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

April 23, 1973

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE

Mr. Michael Vahradian
84 Main St.
Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Mr. Vahradian:

Mr. Kavookjian was touched by your letter of March 26, and asked me to write to you on his behalf.

The commitment you made to the Cathedral was nobly inspired and that in itself is worthy of high commendation.

It is the view of His Grace, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, shared by all of us who work with him, that whenever any of our people feel neglected by our church, then we have in some measure failed in our mission. We acknowledge this responsibility and do our very best to fulfill it. We do not always succeed.

Often circumstances militate against success. Distance is one of our obstacles. When families live far from established churches and parishes it becomes difficult to reach them with the diverse services and opportunities of organized community life. In the greater New York area alone there are several such areas, in Poughkeepsie, Westchester, Long Island City, in parts of New Jersey, as well as in Long Island, substantial distances from the Bayside church. Even here we have tried to make the presence of the Church felt.

The Primate assigns visiting clergymen to celebrate the Liturgy several times a year, organizes Sunday Schools where possible, until such time as the community grows enough to have a church of its own. This past winter we arranged Sunday services in Bayshore on four different occasions, the last being on Palm Sunday, making announcements through the press and other means, in the hope that the Church could go out to people who could not come to it.

(more)

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If our Church has failed you, it is not because
it has not cared. It is our hope always to meet whatever
needs exist. But we need help too in meeting these needs.
And the only source we have is in our people.

Sincerely

Jack Antreassian
Executive Director

JA/sm