

June 3, 1996

John Kazanjian
1610 Jackson Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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

Your Eminence,

Thank you for your response to my letter. I appreciated reading your words of encouragement and your expression of regret for the pain I have experienced in this situation. I feel we have been applying the words of the hymn you quoted by continuing to come to the services as a family, teaching Sunday School, and receiving Holy Communion - *the king of all*.

I also appreciate your recognition that certain improprieties may have occurred prior to Deacon Michael's appointment, by the parish council. My recent conversations with John Ohanian and Steve Mangigian (present and past chairman) appear to indicate their recognition of this as well. According to John, a written apology should be arriving from the council.

Finally, I would like to ask for your clarification on bringing a resolution to Dn. Michael and my relationship. Since you stated in your letter, and I agree whole heartedly, that "the need to reconcile" our differences are "quite essential for a community of faith to spiritually grow" I would appreciate your input on how exactly to do that. I believe that we all agree that God's supernatural assistance is necessary for reconciliation, but I don't feel as though we can ignore the past problems and move on without a resolution. It is my sincerest desire to return to the altar and serve with my brother, but two words keep ringing in my mind every time I pray about it. The first is from Matthew chapter 6, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ... First go and be reconciled with your brother; then come and offer your gift." The second is from Matthew chapter 18, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two brothers along ... If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church." I have enumerated my contentions in writing directly to Michael, and to both the Diocese and our parish council. Thus far I have failed to find someone willing to assist us in reconciling. I would beg your assistance in finding a third party, preferably a priest, who can help us reach resolution.

I assure you Surpazan Hayr, with all the conviction I can muster, that my love and zeal for the Armenian Church and her people runs deep. It is only because of this that I continue to seek a just, honest, and peaceful end to this conflict.

Your servant,

