

ORDINATION OF DEACON ALEXAN KOUZOUIAN
OCTOBER 30, 1994—HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, MA

Dear Parishioners,

The ordination of a new priest is an especially joyous day in the life of our Church. Just as a wedding or baptism is an important event for an individual family, so too a holy ordination is an important event in the life of an entire community. It introduces a new pastor to the flock of Christ, a new father to the family of the Church.

The ordination of a new priest also links us back to our roots: back to the faithful Armenian Christians of centuries past, who transmitted our traditions and teachings to us

today; back to the living memory of Jesus Christ and His apostles, a memory which is preserved and re-lived through the laying-on of hands which we witnessed in the ceremony today, and which transmits Christ's priestly authority from generation to generation.

Today, Fr. ——— has become a new link in an ancient chain, which stretches back through time and connects us all to the great leaders of our Church—Gomidas, Nersess Shnorhali, Krikor Naregatzi, Mesrob Mashdotz, Krikor Loosavoritch, the apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew, and ultimately Christ Himself. A great responsibility has been laid upon Fr. ———'s shoulders, but it is a sweet burden, and I know that Fr. ——— will uphold it with

honor, because he is a man with a solid background, strength of character, and genuine dedication and humility before God.

The ordination today is special for another reason, because it reflects an old and beautiful tradition in our Church, where the pastoral vocation continues through generations in a single family.

I know Der Mampre would be proud of his son regardless of the path he chose in life, and that Alexan in turn would make his father proud in any endeavor he undertook. But there is something special about a son following in his father's footsteps—and it is all the more noble when those footsteps mark the path that was laid

down by our Lord and His apostles. As I said, this is a distinctive and beautiful tradition in the Armenian Church, and it says something about the strong ties between faith and the family which have always characterized our people.

The Armenian family is the source of our people's strength, and the secret of our endurance against tremendous odds. In recognition of this, our Diocese has been observing "The Year of the Family" during the past year. Fr. ——— himself has recently taken a wife, and created a family of his own, and he has many examples around him in the Cambridge community of how both family and faith join together to create an even more powerful force in the service of God.

I would like to single out one person in this parish who exemplifies these qualities: Mr. Daniel Dorian. Dan has served our Church in many capacities over the course of his life. He was a founding member of the ACYOA, and went on to take a leadership role in his home parishes. Dan has represented the Holy Trinity Church as a Diocesan delegate, and has given his talents and wisdom to the Diocesan Council for many years.

Dan has been blessed to be able to share this devotion with his wife, Helene, who is herself an active and distinguished member of the Church. Together with their children and grandchildren, Dan and Helene are a perfect example of how dedication to God strengthens the

sacrament of marriage, and of how marriage and the family, in turn, enrich the life of the entire Church.

God has been generous to Dan: He has granted him many valuable gifts, and he in turn has put these gifts to good use. Throughout his life, Dan has set his sights on doing what is pleasing to God, and has devoted his energies to the prosperity of the Church. His efforts on behalf of our Church, our people, and our homeland are an example of Christian piety and the Armenian spirit.

The Armenian Church is fortunate to have such sons in its fold. In recognition of the admirable gifts of Mr. Daniel Dorian, and of his faithful years of labor in the fields of the Lord, I am pleased to present him with the St. Nersess

Shnorhali Medal and Encyclical.

I would like to add that this gontag is one of the last such documents to bear the signature of His Holiness Vasken I, of blessed memory, formerly the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. As such, it holds a special historical significance. I think it is fitting that this gontag should be given to a man like Dan Dorian, who has devoted so much of his heart and soul to the Church, and who will truly appreciate what this unique document stands for.

May God bless you all.

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