



**DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA**  
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

February 20, 1995

TO: The Reverend Clergy and Parish Council Chairmen

Recently, the question of whether laymen may deliver eulogies at funeral services has been brought to our attention.

The previous Primates of our Diocese have sent clear directives to the Reverend Clergy and Parish Council Chairmen with regard to this question.

During funeral services, only clergymen are allowed to deliver eulogies in the churches, and offer to the mourners comforting words of consolation that are based upon our Christian faith.

Laymen are allowed to present their condolences or express their feelings about the deceased during the memorial meal (Hokejash) or at other gatherings.

We convey this for implementation.

With prayers,

*+ Archbishop Khajag Barsamian*

Primate