

Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի  
St. James Armenian Church

VERY REV. FR. OSHAGAN GULGULIAN  
PASTOR

834 Pepper Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 - 804-282-3818

16 Հոկտեմբեր, 1991

Գերաշնորհ,  
Տ. ԽԱԺԱԿ ԵՊՍ. ՊԱՐՍԱՄԵԱՆ, Առաջնորդ՝  
Ամերիկայի Հայոց Արեւելեան թեմի  
Նիւ Եորք, Ն. Ե.

Գերաշնորհ Սրբազան Հայր,

Խորապէս զգացուած եւ անսահման շնորհակալ եմ Ձերդ Սրբազնութենէն,  
այն գեղեցիկ եւ պատեհ առիթը ընծայելուն համար, որպէսզի կարողանամ  
այցելել Մայր Հայրենիք, Մայր Աթոռ Ս. Էջմիածին եւ մանավանդ ներկայ  
ըլլալու Սրբալոյս Միւռոնի Օրհնութեանը:

Ձերդ Սրբազնութեան արդէն ծանօթ է, որ շուրջ երեք տարիներ է ինչ  
չէի այցելած Միաբանական Ուխտս՝ Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածին:

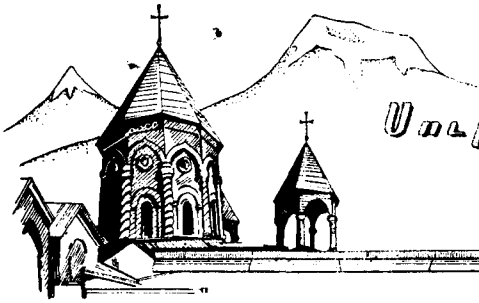
Որպէս Հայ Եկեղեցւոյ սպասաւոր եւ Միաբանը Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ  
Էջմիածնի կրկին անգամ առիթը ունենալ եւ այցելել Ս. Էջմիածին կեանքիս  
լաւագոյն պահերէն մին կը նկատեմ, մանավանդ որ, պատեհութիւնը ունեցայ  
լիցքաւորուելու Հայ Եկեղեցւոյ Հայրերու շունչով եւ վերանորոգելու իմ  
Ուխտս՝ զոր տարիներ առաջ Աւագ Խորանի առջեւ ընդունել էի: Այս բոլորը  
կը պարտիմ Ձերդ Սրբազնութեանը:

Արդ՝ Սրբազան Հայր թոյլ տուէք ի Խորոց Սրտէ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի  
շունչով Շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելու Ձերդ Սրբազնութեան, եւ խնդրելու  
Ամէնաբարձրեալն Աստուծոյ որպէսզի իր Աջը անպակաս ըէն Ձեր վրայէն եւ  
Իր Օրհնութեամբ էլ նուաճեք նորանոր բարձրունքներու:

Առողջութեան եւ ի բարի գործոց յաջողութեան լաւագոյն

Մաղթանքներով մնամ Աղօթող՝

Օշական Վրդ. Կիւլիկեան  
Հովիւ Իիջմընտի



Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

# St. James Armenian Church

**VERY REV. FR. OSHAGAN GULGULIAN**  
PASTOR

834 Pepper Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 - 804-282-3818

## 35th Anniversary Celebration 1956-1991

**Honorary President**

His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian

October 8, 1991

**Pastor & President**

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian

His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian  
Diocese of Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

**Chairman**

John Baronian

Dear Srpazan Hayr:

I am writing in regard to a telephone conversation about your visitation to our parish on February 15, 1992. 108

**Vice-Chairman**

Gerry Sharigian

At that time, we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of St. James Armenian Church in Richmond, Virginia.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Virginia Greene

We would like to request a Gontag from the Vehapar for our church in celebration of this important occasion and would also like to request a message from Your Eminence for our Anniversary Booklet.

**Advisor**

Isabelle Vranian

We hope you would be so kind enough to make the necessary arrangements for us.

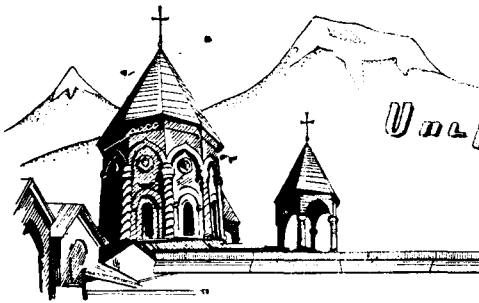
Thanking you in advance, we remain,

Prayerfully yours,

Virginia Greene  
Secretary

SERPAZAN HAYR:

Will you be able to visit the Richmond parish  
on February 15 as they need confirmation.



Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

## St. James Armenian Church

VERY REV. FR. OSHAGAN GULGULIAN  
PASTOR

834 Pepper Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 - 804-282-3818

### 35th Anniversary Celebration 1956-1991

**Honorary President**

His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian

**Pastor & President**

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian

October 8, 1991

Sylvia Terzibashian  
Diocese of Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

**Chairman**

John Baronian

**Vice-Chairman**

Gerry Sharigian

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Virginia Greene

**Advisor**

Isabelle Vranian

Dear Mrs. Terzibashian:

Several weeks ago I had been in touch with you in regard to a visitation by His Grace, Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of Armenian Church in America to our parish on February 15, 1992.

We are in the process of making our plans for this forthcoming event and we would appreciate it if you would send us a letter of confirmation as to the date of February 15th.

We await your reply and thank you for your time and effort on this matter.

Sincerely,

Virginia Greene  
Secretary

October 17, 1991

The Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian, Pastor  
St. James Armenian Church  
834 Pepper Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Dear Father Oshagan:

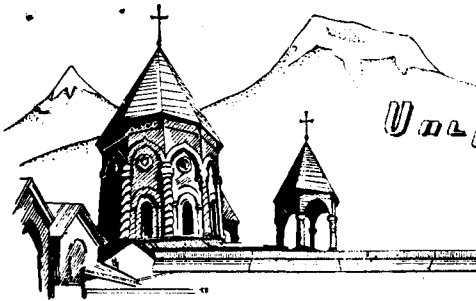
Thank you for your letter dated September 11, 1991 and the enclosed letter of resignation from Mr. Jack Tootelian, Parish Council Chairman.

We approve Virginia Abernathy, the present Vice Chairperson to act as chairperson for the remainder of the year and Henry Magarian, who had received the next highest vote at the General Membership meeting, to serve on the Parish Council.

May the Lord bless you with His love and wisdom, always.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate



Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայրապետի Շիրակցի

## St. James Armenian Church

VERY REV. FR. OSHAGAN GULGULIAN  
PASTOR

834 Pepper Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 - 804-282-3818

Sept. 11, 1991

His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Srpasan Hayr:

According to our conversation in New York on September 7th, I am enclosing the letter of resignation from Jack Tootelian, Parish Council Chairman who is also resigning from the Parish Council.

According to the Diocesan By-laws, Article 27, the person receiving the next highest votes at the General Membership Meeting will serve on the Parish Council upon a resignation.

Virginia Abernathy, the present Vice-chairperson is now the acting chairperson for the remainder of the year and upon your approval Henry Magarian will now be a member of the Parish Council.

Yours in the service of the Lord,

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian  
Pastor

OG/vg

Page # 1 of 3  
9-11-91

TO: HAYR SOORP GULGULIAN & PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES  
ARMENIAN CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Though not a complete list, noted herein are a number of points which taken in their entirety has brought me to the conclusion whereby I, herewith, resign both as Parish Council Chairman and from the Parish Council.

- (1) Though a "1991 Steward Schedule" was provided each Parish Council member, regrettably, with the two basic exceptions, the Parish Council person (s) scheduled for a given Sunday has either not shown up or has come well after Sunday services have commenced.
- (2) At our March 12, 1991 Parish Council meeting, I had requested that, at least, on the day a Parish Council person was scheduled as "Steward", that person not only be at Church some 15 minutes before Church services started (to light the necessary candles in the Church's foyer, unlock necessary doors and prepare for such special events as requiem services) but that after Church services that same person (s) plan to circulate in our Church Hall socializing with our parishioners and/or guests. Further, after everyone had left following the Church services and the social period in our Church Hall, it was the responsibility of the assigned Sunday's Steward (s) to check/turn off all lights (in our Church's sanctuary, halls, classrooms, restrooms) as well as checking the heating/air conditioning thermostats and to see that all church facilities' doors were secured/locked.
- (3) Parish Council meetings as scheduled have been poorly attended either with complete absence on the part of some Parish Council members or when a given member has come his/their arrival has been after the 7:30 P.M. starting time; as a matter of record, at our last Parish Council meeting of Monday, August 26th, only Hayr Soorp, Linda Sharrigian, Virginia Greene (our Diocesan Delegate not a Parish Council member) and I were present. After waiting some 30 minutes, we cancelled the scheduled meeting and adjourned for the evening.

Page # 1 of 3  
9-11-91

Forwarded to page # 2

Joe Costello  
9-11-91

*Proc of B  
9-11-91*

- (4) At the March 12th meeting and at a number of subsequent meetings, I had expressed a serious concern for and a need to review our Church's finances as well as addressing the subject of our declining membership rolls/Sunday attendance numbers. Such subjects cannot be handled in a relative vacuum. Parish Council members must be at the scheduled meetings; they should be thinking and/or making suggestions on subjects as they judge to be important.
- (5) Because the matter of finances and membership status has not been addressed, at a "special call meeting" on July 9, 1991, I presented a suggested Stewardship letter designed to stabilize our Church's finances and increase membership numbers and/or seek financial support from "friends of St. James."

Over the years and to this Parish Council -- both publicly and in personal 'one on one' conversations -- I have stated the weakness in our depending upon the "food festival" and more so the "rug sale" as major sources of revenue to meet our Parish's overhead. In my judgement, the "rug sale" is a 'cop out' on the part of all who endorse and encourage it as a source of income to the Church in lieu of a membership financial commitment.

At the "special call meeting" of July 9th, I asked each Parish Council member to review, revise, modify and/or reject in its entirety my suggested letter; in any event, I asked that each Parish Council member to bring their conclusions/suggestions, in writing, to our subsequent meeting which turned out to be on August 26th last. Needless to say, that meeting did not come off nor have I received, in writing, from any Parish Council member or Hayr Soorp any response.

- (6) Both privately to Hayr Soorp and in public conversations, I have stated that our Church's primary function is religious. If we are to motivate individuals, parents, the young people, the children to attend St. James, we must speak about Christ, His teachings, the examples He set during His time on earth. Those should be the reason for coming to St. James. St. James is a Christian Church, an orthodox Christian Church firstly and most importantly. St. James as representing the Armenian nationality is a secondary factor. St. James and its Armenian origin is in the business of preaching Christian religious doctrine -- not nationality, especially from the Altar.

*Proc of B  
9-11-91*

*Forwarded to pmas  
John Costello  
9-11-91*



PAGE # 3 of 3  
J. Tootelian  
9-11-91

Our Sevan offers too much in the Armenian language. Our community, this nation is English speaking. The children, the young adults, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation of Armenian-Americans -- like it or not - communicate in English. If these generations are to be reached, if they are to commit to St. James, Richmond, Virginia and to its sister Parishes nation-wide, preaching, counselling, instructing, praying in English is the way it will have to be done.

Our clergy, if they are to be successful -- particularly the foreign born clergy -- Richmond included -- must adapt to the American mores, social customs, methods of communications used in the United States.

Our Parish, its Parish Council, our Hayr Soorp in Richmond seems unwilling to address such subjects. Being passive is the road to failure.

- (8) There are other subjects that the Parish Council, Hayr Soorp and the community should address. From the 'grass roots' all of us in Richmond and throughout our nation should aggressively strive to bring about "unity" between the Diocese and the Prelacy Churches. None of us should take any excuse short of unity of the Armenian Orthodox Church. No one in the hierarchy of either the Diocese or Prelacy should be immune from criticism until absolute unity is achieved!

Our Sunday School program in Richmond is a failure. Our Priest must motivate, win over the parents of Sunday School age children. The winning over of the parents, having them want to come to St. James will result in the children of those parents being brought to St. James...enrolled in our Sunday School. Our Priest must personally visit prospective parishioners -- parents, their children -- in their homes -- not just once or twice, Through such visits, minds and hearts will be won over. Loyalty and committment will result. In Chapel, a developing understanding of our ancient Liturgy (explained in English) enhanced through meaningful sermons can only result in a better St. James.

In conclusion, from my point of view, you may feel free to share this report in whole or in part with whomever you wish.

PAGE # 3 of 3  
J. Tootelian  
9-11-91

Jack Tootelian  
August 31, 1991

Jack Tootelian  
9-11-91



# ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

DIocese of the Armenian Church of America, 630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Թի 409  
Ապրիլ 4, 1991

Հոգեշնորհ  
Տ. Օշական Վրդ. Կիլիկիական  
Հովի Ա. Յակոբ Եկեղեցույ  
Նախագահ Ծխական Խորհուրդի  
Ռիչմոնդ.

Սիրելի Հայր Օշական,

Ստացած ենք համայնքի Անդամական Ժողովի տեղեկագիրները և Փետրուար 6, 1991 թուակիր ձեր նամակը, որով կը տեղեկացնէք թէ համայնքի Տարեկան Անդամական Ժողովը գումարուած է Փետրուար 3, 1991-ին, և այդ առթիւ ընկրուած են Ծխական Խորհուրդին երեք անդամներ: Կու տաք քուէարկութեանց արդիւնքը և կը խնդրէք նորընտիր անդամներու վաւերացման պաշտօնագիրը:

Այս գրութեամբ կը վաւերացնենք Ծխական Խորհուրդի հետեւեալ անդամներու ընտրութիւնը.

Մէք Թութելեան  
Տոքթ. Փօլ Մազմանեան  
Լինուա Ծարիկեան

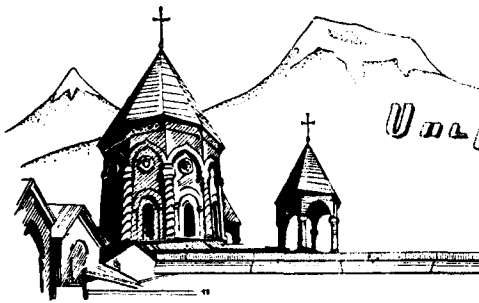
Բարի եղէք շուտով Առաջնորդարան դրկել Ծխական Խորհուրդի նորընտիր դիւանի անդամներուն անունները, հասցէները և հեռաձայնի թիւերը:

Այս առթիւ ձեր ուշադրութեան կը յանձնենք որ Ծխական Խորհուրդի տարեկան տեղեկագիրը պէտք է ստորագրուի Հոգեւոր Հովիին, Ատենապետին և Ատենդպիրին կողմէ, և Ընտրողական Ցանձնախումբը պարտի թեկնածուներու երկպառակ ցանկ պատրաստել իրաքանչիւր ընտրութեան համար:

Կ'օրհնենք Ծխական Խորհուրդի նոր կազմը: Մեր մաղթանքն է որ Տէրը Իր հովանիին ներքեւ պահէ համայնքի անդամները և բոլորիդ եկեղեցանուէր աշխատանքներուն յաջողութիւն պարգեւէ:

Սիրոյ ողջունի

Խաժակ Եպս. Պարսամեան  
Առաջնորդ



Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

# St. James Armenian Church

VERY REV. FR. OSHAGAN GULGULIAN  
PASTOR

834 Pepper Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 - 804-282-3818

February 6, 1991

Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Diocese of Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Eminence, Srpasan Hayr:

In accordance to instructions and by-laws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church; section, Parish Council, article 25, I am enclosing the names of the newly elected Parish Council and a list of those remaining on the Council.

Our annual Parish Assembly took place on Sunday, February 3, 1991 with 41 members present.

The newly elected members are:

Chairman.....Jack Tootelian  
Recording Secretary.....Dr. Paul Mazmanian  
Ass't Treasurer.....Linda Sharigian

Those remaining on the Parish Council for one more year are:

Treasurer.....Ron Greene  
Corresponding Sec'y.....Barkev Baronian  
Advisor.....Samuel Baronian Jr.

We await Your Eminence's blessings and confirmation of the newly elected officers.

Yours in the Service of the Lord,

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian

OG/vg