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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church, Eastern Diocese
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Your Grace:

The following is the brief month report for August and September. I am sorry that I did not provide a report for August separately, but I had fallen ill with the flu and am now still recovering.

I have been in frequent contact with Fr. Nersess regarding visitation to Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. Due to parish schedules and Der Hayr's hectic schedule, it has taken a little time to set a visitation; but we have worked it out: the weekend after Thanksgiving. I am attempting to have the Grand Rapids core group meet earlier in the day on Saturday and then later with the Lansing council at the church where we have services. This is working out fine and should give Der Hayr the needed time to calmly meet and acquire whatever information he needs. He agrees by the way. On Sunday, we will have a Badarak in Ann Arbor and then have a simple luncheon with Der Hayr after services.

I am preparing to set up Badarak schedule with both communities for next year with Fr. Diran. This will be finalized in November.

I am also coordinating soccer matches between youth of both communities. Although not a religious activity, it gives people a chance to meet and myself a chance to have interaction with new individuals--details to follow...

ANN ARBOR:

1) Conducted Jashou Services first and third Sundays. I provided reserve sacrament in context of Jashou service. Fr. Diran performed a Badarak on third Sunday in September.

2) The Sunday School students performed a play regarding the Feast of Exhaltation, with some narrative by teachers. This was done before the parents in place of a sermon to give some chance for interaction between people in the community. It proved very fruitful and gave a new dimension to things, thanks to Michelle Kazanjian and Lisa Mangigian.

3) Shahin Uzuncan has completed deacon's training and now participates as a regular at the altar. He looks forward to coming to St. Nersess next spring, when altar server's training convenes. I have started a monthly practice with Steve Mangigian and Shahin to establish more cohesive singing between them and

appointing Steve as lead altar person and Shahin as his second. We will cover some of the rubrics for altar actions. I gave them copies of a tape that I had done covering music from deacon's handbook.

4) John Ohanian, Chairman, completed a very successful raffle for the community and plans another in the spring for a trip to Armenia. An Armenian jeweler won the prize and further donated another \$100.00 to the community. Letters of thanks were sent out to all who participated. The New Year's Eve dance plan was cancelled for further study for next year.

5) The newly formed Women's Guild had their first dance, and it appeared that all had a good time--almost 70 people attended.

LANSING:

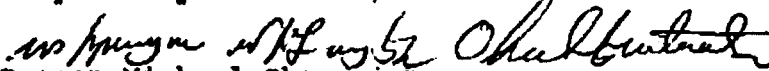
1) The council has conducted two meetings. A letter asking for Srpazan Hayr's blessing was sent. Tax exemption issues and forms are being prepared for sending to State of Michigan and for Federal purposes. Stewardship issues were further discussed.

2) Services are scheduled for each month through and including the month of December. We had a Jashou service in September, and 55 people attended, including some from Grand Rapids. There will be a Badarak on October 16 with Fr. Diran presiding.

3) Our first Sunday School sessions convened again. We have two teachers for the 8 and younger, and Shakeh is helping to coordinate them and also do class for the older up to age 16. They had a good session and the diocesan materials are being used.

4) The deacon's training has started in Lansing. Larry Nishan and Grant Sarkisian have been practicing, and we are about 10% complete in the deacon's handbook. I have provided them with tapes of the book's music. They have both started serving at the altar. Shahin from Ann Arbor had come with me, so we had all new people at the altar. The two also express interest in going to St. Nersess next spring. That makes three new faces for St. Nersess!

Prayerfully submitted,


Deacon Michael Ohanesian
Deacon-in-Charge, Ann Arbor/Lansing