

*Stewardship file*

November 4, 1971

Reverend Nersess Jebejian  
Pastor  
President of Parish Council  
St. John The Divine Armenian Church  
64 Dresden Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01109

Dear Father Nersess:

A short time ago in the course of specially convened Regional Meetings held in all our communities, we discussed the deficit facing the Diocese in the current year. The deficit was voted during the Assembly with the understanding that some means would be instituted to raise the money before the end of the year.

As was indicated at our various meetings, the Diocesan Council organized a Stewardship Committee which worked on several plans to raise funds, but all required a great deal of time to develop. Finally, it was determined that while it worked on plans for the next year and subsequent years, for the present deficit each of the parishes would be approached to raise a portion of the needed funds on a parish or regional basis. One such Regional Meeting was held in Springfield with the Worcester, Springfield, New Britain, Hartford, and Providence parishes in the region.

The deficit, amounting to \$60,000 for 1971, represents, for the most part, staff and maintenance costs which were determined by earlier Assemblies and confirmed by the 1971 Assembly, as well as normally rising costs. In addition to these was a revised utility billing that added more than \$10,000 to our costs.

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Details of the budget and the reasons for the deficit were discussed in detail at the Assembly, both by the Budget Committee and the Delegates as a whole, and it was on the basis of these discussions the budget was approved.

We urge, therefore, that your parish either separately or together with the churches in your region, make a special effort to raise the part of this deficit that has been assigned to you.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

cc: ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Edward Garabedian  
Parish Council Chairman

Mr. Arthur Simonian  
Executive Committee Chairman