

Rep. 12/4/67
Luz...
H...
...
...

Armenian Apostolic Church
Binghamton, New York
April, 1957

The Most Reverend Archbishop Mampre Calfayan,
Primate of the Armenian Church in North America
630 Second Ave, New York

Dear Sirpazan Hyre,

The Armenian Apostolic Church in Binghamton, led by its Sunday School group, respectfully asks permission of Your Grace to use an unusual method of presentation of the Badarak to our congregation for the benefit, particularly, of the Sunday School members.

As Your Grace undoubtedly remembers, Binghamton has a small Church of 25 voting members, representing about 125 people, adults and children. We have no resident priest, and are active only through our Sunday School, which meets every Sunday, and through visiting clergy, at which visit we have the Badarak. Our Sunday School has some 45 people in regular attendance, of which eight are teachers. The age group is from three to seventy-three. Of this number, only two or three speak little or no English, while at least 24 of us, especially the younger members, speak no Armenian at all. There are possibly 6 or 7 people in the entire parish who have any understanding at all of the 'high' Armenian of the Badarak, and all of these people that I know speak English also. Of course, this has resulted in very few people realizing the inner meaning of the Badarak. Three of our Sunday School teachers, including myself, are not Armenian, but are married to Armenians. Another is the child of such a marriage.

However, our Sunday School has tried, successfully, I believe, to teach the general meaning of the Badarak, and to outline the different sections of it. Our congregation has studied and learned much of the music of the Badarak, with the exception of some of the solos, and, of course, the parts of the Priest and the Deacon. But now we have reached a point where it is difficult for us, untrained as we are, to proceed any further in presenting the Badarak in teaching sessions to our members.

What we would like, and feel we now need, is to have a Priest, preferably Hyre Soorp Semerjian, because of his excellent command of English, conduct one Badarak entirely in English, as a method of interpreting it to us. Since we are able to reach the larger part of our congregation only on Sunday, particularly the younger members whom we are striving to hold to the Church, we do request Your Grace's permission for this Service. It would follow a thorough rehearsal on the part of the Priest, Deacon and Choir. A full explanation of the reasons for this innovation would be given to the congregation previous to the time of the Celebration, and a further explanation could be included in the Sermon. It would be emphasized that this exception to the usual practice would not be expected by us to become a regular practice of the Church.

We have read this letter to our Sunday School membership and to other groups of the active Church, and we find that this action would cause no disagreement within the congregation, nor any criticism of us or, more particularly, of Your Grace. Indeed, we feel that ~~this~~ by deepening the understanding and appreciation of the inner meaning, the beauty of language and the magnificent procession of ideas in the Badarak, it would greatly increase the participation of our congreg-

ation in the Divine Mystery and would bring us all closer to the Church.
We will await your reply with great interest, confident that
Your Grace will give deep consideration and understanding to our
proposal, and that it will meet with your approval. Our entire
congregation joins with me in this request.

Most respectfully and Sincerely,

Carol S Bogdasarian (Schilders)
Carol Spahr Bogdasarian, Superintendent
of Sunday School.

Mary Levonik Hagopian - Sunday School Teacher Ladies Aid Pres.
Clara T. Bogdasarian - " " " " " "
Virginia Soghanian - " " " " " "
Alice Boyajian - " " " Ladies Aid
Julie Serajdarian - Sunday School and Ladies Aid
Lillian Makhsian - choir Director, - and Ladies Aid Pres.
Robert Bogdasarian, MD
John N. Bogdasarian
John Garabedian, MD - Trustee
Nishan Ketchoyan
Manoug Bogdasarian
Gary Manoukian
Agnes Bogdasarian
Rose Murkian
Leticia C. Garabedian and children (3)
Sally Garian
Haigouhi Kradjian - Ladies' Aid
Lara Kerman - Sunday School
(2 children)
Margaret Garabedian
Anedis Ohanian
Ovsanne Kradjian
Harry Kradjian
Arthur Kradjian