



CONSECRATED IN 1953

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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

14 WOODLAWN AVE. WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4V 1G7

PARISH OFFICE TEL: 924-6514
924-4217

PARISH HALL TEL: 923-0081

SEPT. 13, 1978

His Eminence
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate and President of the Diocesan Council
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016
U.S.A.

Your Eminence,

The Parish Council would like to present with this letter a commentary on the occasion of the visit of Very Rev. Housig Bagdasian, the Vicar General, to Toronto during August 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1978.

First of all, we would like to present most respectfully our extreme objections to the manner with which the above encounter was organized. More specifically,

- 1.- That five individuals from our Parish were invited directly by the Diocese to meet with the Parish Council rather than these invitations being sent through the Parish Council.
- 2.- The five particular individuals selected by the Diocese:

Dr. V. Aynacian. - During the last 8 months Aris Serpazn's chief advocate, disparager of the Primate and the Diocesan authority and a vicious rumor monger against the Parish Council for defending the honour and dignity of the Primate. Although he has been in Toronto for about 14 years, his interest in church affairs got kindled only after the dismissal of Bishop Aris as Vicar. His interest in community affairs at this time stems only from his personal attachment to Bishop Aris. The foregoing is a very well known fact among Toronto Armenians.



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Ghevont Shahmelikian.- Last year's chairman of the Toronto - ACYO. He publicly resigned as chairman at our April 16, 1978 members' gathering during which the minority of Bishop Aris' supporters turned the event into a rowdy and vulgar scenario until they left in utter defeat.

He hollered his resignation from the podium with Khatchig Kouyoumjian at his side acting as a prompter. He hollered that no matter what anybody does " we are going to keep Aris Serpazan here ". After receiving his invitation from the Diocese on the occasion of Rev. Housig's visit, he approached a member of our Parish Council and joyously declared " See, how your Primate betrayed you all ".

Armen Kurkjian.- Another zealous advocate of Bishop Aris and propagandist to split the Canadian Parishes from the Diocese to serve his own personal ambitions and sectarian interests. During the last 8 months he was one of the agitators in the community in organizing petitions and meetings against the Diocese and the Parish Council for defending the authority of the Diocese. During the noted gathering of April 16th, he distinguished himself by swearing, by grabbing a lady by the collar and shaking her, by ordering the Bishop to leave the gathering and walking out with the rest of his handful mob.

Khatchig Kouyoumjian.- A deliberate distorter of truth and spreader of falsehoods. He was one of the 3 members who resigned from the Parish Council because they were unsuccessful in convincing the Parish Council to call a special Parish Assembly whose sole purpose would have been to seek ways and means for reinstating Bishop Aris to his previous status. After his resignation, he was a behind the scenes organizer and manipulator for petitions to glorify Bishop Aris and disparage the Diocese while at the same time with his glib tongue he was in constant touch with the Diocese to give a different impression. His portrayal of himself as an inexperienced and innocent person has been completely disproven by his actions in the Parish during the last 8 months but obviously not in the eyes of the Diocese.



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Souren Evran.- He has been in Toronto only for the last two years and has not been active except to participate, perhaps innocently, in the various meetings organized during the last several months in support of Bishop Aris. At these meetings, he has vowed to keep Bishop Aris in Toronto at his expense, a vow no doubt he will ultimately regret.

3.- The fact that we did not even as a matter of courtesy receive a copy of the invitations sent to the five persons has puzzled us to say the least.

We are certain that Rev.Housig has already submitted his report to your Eminence with a synopsis of the discussions held with the Parish Council, the Diocesan Delegates and the " five ". Nevertheless, we would like to emphasize the highlights of the position taken by the Parish Council and the Diocesan Delegates:

- A.- A second parish should not be considered in Toronto until the relocation project of the Holy Trinity Church has been executed. x
- B.- When and if a second parish is to be formed in Toronto, it should be done through the local Parish Council who would be in a more knowledgeable position to select individuals worthy of respect in the community. *submit 10 names R.*
- C.- The Diocesan Office should not encourage individuals in the Parish to constantly communicate directly with the Diocese who in turn would use these contacts to spread rumours and misintrepretations throughout the community to the detriment of the Parish as well as the Diocese.

In conclusion, we have respectfully submitted the above commentary for the peace and stability of the Parish and to enhance the respect of the Diocese in the eyes of the community. The selection of the particular individuals and the manner in which the invitations were formulated did not produce the results that the Diocese anticipated. After a few months of uproar, the Parish Council had effectively stabilized the Parish.



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However, with the recent Diocesan action, the group that had fervently supported Bishop Aris and disparaged the Primate has taken a new lease on life while the majority that with the Parish Council supported the Diocesan decisions is puzzled, disillusioned and feels betrayed.

The purpose of this submission is to ensure that the Diocesan Council not take more surprise actions which would make everyone's position here untenable.

We would still appreciate receiving at your earliest convenience a copy of the invitations sent to the " five ".

Yours truly,

PARISH COUNCIL

H. Shishmanian
H. SHISHMANIAN

B. Khojajian
B. KHOJAJIAN

SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

H. YERETSIAN *[Signature]*
H. ARTINIAN *[Signature]*
H. BOYAJIAN *[Signature]*
M. MAMOURIAN *[Signature]*
N. TOSSOUNIAN *[Signature]*