

August 8, 1983

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Dear [d]n:

We appeal to you because of your proven spirit of giving within the Armenian Community and your support of the Armenian Church which nurtures the Armenian Faith, its heritage and its culture within our people.

St. Vartan Cathedral, joyously celebrating its 15th year, and the Diocese are requesting the Stewardship of a select group of committed people such as you who have been dedicated to the programs and services provided by these two important institutions. A major aim of our St. Vartan Cathedral and the Diocese is to maintain for future generations what has been preserved through the suffering and sacrifice of our people up to the present time.

Your service as a Steward allows you to practice the systematic and proportionate giving of your talent, time and material possessions back to God, the giver of all good.

Many of you have already served in the capacity of a Steward by your generous pledge each year to the Archbishop's Pacesetter Fund originally organized in 1978 as the Pacesetters' Committee. Because we understand that there are ever-increasing demands put upon you for donations in both the Armenian and non-Armenian communities, we ask that you make a minimum Stewardship donation of \$1,000.00 for 1983 which will allow us to continue and hopefully improve our present service to the Armenian Community in the Eastern Diocese.

In recent years the Diocesan programs have blossomed and grown by leaps and bound to an extent that was unimaginable a short 15 years ago, when St. Vartan Cathedral was consecrated. Today, our departments of Religious Education and Armenian Language are producing outstanding teaching materials and books; in fact, an entire curricula for our young is being written now. Our youth-oriented programs need tremendous financial resources to help guarantee that a young Armenian will have the Church and Armenian heritage presented to him in a way that can realistically compete with what today's society offers. We have revitalized our efforts in both our publications and public relations, reaching out to thousands of Armenians, and to the American media, which must hear about and be familiar with the Armenian Church and its people. Our St. Vartan Camp program is just beginning to flourish and provide for the needs of our young children. We also provide programs for our senior citizens through the Social Services Department. With all this, there is still so much more to be done.

We have enclosed a special cross, which is designed with the three Armenian words: Faith (Havak), Love (Ser), and Hope (Hooys). These three words mean so much to us all, as do the Armenian letters created by St. Sahag and St. Mesrob which are used to write the words, and the Cross itself, a sign of the victory of our Lord. This cross and all that it means is our gift to you, for your past support. With your participation as a Steward, we hope to be able to give all for which this Cross stands, to our children and the generations to come.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Avakian Stoneson
Executive Director

P.S. In the near future you will also receive a copy of our Second Annual St. Vartan Cathedral Appeal letter, which is being distributed to our entire mailing list throughout the country, to keep you informed of our additional efforts to raise funds.

Enclosure
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