SACRAMENT OF ORDINATION

There are five minor orders

*TBIR-Clerk*

The first four levels allow you to be called a tbir . They wear a shahbeeg and can hold a mohm, sing in the choir or read the Lections during the service.

OORAR AGIR- Stole Bearer

Has the rights of the first four and can serve on the altar and do the censing.

*GEESAH SARGAHVAHK – Sub Deacon*

The geesah sargahvahk is the fifth order and helps in vesting the Priest before the Badarak begins. They wear a shahbeeg and an oorar. They read from the Gospel, carry the empty chalice and do the censing or hold the kshots during the service.

*SARVAGVAHK- Deacon*

The sargahvak holds the sixth level which is the first of the Major Orders. He assists the Priest during Badarak and all services. He brings the chalice/nushkhar to the Priest in preparing Communion. They wear a shahbeeg and wear an oorar.

*KAHANAH-married Priest/HAYR SOORP-not married Priest*

A candidate for the clergy will choose whether they want to be an ordained or a married priest. He leads the Badarak and performs the (Khorhoortner)Sacraments (Chrismation, Baptism, Penance, Communion, Marriage and Last Blessing). He wears vestments and hold a (dzerkee khach)hand cross for blessings. The unmarried priest wears a mitre(veghar) during church services. The Hayr Soorp may hold a Kahvahzan as he gives the sermon. He works with church organizations and leads the youth.

*SURPAZAHN-Bishop or Archbishop*

A surpazan is the leader of the priests in the Diocese. He is chosen from the rank of Hayr Soorps. He ordains deacons and priests. He helps plan the programs for the Diocese. He uses the kahvahzahn when he delivers a sermon. He wears vestments and a black mitre(veghar) on his head during church services. He performs all Sacraments. He ordains, priests, deacons, subdeacons and clerks. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian is the Surpazan of the Western Diocese( which includes churches in California, Nevad, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Mexico.

*VEHAPAR-CATHOLICOS – Universal Bishop*

The Vehapar/Catholicos is the leader of all the Bishops. He is elected by delegates from around the world that are either priests or representatives from each Diocese. He is elected to serve for the rest of his life. He leads the Supreme Council of Bishops. He ordains all levels and also Bishops. He organizes and leads all Armenians in their Christian Faith. The Vehapar wears a black mitre(veghar) with a diamond cross on it. The Catholicos of All Armenians is His Holiness Karekin II. He lives and works in Echmiadzin, Armenia.

**VOCABULARY**

 Shah-beeg – shirt

Mohm – candle

Tbeer – clerk

Gee-sah sar-gah-vahk – Sub Deacon

Sar-gah-vahk – Deacon

Mu-rohn – Holy Oil

Poor-var – censor

Ksh-ohts – Shaker

 Kah-hah-nah/Der Hayr – Married priest

Hayr Soorp – Unmarried priest

Dser-kee khahch – Hand Cross

Khor-hoort-ner – Sacraments

Veh-ghar – Headpiece of unmarried priest

Kah-vah-zahn – Staff for unmarried priest, bishop

Sur-pah-zahn – Bishop

Cath-oh-li-cos/Veh-hah-par – Chief bishop