

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RANK OF SUBDEACON

PREREQUISITES

Minimum age of 15 years old.

Written recommendation from the pastor to the Primate, sent a minimum of 4 months prior to proposed ordination date.

Previously been granted the four minor orders of *Tbrutyun*.

CENSING

Basic knowledge of the reason for the use of incense.

Knowledge of the patterns of incensing during Night and Morning Services, Divine Liturgy and Requiem.

CHANTING

Able to chant (using Armenian text or transliteration):

Night Service: *Der zi pazoom* (8 verses), *Hishestsook*, *Zartootsyalks*, *Aravod Loosoh*, four litanies after the *Orhnootyoon* sharagan (according to tone of the day).

Morning Service: *Oorakh yeghak*, *Orhnyal es Der Asdvadz* (2 verses), *Yegyalks*, *Medzatsootseh* (2 verses), *Voghormya* (2 verses), *Yergurbakemk*, *Asastsook*, *Vasn lseli*, *Khuntrestook*.

DIVINE LITURGY

Able to vest the celebrant priest.

Able to sing the all of the litanies of the Divine Liturgy, alone or with other altar servers.

Memorize: pre-gospel responses, litanies of the preparation part of the Divine Liturgy (*Soorp zAsdvadzadin* thru *Orhnestsook zamenagaln*), and from the Requiem: *Vasn hankootsyal*.

Basic knowledge of the biblical origin of the Divine Liturgy, its theology and outline of the service.

PIETY

Regularly attends Sunday morning service and Divine Liturgy. Demonstrates a prayerful, reverent attitude and has a desire to learn the services of the Armenian Church. Eagerly responds to pastor's request to assist in care of the altar and sanctuary. Participates in special services on other days of the week, such as Lenten and festal days.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RANK OF DEACON

PREREQUISITES

Minimum age of 18 years old.

Written recommendation from the pastor to the Primate, sent a minimum of 4 months prior to proposed ordination date.

Previously been granted the rank of Subdeacon.

CENSING AND CHANTING

Knowledge of the pattern of incensing during funerals.

Ability to read Armenian.

Able to chant: *Yughaperits* litanies, *Mayr Soorp*, the psalms (2 verses) and litanies of the Sunrise Service, Evening Service, Peace Service and Rest Service.

DIVINE LITURGY

Able to read the absolution to the celebrant *Voghormestsi*, chant the Nicene Creed.

Memorize for the Transfer of the Gifts (*Veraperum*): first few verses of Psalm 50 *Voghormya ints*, verses recited to the north, east and south, and *Hampartsek iskhank*.

Familiar with the deacon's role in the Gospel Procession and the Transfer of Gifts.

Able to chant the gospel in Armenian.

SACRAMENTS

Able to chant: the litanies of the sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, Wedding, Funeral.

Able to chant with the priest the *sharagans* of Baptism, Chrismation, Wedding, Funeral.

Basic knowledge of the biblical origin of the sacraments of Baptism, Wedding and Funeral, their theology and outline of the service.

PIETY

Regularly attends Sunday morning service and Divine Liturgy. Demonstrates a prayerful, reverent attitude and has a desire to deepen knowledge of the services of the Armenian Church.

Eagerly responds to pastor's request to assist in care of the altar and sanctuary. Is an exemplary member of the parish and serves as a mentor to younger, lower ranking altar servers.

NOTE

The above are the basic requirements for ordination to the diaconate. Candidates should realize that with ordination they are receiving the first of the major orders and thus must commit themselves to on-going learning of the *sharagans* of major feast days, *ganonaklookhs*, Holy Week services, and other special services like the Blessing of Water, Blessing of Grapes, *Antasdan*, etc.