

bcc: Deacon Raymond Arakelian File  
Syracuse Parish

March 10, 1972

Dr. Robert W. Bogdassarian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
✓ St. Gregory The Illuminator Church  
12 Corbett Avenue  
Binghamton, New York 13903

Dear Dr. Bogdassarian:

We are pleased to confirm the assignment of Deacon Raymond Arakelian as Deacon in Charge of the Binghamton parish, according to the terms outlined in your letter of February 28. We have communicated this to the Deacon and have confirmed, as well, that he will commence his assignment on March 16.

We find the \$2,000 expectation from the Syracuse parish fair and equitable, provided a full quarter of the Deacon's time is devoted to it.

We will write to Syracuse in this regard, but feel that some adjustment should be made if less time is spent there. Perhaps this can be worked out between the two parishes, once the basic figure of \$2,000 for one-quarter of the time is agreed upon. We assume that with the payment of such a sum your parish will assume the costs for travel and lodging there, since these are included in the overall remuneration.

We will wait to hear from you before writing specifics to the Syracuse parish. We will meanwhile confirm with them our earlier note about the availability and desirability of having the Deacon serve them on this basis.

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We hope and pray that your parish will flourish with the leadership and help of Deacon Raymond, as well as with the warm and encouraging support your Council and community will give him.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ATH/ec

cc: Dr. Nubar K. Astarjian  
Secretary of Parish Council



**Saint Gregory The Illuminator  
Armenian Apostolic Church**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

Nº 18

February 28, 1972

The Most Rev. Archbishop  
Torkom Manougian  
Primate of the Diocese of  
The Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Grace, the Primate:

In reference to your letter of February 3, 1972,  
we have met Deacon Raymond Arakelian and his wife and  
have come to the following conclusions:

1. Deacon Raymond is acceptable to us as deacon  
in charge.
2. Dr. Hrair Dekmedjian has pledged to give him  
the necessary assistance in the Armenian  
language.
3. We will offer Deacon Raymond \$95.00 per week  
as a starting salary while he is a deacon.
4. We will offer Deacon Raymond fringe benefits  
amounting to approximately \$3,000.00 per year.  
These include a rent-free apartment, a car,  
car insurance, our share of the Diocesan Group  
policy, gas allowance, furniture, Social Security  
payments, New York State disability insurance,  
telephone, etc.
5. In view of the fact that he will spend one out  
of four (4) weeks in Syracuse, we expect the  
Syracuse Parish to participate in our expenses  
fairly to pay us \$2,000.00 a year in four (4)  
equal instalments in advance at the beginning  
of every quarter.



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6. Deacon Raymond has expressed his readiness to start on his job as of March 16, 1972.
7. We understand that after several months of tutoring, Deacon Raymond will be ready to be ordained as a priest in the Armenian Church.

The Parish Council and the committee for the procurement of a priest met in a joint session on February 25, 1972, and reached to the above mentioned decisions. The Parish Council then at a special meeting approved the same unanimously.

We have presented our proposals and now await your decision in this matter.

Respectfully submitted

*Nubar K. Astarjian, M.D.*  
Nubar K. Astarjian  
Secretary of Parish Council

NKA/atb