



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



December 6, 1993

Holy Trinity Armenian Church
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

It was with a heavy heart that we received the news of the passing of Deacon Menas Maloumian. On behalf of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, allow me to express my sincere condolences to the Holy Trinity parish and to Deacon Menas's loved ones.

Menas Maloumian was a rare individual who truly devoted his life to God and to the Armenian Church. The inspiration of his faith drove Menas to ever-greater heights of service to the Church; and this enthusiasm energized those around him to follow his example. He possessed a special love for the music of the Divine Liturgy, and he labored long and hard to improve not only his own parish choir, but choirs throughout this Diocese. Service to the altar of God brought out all that was best in Menas's character: his creativity, his sense of charity towards his fellow men, and a feeling of profound joy to be singing the praises of the Almighty.

Over the course of a lifetime as a leader of the Armenian community of Philadelphia, Menas saw times of great blessings as well as times of sadness and tragedy. He faced it all with the determination, grace and dignity of a true Armenian gentleman. Above all, nothing could ever divert him from his unwavering faith in Christ.

It was this unconquerable Armenian Christian spirit that was recognized by many pastors, seven Diocesan primates, and His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Menas Maloumian was a devoted servant of the altar, an energetic soldier for Christ, and a good and decent man. I know that he was greatly loved within your community. Through his enthusiastic and selfless dedication, Menas brought honor to our church and to our people. We are all the poorer for the loss of this true servant of Christ.

May God console you in this time, and give you strength and guidance in the days ahead.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

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TO: Holy Trinity Armenian Church

ATTENTION: Very Rev. Father Haigazoun Melkonian

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Attention: - V. Rev. Fr. Hrigazoun



DEACON MENAS MALOUMIAN

Menas Maloumian's name has been an integral part of the history of the Armenian Community in Philadelphia for over sixty years. Since 1928, Deacon Maloumian has served under seven different diocesan primates as Tbir, Choirmaster and Deacon.

Menas' involvement in the Armenian community has been a history of uninterrupted service and devotion to the church. During the most difficult times, times of war and of the political separation of the church, Menas was one of

those responsible for keeping the doors of the church open. For example, during the four years he lived in Cuba, Menas performed both weddings and funeral services for the Armenian faithful who were without the leadership of a pastor.

After arriving in Philadelphia in 1928, Menas chanced to visit the pastor of the then St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, who was without any assistance. Menas immediately offered his services as an aide and choirmaster. When Archbishop Chevont Tourian, then Primate, paid his first visit to Philadelphia, Deacon Menas was able to prepare his choir to perform the special hymns appropriate to the Divine Liturgy as celebrated by a bishop. This display so impressed His Eminence that he invited Menas and his choir members to sing in Washington, D.C.

In 1941, while traveling to New York and Boston to organize church choirs, Menas presented, for the first time, the idea of a national organization of church choirs. The idea finally reached its fruition in 1946 under the primacy of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

At the time of the division of the Armenian Church in America, Deacon Menas remained a faithful servant of the Holy Mother See of Etchmiadzin. And when the Philadelphia Armenian Community was forced to leave St. Gregory and purchase another church, Menas worked towards its purchase and personally designed its Holy Altar in ancient Armenian motifs. It was there, in that same Holy Altar of the Holy Trinity Church of North Philadelphia, that Menas was ordained to the sacred diaconate by Archbishop Mampre Kalfayian.

When the church was destroyed at the hands of an arsonist in 1964, Menas stood firm at the side of the pastor while the Divine Liturgy was celebrated and the Church School was conducted in a local chapel.

In 1966, when the Holy Trinity parish proudly built its present home in Cheltenham, Menas was again among the first to contribute his time, energy, and finances.

In 1973, Deacon Menas was honored by the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manougian with the St. Vartan Medal and award. The grateful parish dedicated its new altar in honor of Deacon Menas, and he serves in that altar to this day.

Deacon Maloumian has been blessed with a loving family, many friends and a very grateful community. On this occasion he will receive the 'St. Nerses the Graceful' medal and pontifical encyclical from His Holiness Lord Lord Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.