

December 22, 1980

Mr. Albert Amato
522 Niagara Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14303

Dear Albert:

We hope this letter finds you in good health; we appreciate deeply your spirit of concern and dedication to the faithful congregation of our Church and approve of your efforts to serve them as best you can. In answer to the question you raised with regard to your ecclesiastical status as a Tbir of the Armenian Church, we wish to inform you of those acts which you may and may not undertake.

You may lead the choir and congregation in performing such Church services as do not contain any sacrament. You are not permitted to celebrate any sacrament whatsoever, nor are you permitted to give any blessing.

You may perform Sunday services per our previous stipulations and instructions, as well as those services noted above (morning service, evening service, etc.)

You are permitted to visit the sick in hospitals or at home, and to make visits to families, in the name of the Church. You may prepare Nushkar yourself and bring it to the sick or to families.

The packet of materials as outlined in your letter of October 15, is a worthy and useful endeavor which we fully approve.

At a funeral wake you may lead and sing those songs which are performed by the choir at the funeral service, as well as the "Hayr Mer" (Our Father), the latter being permissible for all occasions. In addition, you may chant the deacon's words which appear on the tope of page 55 of the "Badarakamadytz (The Divine Liturgy in blue binding, New York, 1969), as follows:

Mr. Albert Amato

December 15, 1980

(In Armenian) Yev yevus khaghaghutyan usDer aghachestsook:
Vasn hankootzyal hokvotzn aghachestzook uz-
Pergichn mer Krisdos, zi uznosa unt artarsn
tasetze yev uzmez getzootze shnorhiv voghor-
mootyan yuro: Amenagal Der Asdvadz mer, getzo
yev voghormyal

(In English) Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.
For the souls of them that are at rest, let us
beseech Christ our Savior, that He may reckon
them with the just and may save us by the grace
of His mercy. Almighty Lord our God, save us
and have mercy.

During home visits, it is suggested that you recite the "Hayr Mer".
In addition, a stanza of the prayer "Havadov Khosdovanim" (I confess in
faith) by St. Nersess Shnorhami may be said. This stanza, beginning
with the words "Bahaban amenayni Krisdos [Christ, guardian of all] may
be recited. This excerpt may be found in the Jerusalem, 1975 edition of
the "Zhamakirk" on page 552. The text and translation are as follows:

(In Armenian) Bahaban amenayni Krisdos, ach ko hovani litzi i
vera im i deve yev i kisher, i nsdil i dan, i
kna1 janabarh, i nnchel yev i harnel, zi mi yerpek
sasanzaytz. Yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev intz
paznameghis.

(In English) Christ, guardian of all, may your right hand shelter
me by day and by night, when I sit at home and when
I journey on the road, when I sleep and when I
rise, that I may never waver. And have mercy upon
your creatures and upon me, the sinful one.

During visits to the sick, you may recite "Hayr Mer" and the litany
on page 283 of the "Jamakirk" cited above.

(In Armenian) Vasn hivantatz yev amenayn vshtatzelotz aghachestzook
uzPergichn mer Krisdos, zi voghormestzi ust medzi
voghormootyan ~~yev yev pzhshg~~ zakhtz yev uz-
hivantootyoons hokvotz yev marmnotz dzarrayitz ~~gurotz,~~
yev gadaryal arrohchutyamp hasustze zamenesyan i
mshtnchenavor yev hanakht gyans. Vor arraketzav i
Horeh i pzhshgootyoon azki martgan, miadzin vortin
Asdoodzo, Der mer yev Pergich Hisoos Krisdos getzo
yev voghormya.

Mr. Albert Amata

December 15, 1980

(In English) We beseech of our Savior Jesus Christ on behalf of the sick and of all who are grieving, that He be merciful unto them according to His great mercy, and that he cure the illnesses and diseases of soul and body of His servants, and that He deliver all to eternal and unblemished life in complete health. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you who were sent from the Father for the healing of mankind, O Single Begotten Son of God, save us and have mercy.

We trust that the above will be of use to you, and pray that in this season of the Holy Nativity of Our Lord, He grant you peace, health, joy and the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

st

a Tbir

11th December, 1980.

Mr. Albert R. Amato, etc.

Dear Albert,

We hope this letter finds you in good health; we appreciate deeply your spirit of concern and dedication to the faithful congregation of our Church and approve of your efforts to serve them as best you can. In answer to the question you raised with regard to your ecclesiastical status as an acolyte of the Armenian Church, we wish to inform you of those acts which you may and may not undertake.

You may lead the choir and congregation in performing such Church services as do not contain any sacrament. You are not permitted to celebrate any sacrament whatsoever, nor are you permitted to give any blessing.

You may perform Sunday services per our previous stipulations and instructions, as well as those services noted above (morning service, evening service et al.).

You are permitted to visit the sick in hospitals or at home, and to make visits to families, in the name of the Church. You may prepare nushkhar yourself and bring it to the sick or to families.

The packet of materials as outlined in your letter of 15th October is a worthy and useful endeavor which we fully approve.

At a funeral wake you may lead and sing those songs which are performed by the choir at the funeral service, as well as the Hayr Mer ('Our Father'), the latter being permissible for all occasions. In addition you may chant the deacon's words which appear on the top of Page 55 of the Badarakamaduyts (the Divine Liturgy in blue binding, New York, 1969), as follows:

(in Armenian) Yev yevus khaghaghutyan uzDer aghachestsuk:
Vasn hankutsyal hokvotsn aghachestsuk uzPergichn mer Krisdos,
zi uznosa unt artarsn tasestse yev uzmez getsustse shnorhiv
voghormutyan yuro: Amenagal Der Asdvadz mer, getso yev voghormyal

(in English:) Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.
For the souls of them that are at rest, let us beseech Christ
our Saviour, that He may reckon them with the just and may save us
by the grace of His mercy. Almighty Lord our God, save us and have
mercy.

During home visits, it is suggested that you recite the Hayr Mer. In addition, a stanza of the prayer Havadov khosdovanim ('I confess in faith') by St. Nerses Shorhali may be said. This stanza, beginning with the words Bahapan amenayni Krisdos ('Christ, guardian of all') may be recited. This excerpt may be found in the Jerusalem, 1975 edition of the Zhamakirk on Pages 552-553. The text and translation are as follows:

(in Armenian:) Pahapan amenayni Krisdos, ach ko hovani litsi i vera im i
deve yev i kisheri, i nsdil i dan, i knal i janaparh, i nnchel yev i
harnel, zi mi yerpek sasanetsayts. Vev voghormyam ko araradzots yev ints
pazmameghis.

(in English:) Christ, guardian of all, may your right hand shelter me
by day and by night, when I sit at home and when I journey on the road,
when I sleep and when I rise, that I may never ~~hesitate~~ waver. And have
mercy upon your creatures and upon me, the sinful one.

During visits to the sick, you may recite Hayr Mer and the litany on
Page 283 of the Jamakirk cited above:



pro música & arts

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Honorary Chairman

Panel

Anahid Ajemian
Maro Ajemian
Lucine Amara
Kay Armen
Sahan Arzruni
Lili Chookasian
Leon Danielian
Alan Hovhanness
Rouben Ter-Arutunian
Berj Zamkochian
Harry Zaratzian

Executive Committee

E. George Dabagian
chairman

Alice Kavookjian
Eleanora Ordjanian
Ned Parsekian
vice chairmen

George Philibosian
treasurer

Edward G. Bashian
assistant treasurer

Helen Baronian
secretary

George Avakian
Pauline Babakian
Alex Dadourian
Vay Najarian
Flora Sarkisian
John Tembeck

(in Armenian:) Vasn hivantats yev amenayn vshtatselots aghachestsuk
uzPergichn mer Krisdos, zi voghormesti ust medzi voghormutyan
yurum yev pzhshgestse zakhts yev uzhivantutyuns hokvots yev marmnots
dzarrayits yurots, yev gadaryal arrohchutyamp hasustse zamenesyan i
mshtnchenavor yev hanakht k gyans. Vor arraketsav i Horeh i pzhshgutyun
azki martgan, miadzin vortin Astudzo, Der mer yev Pergich Hisus Krisdos
getso yev voghormya.

(In English:) We beseech of our Savior Jesus Christ on behalf of the
sick and of all who are grieving, that He be merciful unto them according
to His great mercy, and that he cure the illnesses and diseases of
soul and body of His servants, and that He deliver all to eternal and
unblemished life in complete health. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
you who were sent from the Father for the healing of mankind, O Single
Begotten Son of God, save us and have mercy.

We trust that the above will be of use to you, and pray that in
this season of the Holy Nativity of our Lord, He grant you peace, health,
joy and the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully,

ATM

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pro música & arts

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

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Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church



300 9th STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14303
Phone: 282-2587

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October 15, 1980

Qerashnorh
Der Torkom Arkepiscopos Manoogian
Arachnort Hayasdanyatz Yegeghetzvo
Hioosisayin Amerigayi Temin
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Srbazan Hayr;

I am writing to remind you of our conversation while you were here, in which Your Eminence told me that you would inform me by letter of any and all liturgical functions and prayers I may perform as 'Tbir' in the absence of a Priest. In the daily life of our Parish, I wish to do as much as is possible to fill the void created by the departure of Der Hayr. I understand that I, with others may do the 'Sunday Worship Service' as outlined by Your Eminence. I am more concerned with a prayer or prayers from the Mashdotz or other sources that I may officially say as Tbir and as representative of the Parish on such occasions as visiting the sick in the hospital or at home, or when visiting homes, or at a funeral wake (until the priest arrives which sometimes takes several days), or at the grave of deceased. I think it would be in the best interest of the Parish if I can do these things in the absence of a Priest for if no one is here on a daily basis the people will turn to other Churches or lose their desire to have these things all together. At the same time if I go with another member to visit some of these 600 families, I want to be able to pray with them an Armenian prayer. In regard to those families I also wonder if I could bring 'Nushkar' to them? If I can bring it to them, can I make it or must a Priest? I am going to prepare packets which will contain 'Jashagetzook', 'HayrMer', a few pamphlets explaining the Armenian Church, and whatever other small items I think appropriate which will all be obtained from the Diocesan Bookstore. I will leave these packets in each Armenian home I visit along with names and addresses for the Parish, Diocese, A.G.B.U. etc. Hopefully this will form a link to these families who we have lost touch with or never even known.

Therefore, Srbazan Hayr, I await your instruction, if you send me Prayers from the Mashdotz, please give the page number and if possible, a translation for the sake of those unfamiliar with the language. For myself I will be happy to study and memorize the Armenian directly from the Mashdotz so that I may properly read it to those who would thus benefit.

I express my gratitude to you for finding me worthy to be granted the rank of Tbir, and I again assure you of our continued prayers for Your Eminence and the Diocese and ask a small prayer for ourselves here at St. Sarkis Parish.

Madchim Ee Hampooyr Tzer Adjooyn

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Albert R. Amato

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

300 9th STREET
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Phone: 282-2587



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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

October 26, 1980

The Parish Council held this monthly meeting in the Church Hall after morning Services, Sunday, October 26, at 12:00 noon.

Present: Arsen Avdoian Margaret Avdoian Sema Tarpinian
 Helen Flinchum Albert Amato Deborah Amato

Secretary's Report: Margaret Avdoian read previous month's minutes. After a correction quoting a price of \$25.00 a week for retaining Frank Giancola as organist, the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the absence of the Treasurer, Shahan Bedrosian, a motion was made and passed to wave the monthly Treasurer's report until the next meeting.

Badarak Dates: We have not heard from the Diocese as to what dates are available for a visiting Priest to come to perform the Badarak in our Parish. Albert Amato wanted to telephone the Diocese but since Shahan wasn't present and he was to call we will wait for Shahan's report.

Christmas Dance: Sema suggested that the Ladies Guild chair the Christmas Dance but the Chairman, Arsen Avdoian, said the Parish Council needs the funds right now more than the Ladies Guild but that it would be a good idea to ask them for their help in food preparation and decoration of the Hall.

Parables: Discussion was had about the reading of the Parables and having a coffee hour after Church for members to discuss their understanding of the reading. Since we have already started a Morning Service program under Albert Amato's guidance, we will have to give some time and effort into implementing this Parable discussion and Coffee Hour.

Church Ad: Sema Tarpinian suggested that we take an ad in the Syrian Orthodox Church dedication booklet. After discussion, it was decided that each member voluntarily contribute \$6.00 for a total of \$60.00 to buy an ad.

Sunday School: Sema Tarpinian made a motion that a \$200.00 Sunday School account be established by Nov. 1, 1980. This fund should have the signature of two people, one from the Sunday School staff and one from the Parish Council. To date Deborah Amato has been using her own funds and has not been reimbursed. Helen Flinchum seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Parish Moderator: Helen Flinchum made a motion that Albert Amato be paid a wage of \$100.00 a week by St. Sarkis Church for services rendered and in the absence of a Priest, for a six month period beginning November 1, 1980 after which time an evaluation will be made and a continuation of the position re-voted on. She further added that his duties would be as laid out in a 'job description' approved by the Parish Council.

Parish Moderator cont.

This motion was seconded by Sema Tarpinian, voted upon and passed unanimously.

It was requested that a note be made to the day's minutes stating that:

All Parish Council members were informed of this meeting.

No other business being presented the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Arsen Avdoian.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Avdoian
Margaret Avdoian, Secretary

Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

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Job Description -- Parish Moderator

Salary -- \$100.00 per week

Clerical - Moderator Duties

- Establish regular office hours
ex. Mon., Wed., Thurs. -- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Revise, update, maintain all office records, files and correspondence.
- Continue to write, edit, mail the monthly Church Newsletter
- Maintain Church mailing list.
- Once each week visit Hospitals, nursing homes, etc.
- Begin to visit, in the name of the Parish, the homes of the over 600 families on the mailing list. (These visits will be with another parishioner, more fluent in Armenian than myself.)
- Make plans and organize efforts to bring Cultural events such as the A.G.B.U. Antranig Dance Troupe, Father Oshagan's Choral Group, the Diocesan Drama Group, etc. to our area.
- Give a maximum effort to organizing and establishing BINGO (at a location outside the Church).
- Maintain regular contact and cooperation with the Diocesan Offices and facilities.
- Coordinate all efforts of the organizations of the Parish and foster cooperation among them.
- To maintain and/or establish -- Youth Groups, Young Adult Group, Armenian Language School, Sunday School, etc.
- To organize various programs such as: Lenten Bible Study, Christmas Program, Christmas Caroling, a Service in a Church in Buffalo to draw the Armenians of that area into our sphere of influence, Youth Retreat, Prayer Services, etc.

Liturgical, Sacerdotal Duties

Rank of TBIR - Duties performed as approved and designated by the Primate.

- Sunday Morning Service - to lead it with the participation of other Tbirds, organist, etc.
- When visiting hospital, nursing home, or the home of a family - to say prayers permitted by the Primate and to offer words of spiritual encouragement to the people.

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Job Description -- Parish Moderator cont.

- To offer prescribed Prayers and perform any other Liturgical Service the Primate permits. ex. - prayer at a graveside visit, Evening Service, prayers at a wake (until such time as the Priest arrives.)
 - To perform any other spiritual or liturgical duties the Primate sees fit to assign.
-
- To do any other duties assigned by the Parish Council.
 - This position shall be for a six month period beginning November 1, 1980. After six months a review by Parish Council and the Moderator. If agreeable, the position will be maintained and continued. If not the job will cease at that time.