



Մբ. Յակոբ Հայց. Եկեղեցի Saint Hagop Armenian Church

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November 16, 2017

Dear <first name merge field>,

We are writing to invite your participation in our 2018 stewardship campaign. Your ongoing commitment to establish St. Hagop as the bedrock of our southwest Florida community, dedicated to preserving Armenian Christian faith and culture, rose to a crescendo during 2017 and we pray your service as a steward in our beloved church will continue.

For starters, this past year we hosted the 117th Diocesan Convention and celebrated decennial anniversaries of our pastor's 10-year ordination anniversary and our church building's consecration. Beyond that, we established our church hall as both a place for our fellowship and venue available to our larger community, making it a profit center for St. Hagop and a valued local resource.

For the first time, we employed support staff. We also expanded our programs, inclusive of numerous Armenian culture events - ranging from a bazaar, to memorial, dance, holiday, and classical music events – celebrated Feast holidays and gathered together to commemorate many church family milestones: baptisms, engagement ceremonies, weddings, funerals, and requiem services, to name a few.

In sum, our burgeoning church community has matured and is evolving into the vision Armenians pray to attain. The parish is thriving and, with God's help and the congregation's continued dedication, poised to further evolve! *Park kez Der, Asdvadz mer.* Glory to you, O Lord our God!

Our work to serve our Lord, take on new, more expansive ministries, and continue the mission our forefathers began over 1700 years ago – when Armenia became the first Christian nation – endures and rests on our shoulders. With your continued faith and commitment, St. Hagop will continue to fulfill its mission.

Enclosed are two documents: your pledge card for 2018, and a copy of frequently asked questions pertaining to St. Hagop's stewardship and pledge system. Of course, please contact us if you have any further questions.

Pledge Sunday, the ceremonial day designated to submit our pledges, is November 26, 2017. You can submit your pledge card during Badarak on that day. Or, if more convenient, submit your pledge card via regular mail or online, through our web site.

While making your 2018 pledge, we encourage you to reflect on 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Yours in Christ, Our Savior,

Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D.
Stewardship Chairman

Der Hovnan Demerjian
Pastor, St. Hagop Armenian Church

Enclosure