



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

May, 1984

Dear Friend:

To be an Armenian is to possess many riches...these riches are comprised of our religion, heritage and culture.

In order for us to maintain these riches we must strive to educate our young, inform our adults, assist our elders, and help prepare the men and women in our community to serve in the many roles required by the Armenian Church.

The task of preserving our riches is a challenging one and requires commitment which only, we as Armenians, can relate to.

In order to achieve our objective, St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral and the Diocese have the responsibility to fulfill a two-fold mission:

1. To nurture its people for the purpose of perpetuating our religion and culture.
2. To inspire knowledge in those areas essential for our progress and identity as Armenians living and growing in the American community.

This task can only be accomplished through the efforts of giving individuals such as you who understand the importance of our mission.

We appeal to you for your support as a 1984 Steward of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral and the Diocese by a pledge or donation of **\$500.00**. Your service as a Steward allows you to practice the systematic and proportionate giving of your resources back to God, giver of all good.

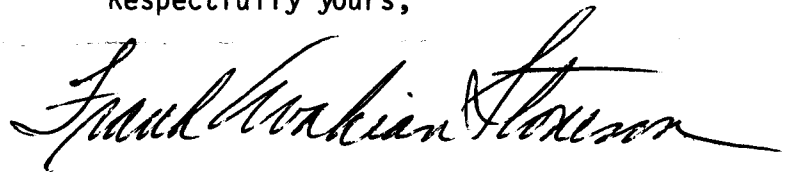
This donation of \$500.00 shall be used to implement and further the programs outlined in the enclosed Case Statement.

Stewards shall be acknowledged by having their names inscribed in a permanent register to be placed in the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral narthex, and with the presentation of a special lapel pin signifying their service.

Please remember your participation as a Steward shall help us to provide our children and the generations to come with the riches we possess.

We pray for your support.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank Avakian Stoneson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Finance Director

P.S. You shall receive a copy of our other fund raising appeals, which are being distributed to our entire mailing list throughout the country, to keep you informed of our additional efforts to raise funds.

STEWARDS' PROGRAM CASE STATEMENT

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is the largest Diocese of our Church in the Diaspora, embracing nearly all of the continental United States. It is a powerful force in the lives of our faithful, linking us to our heritage, our liturgy, to all the parishes across the country, and to the other Dioceses in the world. By virtue of the location of its headquarters in New York City, the Diocese with its St. Vartan Cathedral is a symbol of the conspicuous and distinctive position Armenians have achieved in American society. Moreover, as a national and international entity, the Diocese links the 600,000 faithful in a fellowship with the more than 5,000,000 other Armenians in the world. Through its work, the Diocese is also the source for programs and services that are unique. For instance, the Diocese provides and directs our priests -- who are the heart of the parish. The Diocese also helps to provide Armenians with the strength needed to perpetuate our heritage. Diocesan representatives maintain a constant exchange of ideas with the priests and their parishioners and direct the resources of the Church to their needs. Through its diversity of functions, which are not available from any other source, the Diocese ministers daily to the spiritual needs of the faithful and through its parishes is the focal point for our cultural and religious values.

A profile on some of the current and proposed Diocesan services and their impact on the Armenian community consist of:

1. St. Vartan Cathedral

The Armenian Cathedral beloved of the faithful as well as the non-Armenian community affirms an ancient and hardy faith. As a living symbol of our people and their beliefs, this edifice must be meticulously maintained and properly adorned at all times for the many visitors who pass through its threshold daily to experience the wealth and beauty of our being.

2. Clergy Recruitment and Education

In order to alleviate the immediate need of a lack of clergy in our Diocese a department must be developed which shall enable us to seek out candidates who may be trained and educated to fill the clerical positions readily available in our parishes now and in the future.

3. Armenian Church Youth Organizations and Ministry

This program oversees Junior and Senior youth programs designed to prepare our youth for leadership roles in our church and communities, and most importantly to provide us with trained personnel and resources which shall enable us to teach our youth their responsibility to perpetuate the Armenian religion, culture and heritage with hope and pride.

4. Religious Education Department

This department exists to enhance the educational offerings in our parishes for youth and adults by incorporating the tradition of the Armenian Church with basic Christian teachings. The department's work encompasses curriculum development, teacher training, publishing and providing textbooks, publishing a monthly bulletin for superintendents and teachers.

5. Language Lab & Resource Center

This department coordinates and publishes textbooks, publications, exhibits dramatic presentations and other cultural programs in the Armenian language. Its main function is the training of teachers and the preparation of curriculum for the various grade levels of the parish Armenian language schools.

The curriculum and textbooks prepared by this department are used throughout the various Armenian language schools in the U.S. and abroad.

6. Public Relations and Communications Department

This information center disseminates information of importance to the Armenian and non-Armenian community creating a positive identity for our church and people through our activities.

In addition the Diocese publishes its monthly newspaper BEMA reaching 30,000 households with an estimated readership of 100,000 addressing issues and concerns affecting our 600,000 faithful in the U.S.

7. Social Services Program

The goal of the Diocese is to establish a variety of programs offering a hospital referral and visitation program, a network of Armenian professionals in the legal and medical fields to assist those Armenians in need, either free or for a nominal fee; and information service concerning government Social Security, Medicare, other Medical programs, and benefits available from the other various government agencies.

The primary groups to be assisted shall include senior citizens, displaced persons from abroad and those in need of financial assistance.

8. St. Vartan Camp Program

This program offers boys and girls aged 8-15 the opportunity to come together during the summer months for fun and instruction in an environment which shall help them to cultivate the awareness of our Armenian values and culture.

9. Church Choirs

The Diocese maintains a comprehensive program to preserve the liturgical traditions of our Church, and also publishes hymnals and sheet music for the Churches.

Further, the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America sponsors a program to train Choir directors, organists and Deacons.

10. Ecumenical Relations Department

Participation of Diocesan representatives in events, activities and organizations promoting worldwide Christian Unity and cooperation through means of conferences and seminars with members of other religious faiths, thereby assuring a continuous dialogue.

11. The Cathedral Museum

A formal museum is planned to exhibit the pre-eminent collection of items depicting the arts and traditions of Armenian culture and heritage.

STEWARDSHIP

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630 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

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I wish to be a Steward of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral and the Diocese
by my pledge of \$500.00.

Name _____ (Please Print)
Address _____ Phone (Business) _____
_____ (Home) _____

I enclose \$ _____ for my Stewards' pledge:

If there is a balance due it shall be sent by _____ (date)

Please send my Stewards' Lapel pin and inscribe the above name in the Stewards' register).