

*St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church*

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*Սուրբ Մեսրոպ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի  
Ռէյսին, Ուիսքոնսին*

Reverend Father Yeprem Kelegian, Pastor

Տ. Եփրեմ Զահանայ Գլխեան

October 26, 1993

Dear Srpazan Hayr,

You had once mentioned that it was difficult for the Armenian Church to issue short (pamphlet like) statements on moral issues such as Abortion.

I had agreed with you until I read the enclosed statement. It is a concise, pastoral and understandable statement which, with a few changes, could be used by us.

I would imagine that other issues could also be addressed. Something like the enclosed statement- would be well received by our people.

Things are going well, albeit, slowly.

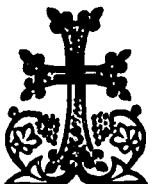
I hope that some future considerations are in the works regarding pastors for Chicago and Waukegan.....I have just been finding out that MANY of our youth join AGBU and are even joining ADL. We need help out here! Pastors.

I just was in contact with someone from the North Carolina Armenian Community. It seems they were very dissatisfied with the priest (s) we have sent, but really appreciated the Prelacy Priest (Fr. Anoushavan.... Prelacy, right?). Call for more details.

See you in November.

Madcheem i hampooyr tzer soorp achooyn

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian



# Genesis

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The opinions expressed in *Genesis* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or members of the Pastoral Services Committee, but they do provide varied right-to-life perspectives found among the religious groups of Wisconsin.

# Commentary

## Pro-Life Pastoring in a Pluralistic Society

My mother often reminds me, her elder son, of my inquisitive nature as a young boy. I investigated the structure and workings of an item before I hastily took it apart. I also faced the consequences of my inquisitiveness—the broken toy, hopelessly ruined pocket watch, or punctured spray can.

Sometimes it is profitable to look at issues from a multitude of vantage points (even as I studied that pocket watch before I unceremoniously disassembled it) if in that pursuit one arrives at truth. In the pro-life/"pro-choice" rhetoric of our pluralistic culture, I, as a pastor, feel the constant need to re-affirm the *Biblical* vantage point—the Gospel.

Our church teaches God's Word—staying apolitical but informed and involved—believing that a pro-life position is truth. While opposed to abortion, we provide support for adoptive parents, hope and care for those in crisis pregnancy, and His forgiveness for those in post-abortive consequences. Maintaining a consistent pro-life ethic, we believe that our Lord has created and given dignity to life—whether life in the womb, the bed of a retirement community, or the meal line of a central-city food program. We believe in life.

As a church, we do not dictate to anyone's conscience; rather, we present God's Word and trust His Spirit to convict individual consciences. In any case, I must remember that, for some in our society, abortion is another holocaust requiring total repudiation; for some, a sin requiring repentance and restoration; for some, an issue of privacy, tied to women's rights; for some, the only "choice" out of a dreadful situation; for some, a "choice" of convenience, reputation, economics, or shame; for some, the painful memory of unbelief, abandonment, and death—but for all, abortion is a painful wound on this nation's conscience.

Our church's purpose is to minister Christ's touch in the arena of life's sacredness. In so doing we seek to minister, motivated not by guilt, but by the authority of Scripture. We seek to obey His mandate to minister to the needs of the pre-born and mother. Our Lord Jesus offers hope and life to all of us as we pray and work for peace, justice, repentance, healing, and reconciliation.

Rev. Paul Sinclair is Associate Pastor for Social Concerns and Urban Ministry at Elmbrook Church, Waukesha.