



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

July 25, 1996

Mr. Levon Messerlian
Chairman, Parish Council
Armenian Church of Atlanta
P.O. Box 547
Gainsville, GA 30503

Dear Mr. Messerlian:

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America has planned yet another ministry for our Diocesan parishes in the proper training of individuals who serve as functionaries at worship. Your parish has been chosen to pilot this new initiative.

The purpose of this new program is to educate, train and develop altar servers who participate in the worship services of our church - particularly your community, instructing them in the theology and practical knowledge of the Armenian Church and her rituals and how to properly assist the priest at worship, i.e. the Divine Liturgy.

We have appointed Deacon Arthur Sabounjian, a graduate of the Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary, to conduct these training seminars and sessions in your parish as part of the outreach of the AACCA. Deacon Arthur is a well-experienced teacher and trainer of altar servers. During his latter years at the Saint Nersess Seminary, he conducted a number of programs here at the Diocesan center for the Saint Vartan Cathedral and some of our nearby mission parishes. We are confident that he will prepare those persons in your parish who presently serve and/or have an interest in learning the proper ways of worship in our church.

Deacon Arthur will soon be in touch with you to plan a series of visits to your community. His plan is to visit at least three (3) times so that a reasonable continuity may evolve with your altar servers.

We ask that you welcome him as he contacts you for this new pilot program and extend your community's hospitality to him during his visit. While he is visiting you, he will need overnight accommodations which we ask that you arrange for him prior to his arrival.

He will provide all instructional and educational materials that will be needed for the training programs.

We are confident that with your cooperation and the program which Deacon Arthur presents, your corps of altar servers will gain the confidence needed in serving at the Liturgy and at the other sacred services of our Church.

If you have any further questions, you may contact:

Ms. Louise Yardumian, Chairman of the AACCA at (813) 576 - 0380 or
Ms. Mary Selvinazian, Special Projects Advisor at (718) 423 - 5680

With prayers,



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

c.c. Father Garabed Kochakian
Father Nersess Jebejian
Deacon Arthur Sabounjian
Louise Yardumian
Mary Selvinazian

AKB/as