Diocese

CHURCH CHOIR OF St. Gregory's Armenian Church
Binghamton, N.Y.

Our Choir of sixteen voices has sung to fifteen Badaraks to date this year. (One of which was the Saturday night Jurakalooyce Xmas Eve,1968)

Parts of the Badarak are taught in the early part of the Sunday School Session each Sunday -- a practice which has worked out very well, enabling the adults as well as the younger children to learn at the same time. With the young people so occupied in their daily lives, it is almost impossible to schedule weekly rehearsals for them. Because of this with both children and adults learning, we have become a singing congregation, which is as it should be.

I, as Choir Director, am especially proud of our young boys, some growing into manhood, who have been most loyal. As these children grow up, this part of their life will always remain with them—to take wherever they go. One doesn't forget what he has learned well in childhood. Our girls are growing up and in a year or so will begin to contribute much to the Choir.

Special rehearsals, of course, are held for soloists, or for learning special songs, as the Lenten Service, etc. We have come to the point now where the young people are learning the variables and certain melodies that I was hesitant to try teaching them previously.

It has been a good year with them--we should be proud of them. I especially found out myself one Sunday morning at Badarak when I had no adult voices. They came through with flying colors and enjoyed every bit of it!

We are fortunate in having Pauline House to alternate with Carol Bogdasarian on the organ. Vartkes Baboghlian has been most helpful for solos throughout the year whenever he has been in town.

I am glad to say that the time has come to announce that we need more Choir Robes. We hope we can purchase the cut-out kits again to have them made up. Nevertheless we will look into it.

Looking forward to another good year,

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian B. Mahakian

Lillian B. Mahakian,
Choir Director

January 26, 1969