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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016 212 686-0710

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE

March 2, 1979

TO: The Reverend Clergy and Parish Council Chairmen

SUBJECT: Bishop Aris Shirvanian

The Very Reverend Father Vazken Keshishian, the Vicar of the Primate in Canada, informs us that Bishop Aris Shirvanian, without permission, has celebrated Divine Liturgy in a non-Armenian church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Bishop Aris has created a parish and appointed a parish council, independent of the ecclesiastical authority of our Diocese.

After communicating with His Holiness the Catholicos of All Armenians, we confirm that neither His Holiness nor his representative has given permission to Bishop Aris, and we and the Diocesan Council have not authorized him or any person to create in Toronto a parish in the name of the Holy Cross Church or to perform services. Therefore, we forbid Bishop Aris Shirvanian to perform ecclesiastical services in our Diocese or to participate in parish activities.

Any priest, deacon or member of any parish organization, who cooperates with Bishop Aris or encourages the dissidents will be subject to ecclesiastical discipline.

Prayerfully,

*abp. Torkom Manoogian*

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate