



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

May 20, 1996

Mr. John Kazanjian
1610 Jackson Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dear Mr. Kazanjian:

We have received your letter of April 22, 1996 wherein you describe a number of issues that have occurred in the Ann Arbor mission parishes. It is regretful that you have become painfully affected by certain actions and inactions, but of course, as you have demonstrated, the need to reconcile differences is quite essential for a community of faith to spiritually grow in Christ's Holy Church. Thus it is necessary to transcend such things and as the cherubic hymn from our liturgy declares... *let us lay aside all earthly cares, so we may duly receive the king of all.*

As to our appointment of Deacon Michael Ohanesian as Deacon-in-charge and your personal feelings, that is a matter you must address for indeed, as does he, you also serve the Lord and your people, not just individuals. The test of faith is to reconcile "at the altar" and I pray that you afford yourself the opportunity to serve together for one purpose, the love that Christ has gifted us with.

As for the actions and decisions made by the council prior to Diratzoo's appoint, yes, they may have created certain improprieties, but that does not preclude nor diminish their service to the church. Our concern is the building up of the Body of Christ for the Armenian Community of Ann Arbor as I know is your's as well. Therefore, my counsel to you is to reflect on the meaningful words of this hymn I so quoted and return to the table of the Lord offering your assistance, support to those we have designated in the leadership of the church.

We pray the Spirit of our Lord imbue you with the courage, conviction and zeal to remain faithful to His greatest commandment - to love one another.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

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