

June 1st, 1987

Rev. Fr. Donald Kanabay
310 13th Avenue, N.E.
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33701

Dear Father Kanabay:

Your letter of April 7, 1987 addressed to our Primate Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, was referred to me as the pastor of the Armenian Church of South Florida. I also visit the St. Hagop Armenian parish of St. Petersburg on a bi-monthly basis. I was there on May 1st to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at St. Thomas' Church, Snell Island, and my next visit will be on August 21st.

Your letter indicated the need for establishing a local parish to serve the needs of the Oriental Orthodox faithful. But more specifically you need to seek guidance and leadership from the Armenian Church Diocese of New York because of "the absence of a local priest" as you have indicated. I assume that you do not have an Oriental Orthodox Diocese in this country, or any authority in your faith to sponsor your needs. The question arises also in my mind if you still maintain the order of the sacred priesthood, otherwise why "the absence of a priest", unless your full-time employment leaves little time for pastoral duties.

At the end of your letter you are asking to "seek permission to proceed with the establishment of an Armenian Mission". This is rather vague and requires procedural explanation. However, I shall be glad to meet with you and even invite your faithful to attend church services and the celebration of the Divine Liturgy which take place ordinarily by St. Hagop Armenian parish at St. Thomas'. Please do not hesitate to write to me for further assistance, so that I may be in position to report back to the Archbishop for his consideration.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Ph.D.
Pastor