



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
New York & New England  
Church of Archangel Michael & St. Mena  
4095 Amboy Road, S.I., NY 10308  
[www.MichaelMenaSI.com](http://www.MichaelMenaSI.com)**



## Requirements to ordinate a **READER (ANAGHNOTIS)**



**Age:** Completed 16 Yrs. of age. From the Age of 14 to 15 he will undergo Pre-servants training one-year program, and will assist in a Sunday School class, but not be given the right to teach lessons. From the age of 15 to 16 he may, under the supervision of an older experienced servant, give a Sunday School lesson which has been reviewed and approved by an older experienced servant. At the age of 16, and accompanied by another Sunday School servant, he may start to give Sunday School lessons.

Starting his service at the age of 16, at which time he will be ordained as reader, will give him the chance to become well versed in the service before becoming increasingly occupied with college class responsibilities starting at the age of 18.

**Achievements:** Maintained a good grade point average in school and takes Part in church youth activities including hymn class, bible study and church retreats. Must be proficient in the Coptic language, reading responses as well as altar responses. Must have also read the complete New Testament and be proficient in the knowledge basic Church Doctrines and writing of The Fathers of the Church as they pertain to those doctrines including but not limited to St. Athanasius the Apostolic, St. Cyril the Pillar of Faith and St. John Chrysostom. Must be able to read loudly, clearly and slowly.

**Behavior:** Maintains appropriate good behavior and conduct, becoming of an official servant of the church. Shows reverence and respect at church during services and other functions. His life and service responsibilities, displaying an appropriate level of maturity, are reflected in his secular life, not just his spiritual. Does not partake of actions in his secular life that are contradictory to his spiritual life or church position.

**Spirituality:** Attends church services regularly and maintains a close relationship with his father of confession. Maintains a schedule of prayer, Bible reading and fasting, Supervised by his spiritual father of confession and which is foundational to his spiritual growth.

**Father of Confession:** His father of confession and parish priest must attest and submit to the diocesan bishop a written letter nominating him for the rank of reader. They shall explain to him the respect and obligation required of him for such a rank and the spiritual meaning and responsibility of tonsuring.

**Knowledge of Church Tradition:** Must be a consistent and proficient reader of the Holy Bible and Biblical commentary on scripture according to the writings of the Church Fathers.

**Service:** Must maintain regular church service attendance and participate in church event and retreat preparation and organization. Must assist his younger brothers and sisters in the church with any needs they may have and with their organization during church services as well as assist the sub deacon with any requests they may have.

