

The "Mini" Byzantine ECHO

The Electronic Newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As the Nativity of our Lord approaches, I pray that you and your loved ones will experience a joyful feast day. The season continues with the Feasts of St. Basil, Theophany, and St. John, significant Orthodox holy days for us. I hope the coming year brings good health, love and peace for all and to our troubled world.

CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

With Love in Christ, Irene Georgantas

2010-11 STEWARDSHIP IS DUE

At the start of every ecclesiastical year, parishes in the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises are asked to become a Federation steward. This stewardship entitles ALL the parish's church musicians to Federation services, materials, scholarships, and election as officers. If your parish has not sent it yet, please mail the form on the next page with your parish's stewardship donation to Peter Vatsures, Treasurer, 68 West Cooke Road, Columbus, OH 43214. *Only one form and check per parish, please!*

THANK YOU! We appreciate the contributions of the parishes that have already made their Stewardship Contribution for 2010-2011 – please see page 3. Also, please see page 3 for a listing of those parishes that were stewards last year, for 2009-2010.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

In this issue, we highlight two MEFGOX's parishes that presented Christmas programs in early December.

HOLY TRINITY, TOLEDO:

On December 3rd, the Cathedral's Liturgical Choir joined the Michael J. Owens Community College Chorale and a string, woodwind, piano and harpsichord ensemble from the Toledo School of the Arts to present a 90-minute Christmas concert. Jo-Anne Chrysochos, Holy Trinity's choir director and adjunct professor of music at Owens



Community College, shared the conductor's podium with Jodi Jobuck, OCC professor of music. Rev. Fr. Aristotle Damaskos, Cathedral Proistamenos and one of the 44 singers, greeted the 300 guests who filled the 91-year old Byzantine church. The Choir opened with the 6th c. hymn, "I Parthenos Simeron" by St. Romanos, as arranged by Chris J. Zervos. Vocal solos and duets were performed by OCC students. The remainder of the program included Winter Song, I Wonder as I Wander, Christmas Bells (by Chris J. Zervos), O Holy Night, a Christmas sing-along of Joy to the World and O Come All Ye Faithful, and 17 selections from Handel's Messiah. Following the concert, Philoptochos offered Greek canapés and pastries at a reception. The event was well received and raised about \$1400 for the Cathedral's capital improvement fund.

HOLY TRINITY, CARMEL

The Holy Trinity Choir presented a sold-out, first-ever Madrigal Dinner for 224 parishioners and many other community members on Saturday, December 4th. Fully costumed, the choir members treated the diners to an original medieval play about the King's Court and his adventures with "Chef Simon." A Brass



Ensemble from Butler University announced each act of the performance. Choral numbers included O Gladsome Light, the Wassail Song, Christmas carols, and the Boar's Head Carol, which preceded the entry of a real boar's head! Accompanied by the Octavo String Ensemble, the choir demanded "figgy pudding" to the tune of We Wish You a Merry Christmas, and trays of it arrived flaming in a procession of waiters! The dinner closed with a rendition of My Friends We Now Must Leave Thee. The dinner was conceived, coordinated, and directed by Bill Christoff, Choir Director. Many parishioners also volunteered to make this successful food-wise, musically, and as a fundraiser for the choir program. There are already plans for a repeat performance next year! For more pictures and video clips, see: www.theindyrealdeal.com/pb/wp_0c0308ec/wp_0c0308ec.html.



THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION AND CMI!

This year's Convention will be hosted by St. Nicholas on *Ann Arbor*, MI. Save the dates: July 14-17th. Convention Chairperson Niki Wardner, Choir Director Jon Wardner, Father Nicolas Kotsis, and all the choir members and parishioners are planning a great weekend for us!

🎵 CONVENTION MUSIC 🎵

The Convention Choir will debut *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: A Choral Setting in English and Greek for Accompanied Mixed Choir* © 2007 by Chris J. Zervos.

\$20—1 coil-bound copy (plus postage)

\$12—1 digitally produced CD recording

Special rates for group purchases of 15+

To order: chrisjzervos@aol.com or 419-705-0561

GUEST DIRECTOR

This year's Guest Director will be Evey Simon, who is the choir director at St. Nicholas Church in Troy MI. She also teaches high school music and directs the performance choir. Evey has taught at our CMI's, and has been a Guest Director at two of our previous Conventions, including her stellar leadership of the Clergy-Laity Congress Choir in Nashville. She has also been invited to be Guest Director and CMI instructor by three other Federations. Evey currently serves as MEFGOX's Youth Music Coordinator for the Detroit Metropolis.

Parish Stewardship Form

September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011

The Mid-Eastern Federation (MEFGOX) supports itself and its ministries through the Stewardship of its parish church musicians. **Your stewardship is essential to that support.** No minimum or maximum amounts are required. Your stewardship contribution makes all the church musicians in your parish eligible to be members in good standing with the Federation.

Please complete the below form and include your church musician roster (priest, psalti, choir members – their name, mailing address and e-mail).

Make your 2010-2011 stewardship donation payable to MEFGOX. Mail it to:

Peter N. Vatsures, Federation Treasurer. 68 W. Cooke Rd. Columbus, OH 43214

Thank you for your continued support of your Metropolis's Music Ministry!

Anthony P. Thrubis, Stewardship Chairman
thrubis@earthlink.net

Parish Name

Parish Phone No.

Parish Address

Parish E-mail Address

Parish City, State, Zip

Parish Priest
Priest E-mail _____

Choir Director's Name

Church Musician's Representative/Contact

Choir Director's Address

Contact Person's Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Phone No.

E-mail Address

Phone No.

E-mail Address

Chanter's Name

Youth Choir Director's Name

Chanter's Address

Address

City, State, Zip

City, State, Zip

Phone No.

E-mail Address

Phone No.

E-mail Address

2009-2010 PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010

The following parishes were 2009-2010 Stewards as of 8/30/10:

Akron, OH, Annunciation	Monessen, PA, St. Spyridon
Aliquippa, PA, Koimisis	Nashville, TN, Annunciation
Ambridge, PA, Holy Trinity	North Royalton, OH, St. Paul
Ann Arbor, MI, St. Nicholas (2)	Pittsburgh, PA, Holy Cross
Bloomfield Hills, MI, St. George	Pittsburgh, PA, Holy Trinity
Buffalo, NY, Annunciation	Pittsburgh, PA, St. Nicholas Cathedral
Camp Hill, PA, Holy Trinity Cathedral	Reading, PA, SS Constantine & Helen
Campbell, OH, Archangel Michael	Rochester, NY, Annunciation
Canonsburg, PA, All Saints	Rochester, NY, Holy Spirit
Canton, OH, Holy Trinity	Rocky River, OH, St. Demetrios
Carmel, IN, Holy Trinity	Saginaw, MI, St. Demetrios
Charlestown, WV, St. John	Southgate, MI, St. George
Chattanooga, TN, Annunciation	St. Clair Shores, MI, Assumption
Cleveland Hghts, OH, SS Constantine & Helen Cath.	Sterling Heights, MI, St. John
Columbus, OH, Annunciation Cathedral	Steubenville, OH, Holy Trinity
Dayton, OH, Annunciation	Syracuse, NY, St. Sophia
East Pittsburgh, PA, Presentation	Toledo, OH, Holy Trinity Cathedral
Farmington Hills, MI, Holy Cross	Troy, MI, St. Nicholas
Grand Rapids, MI, Holy Trinity	Watertown, NY, St. Vasilios
Huntington, WV, St. George	Weirton, WV, All Saints
Indianapolis, IN, Holy Apostles	Westland, MI, SS Constantine & Helen
Jamestown, NY, St. Nicholas	Wheeling, WV, St. John
Lansing, MI, Holy Trinity	Youngstown, OH, St. John (2)
Louisville, KY, Assumption	Youngstown, OH, St. Nicholas
Memphis, TN, Annunciation	Individual: Eyler, Canton, NY
McKeesport, PA, Annunciation	

The following parishes did not become Stewards in 2009-2010:

Bethlehem, PA, St. Nicholas	Little Rock, AR, Annunciation
Binghamton, NY, Holy Trinity	Lorain, OH, St. Nicholas
Canton, OH, St. Haralambos	Martins Ferry, OH, Zoodochos Peghe
Cincinnati, OH, Holy Trinity	Massillon, OH, St. George
Cleveland, OH, Annunciation	Middletown, OH, SS Constantine & Helen
Easton, PA, Annunciation	Muskegon, MI, Annunciation
Detroit, MI, Annunciation Cathedral	Nashville, TN, St. John Chrysostom
Elmira, NY, St. Athanasios	New Kensington, PA, Annunciation
Erie, PA, Assumption	Oakmont, PA, Holy Dormition
Flint, MI, Assumption	Plymouth, MI, Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Hot Springs, AR, Zoodochos Peghe	Springfield, OH, Assumption
Ithaca, NY, St. Catherine	Stroudsburg, PA, Holy Cross
Ft. Wayne, IN, Holy Trinity	Traverse City, MI, Archangel Gabriel
Lancaster, PA, Annunciation	Warren, OH, St. Demetrios
Lexington, KY, Panagia Pantovasiliss	Vestal, NY, Annunciation

2010-2011 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011

The following parishes have already become 2010-2011 Federation Stewards:

Akron, OH, Annunciation	Pittsburgh, PA, Holy Cross
Camp Hill, PA, Holy Trinity	Pittsburgh, PA, Holy Trinity
Canton, OH, Holy Trinity	Pittsburgh, PA, St. Nicholas
Chattanooga, TN, Annunciation	New Kensington, PA, Annunciation
Farmington Hills, MI, Holy Cross	Rochester, NY, Annunciation
Grand Blanc, MI, Assumption	Traverse City, MI, Archangel Gabriel
Grand Rapids, MI, Holy Trinity	Youngstown, OH, St. John
Jamestown, NY, St. Nicholas	Youngstown, OH, St. Nicholas
Little Rock, AR, Annunciation	Westland, MI, SS Constantine & Helen

