly Meeting this past Sunday. We were shocked at the abrupt nature and untimeliness of this action. My family and myself are deeply sadden and regret this situation. Many, many members of the St. James Armenian Church in Richmond, Virginia regret his resignation. Many, many members of the Richmond Armenian Community at large regret his resignation. We ask that he reconsider.

I realize that Father Oshagan's tenure in Richmond is for a limited time, and our family feels privileged that we have had the opportunity to be associated with this fine young man. The future for Father Oshagan is indeed bright within the Armenian Church, and his zeal will help our people in this great time of need.

We, in Richmond, Virginia, also have a need and we ask that the wisdom of the Church influence Father Oshagan to reconsider; at least until a replacement can be found. The voice of a few, even though most vocal, do not reflect the sentiment of the majority of the Richmond Armenian Community. Many here have lost touch with the true identity and culture of the Armenian Church, and have tried to inflict their Protestant-American influence upon our Church. This has created misunderstandings among a few and thus, have created tension in the parish.

The few should not rule and be the cause to steer our community on the wrong course. Father Oshagan's zeal is still needed to keep our parish within the scope of the Armenian Church teachings and culture. Without leadership of his type, there will be no TRUE ARMENIAN CHURCH in Richmond. Please use your influence and ask him to reconsider, at least a time longer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bedros C. Bandazian'.

Bedros C. Bandazian



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