



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

June 17, 1994

Mr. & Mrs. John Kazanjian
742 Kuehnle Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kazanjian:

We share with you the concern expressed in your letter.

The draft text entitled "Exploring the Position of the Armenian Apostolic Church on the Moral and Social Issues of our Times" by the Very Reverend Father Mesrob Semerjian was presented to our clergy who gathered in Houston as a text to explore the positions of our Church. His personal opinions and perceptions based upon his investigative research on many of the issues that he presented were intended to serve primarily as a springboard for discussion and deeper study among our priests. They in no way present nor reflect an 'official' teaching or position declared at this time by the Armenian Church about many of these moral and ethical problems that confront our faithful today.

It is true that some of personal perceptions, as you have noted, appear to be contrary to the spirit of Christian thinking in the social context of the world today. I assure you that the posture and attitudes of our Church on the example you cited, as well as on other challenging issues in the draft document, are indeed compassionate, just and loving.

It is unfortunate that this draft study-document, originally created specifically for the clergymen to discuss, has been presented to the laity of our church as somewhat of an official statement on such delicate and sensitive matters of life. Do understand that its creation in its present form was never intended to be transmitted as a catechetical document to anyone in the name of the Armenian Church.

Be assured that we shall continue our work toward providing a document for our faithful on the position of our Church on the social and moral problems that challenge our life today as Armenian Christians.

We thank you again for your concern and suggestions.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate