

November 18, 1986

The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor
St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Fr. Paren:

Serpazan Hayr asked me to send you the enclosed sample for the ordination of acolytes prepared by the St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, Wisconsin.

We are also sending to you, under separate cover, 15 copies of the publication "Acolyte's Training" prepared by the Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian.

Respectfully,

Sylvia Terzibashian
Secretary to the Primate

Enclosure

ORDINATION OF ACOLYTES

BY THE MOST REVEREND ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN,
OFFICIANT-

ASSISTED BY
REVEREND FATHER GARABED KOCHAKIAN

During this evenings ordination ceremonies, the Primate will confer the four minor clerical orders, Tbir in Armenian, upon:

Mark Bagdasarian
Kraig Krikorian
Francis Merzigian
Darrin Megridichian
Gary Pogharian

For the past year these young boys have studied all essential subjects in order to qualify for ordination. During this time, they have begun serving at the altar and have been performing all duties and responsibilities of an acolyte. Hereafter, each of these boys will carry the official title of "TBIR" by virtue of their ordination.

THE CEREMONY

After the Bishop makes entrance to the church, he shall stop at the door of the nave and the choir shall sing the sharagan to the Holy Translators, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob - "Vork Zartaretzin".

The bishop prays that God remove from them all taint of sin and he likewise asks that they be blessed with the heavenly gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Now the Bishop cuts off some hair from each boy's head in the shape of the cross. He then presents them with a broom.

With this broom he authorizes them to sweep the house of the Lord and to cleanse His temple at all times.

DOORKEEPER

Now the Bishop confers the first order, that of "Doorkeeper". He places the key to the Church in their hands...he prays...

"Be watchful and always pray when you open or close the doors of the church".

READER

The Bishop and aspirants now proceed to the center of the church while the choir sings

The second and third orders are conferred upon those presented to the Bishop.

First, the Book of Epistles is presented and the Bishop prays...

"Take these books and be relaters of God's word, instructing yourselves in them... This dignity implies duties which you are bound to fulfill".

EXORCIST:

Then the Book of Rituals "Mashdotz" is presented and the Bishop prays...

"I now give you authority to place your hands upon the afflicted and cause them to become whole of body, mind and soul by means of grace which you abundantly give".

Choir sings

ACOLYTE

Finally they proceed to the chancel rail and there the fourth order is granted to them and the Bishop prays...

Then a cruet is given...

"Take this cruet in order to pour the wine in the chalice for the Blood of Christ."

With this the ordination comes to a close. The "Tbirs" have become:

1. Doorkeeper
2. Reader
3. Exorcist
4. Acolyte

CONSECRATION OF ALTAR ICONS

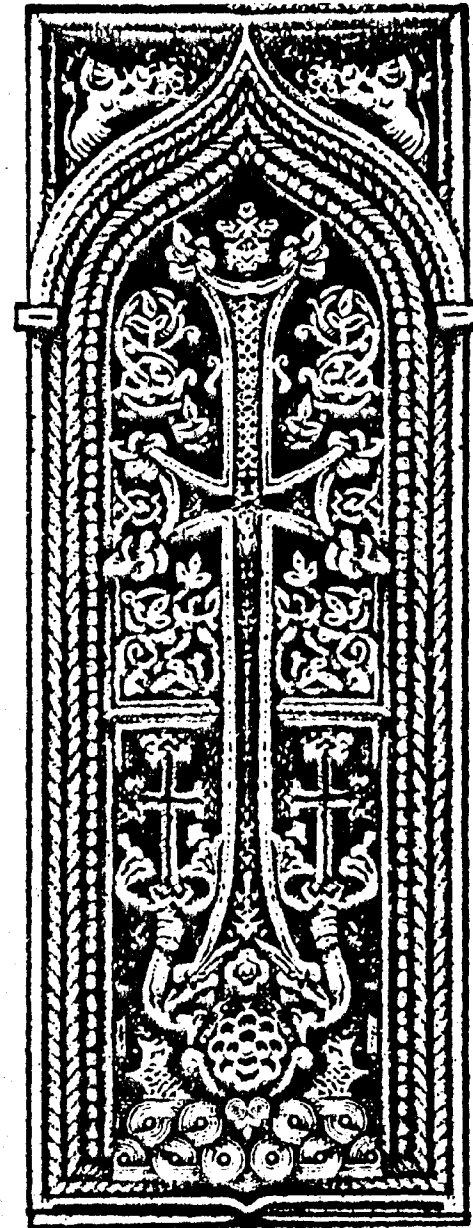
His Eminence, will now proceed to the main altar where he will anoint with Holy Myron (oil) the Icon of the Mother of God and the Icon of the Crucifixion. It is the canonical teaching of the Armenian Church that images used as part of worship must be consecrated with Holy Oil.

The parish of the Church of Our Saviour in gratitude offers their thanks again to the donors and artist for their generous acts of love and talent.

The Mother of God and Christ-donated by
Berjoohi Zakarian

The Crucifixion-donated by
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Arakelian

ARTIST - BRYAN DAVAGIAN



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1980