Notes From The Top

It’s an honor to be communicating with you as president of our organization again this year. I thank the board for their confidence in me. We have a lot of unfinished work from last year to bring to fruition this year. More on all of those details in a minute.

First of all, a sincere THANK YOU to our 2018 conference hosts at St. Nektarios. The conference was very special on so many levels. Of course, it was so special to have Kevin Lawrence direct his “hot off the presses” liturgy with the new official English translation. I was glad we were able to sit down with our choir directors at our roundtable luncheon and were especially happy that we were able to dedicate time for the return of a workshop which was absent for too long from our conference schedules. We send a special “thank you” to Dr. Nick Maragos for his informative workshop on vocal abuse. Our night at “Medieval Times” was especially memorable and so much fun. We were particularly honored to have our new Metropolitan, His Eminence Nathanael and our new Chancellor, Fr. Chrysostomos Panos celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with us. They were so impressed with our beautiful choir.

Now, here is the lowdown for the 2019 conference. As you already know, the parish and choir of St. Basil, Chicago IL, will be our hosts. They are already hard at work planning and fund raising for the event. The dates for the conference are October 4, 5, and 6. Note that this is NOT Columbus Day weekend. The Chicago Marathon runs that weekend so navigating downtown and finding accommodations for that weekend would be nearly impossible. The music that will be sung for the liturgy will be by Frank Desby and will be directed by our own Valerie Karras. Our accompanist will be Georgia Fragale, the accompanist at St. Basil. More details will be headed your way as plans unfold.

I want to thank Diana Ott for her many very dedicated years of service to the choir federation and hope that she will continue to support us as she has done in the past.
I also would like to welcome George Panagopolous to the federation board. He is the choir director at St. Basil Chicago and co-chairing the next conference.

Now, here is some information for the other exciting programs which we are bringing to fruition this year:

Earlier this year we proposed to the Metropolis that hymnology become a new discipline in St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival. The proposal was enthusiastically received and approved. The program for 2019 has already been completed under the direction and guidance of the Federation. We will begin work on expanding the program for 2020 after the first of the year. Your parishes will be receiving the official Festival packet in December. PLEASE WORK WITH YOUR PRIEST AND YOUTH TO GET AS MANY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE INVOLVED IN THIS IMPORTANT NEW DISCIPLINE OF THE FESTIVAL. Details will be in your Festival Packet. The date for the Festival is May 10 and 11, 2019 and will be held at Assumption Church in Town and Country, MO.

Our Federation is performing a Musical Theater Performance. It’s an original two act musical titled “Freedom Isn’t Free: A Musical Look at Revolution”. A preview performance will held Saturday May 18th and the Gala Production on Sunday May 19, 2019 at the Athaeneum Theater in Chicago. This is being held near the Memorial Day weekend so the theme will be well received. A portion of this production was performed at the 2016 choir conference St. Nicholas in Oak Lawn hosted. We need all able bodied choristers to participate and all are welcome. More information may be found in this edition of “The Choir Loft”

There will be a separate choir conference for the youth in 2019. The dates are Nov 9,10 and It will be held at St. Spyridon, Palos Hts. Nicky Glikis has accepted our invitation to to direct the choir for this conference.

We are currently developing a Conductor’s Academy Guidebook. This will offer current and would-be directors a comprehensive training program.

There is a Church Music Institute scheduled for March 16, 2019. It will be held at St. Andrew, Chicago, IL. We will be learning about the sira of our liturgy and the particulars of the hymnology found within the liturgy. The half day workshop will be presented by Valerie Karras and promises to be very informative.

We are updating our website to make it more responsive to the needs for our members. The Archdiocese has also changed and updated their website and we will conform to their format.

We are also updating our database. This is a particularly important project. It’s especially critical that our directors work diligently on the annual roster update we use for years of service awards presented each year at our conference. We need email addresses, phone contact information, years of service updated accurately. Please provide us with the most current and accurate contact information so we can effectively deliver important news to all of our musicians.

Our Winter Trip will be over the weekend of January 27, 2019 and will be at Naples, Florida. We will sing the liturgy on Sunday with the choir of St. Katherine there. For Detailed information contact Elena Biessener at elen2b0916@comcast.net

We are currently waiting for a firm date for our Director’s Luncheon with His Eminence Nathanael. As soon as that is set we will send information as to that date, times and location. We hope that all of our directors will make every effort to attend this important event with His Eminence. What a great “get to know you” opportunity for both our director’s and His Eminence.

There is one Flash Choir scheduled at this time and that is at St. Elias in Dubuque, IA. Scheduled for August 18, 2019, it will be preceded by a Federation Board meeting on August 17th.

We will be participating in the Annual Greek Independence Day Parade once again in 2019. Date to be determined and more information will follow.

Don’t forget the Michael B Petrovich Scholarship which awards $500 annually. Information and The application may be found on our website. Last year we had 3 outstanding applicants. Let’s double that number this year!

So, that’s what we are up to ……how about you? We would love to hear from you. Please send us your news for inclusion in the next “Choir Loft”. It may not seem newsworthy to you but we would love to hear from you.

Wishing you and yours a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year

Nicholas Chimitris

President
The Holy Relics at Saint Athanasios Church in Aurora, IL

Over the past couple of years Rev. Dr. Fr. Peter Spiro Protopresbyter of St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Aurora was able to procure a number of Holy Relics that now reside at the church and are on display every Sunday during and, for a time, after the liturgy. They are in glass cases on either side of the solea in front of the altar screen. Each of the Holy Relics are also featured, especially on their feast day. Fr. Peter brings the reliquary out so the faithful can venerate it. There are fourteen relics and three shoes. We will feature a few of these in each of the next issues of the Choir Loft.

It is only fitting we begin with Saint Athanasios Patriarch of Alexandria and Doctor of the Church.

Born c. 296–298
Alexandria, Egypt (Roman province)

Died 2 May 373 (aged 75–78)
Alexandria, Egypt (Roman province)

Venerated in Eastern Orthodoxy, Catholic Church, Oriental Orthodoxy, Lutheranism, Anglican Communion, and among the Continuing Anglican Movement

Major shrine Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt

Feast 7 Pashons (Coptic Christianity)
2 May (Western Christianity)
18 January (Byzantine Christianity)

Attributes Bishop arguing with a pagan; bishop holding an open book; bishop standing over a defeated heretic

Athanasios of Alexandria c. 296–298 – January 18), also called Athanasios the Great, Athanasios the Confessor or, primarily in the Coptic Orthodox Church, Athanasios the Apostolic, was the 20th bishop of Alexandria (as Athanasius I). His on-again-off-again episcopate spanned 45 years (c. 8 June 328 – 2 May 373), of which over 17 encompassed five exiles, when his episcopate was replaced on the order of four different Roman emperors. Athanasios was a Christian theologian, a Church Father, the chief defender of Trinitarianism against Arianism, and a noted Egyptian leader of the fourth century.

Conflict with Arius and Arianism as well as successive Roman emperors shaped Athanasios' career. In 325, at the age of 27, Athanasius began his leading role against the Arians as a deacon and assistant to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria during the First Council of Nicaea. Roman emperor Constantine the Great had convened the council in May–August 325 to address the Arian position that the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, is of a distinct substance from the Father. Three years after that council, Athanasios succeeded his mentor as archbishop of Alexandria. In addition to the conflict with the Arians (including powerful and influential Arian churchmen led by Eusebius of Nicomedia), he struggled against the Emperors Constantine, Constantius II, Julian the Apostate and Valens. He was known as Athanasios Contra Mundum (Latin for Athanasios Against the World).

Nonetheless, within a few years after his death, Gregory of Nazianzus called him the "Pillar of the Church". His writings were well regarded by all following Church fathers in the West and the East, who noted their rich devotion to the Word-become-man, great pastoral concern and profound interest in monasticism. Athanasios is counted as one of the four great Eastern Doctors of the Church in the Catholic Church. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, he is labeled as the "Father of Orthodoxy". Some Protestants label him as "Father of the Canon". Athanasios is venerated as a Christian saint, whose feast day is 2 May in Western Christianity, 15 May in the Coptic Orthodox Church, and 18 January in the other Eastern Orthodox Churches. He is venerated by the Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Catholic Church, the Lutheran churches, and the Anglican Communion.

Credit Wikipedia.org
Anastasios Kephalas, later Nectarios, was born on 1 October 1846 in Selymbria (today Silivri, Istanbul) in the Ottoman Empire to a poor family. His parents, Dimos and Maria Kephalas, were pious Christians but not wealthy. At the age of 14, he moved to Constantinople (Istanbul) to work and further his education. In 1866, at age 20, he moved to the island of Chios to take a teaching post. On November 7, 1876, he became a monk, at age 30, in the Monastery of Nea Moni, for he had long wished to embrace the ascetic life. Three years after becoming a monk he was ordained a Deacon, taking the name Nectarios. He graduated from the University of Athens in 1885. During his years as a student of the University of Athens he wrote many books, pamphlets, and Bible commentaries. Following his graduation he went to Alexandria, Egypt, where he was ordained a priest and served the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo. He was consecrated Metropolitan bishop of Pentapolis (an ancient diocese in Cyrenaica, in what is now Libya) by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Sophronios in 1889.

He served as a Bishop in Cairo for one year. Nectarios was very popular with the people, which gave rise to jealousy among his colleagues. They were able to persuade his superior that Nectarios had ambitions to displace the Patriarch. Nectarios was suspended from his post without explanation. He then returned to Greece in 1891, and spent several years as a preacher (1891–1894). He was then director of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School for the education of priests in Athens for fifteen years. He developed many courses of study, and wrote numerous books, while preaching. In 1904, at the request of several nuns, he established Holy Trinity Monastery on Aegina for them. He was consecrated Metropolitan bishop of Pentapolis (an ancient diocese in Cyrenaica, in what is now Libya) by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Sophronios in 1889.

Nectarios ordained two women as deaconesses in 1911. Up to the 1950s, a few Greek Orthodox nuns also became monastic deaconesses. In 1986, Christodoulos, the metropolitan of Demetrias and later archbishop of Athens and all of Greece, ordained a woman deacon in accordance with the "ritual of St. Nektarios" (the ancient Byzantine text St. Nektarios had used). In December 1908, at the age of 62, St. Nectarios resigned from his post as school director and withdrew to the Holy Trinity Convent on Aegina, where he lived out the rest of his life as a monk. He wrote, published, preached, and heard confessions. He also tended the gardens, carried stones, and helped with the construction of the monastery buildings that were built with his own funds.

St. Nectarios died on November 8, 1920, at the age of 74, following hospitalization for prostate cancer and two months of treatment. His body was taken to the Holy Trinity Convent, where he was buried by his best friend St Savvas of Kalymnos, who later painted the first icon of St. Nectarios. The funeral of St. Nectarios was attended by multitudes of people from all parts of Greece and Egypt. His anathema was not lifted by the Alexandrian Patriarchate until 1998.

The relics of St. Nectarios were removed from the grave on 2 September 1953. Official recognition of Nectarios as a Saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople took place on 20 April 1961. The Feast Day of St. Nectarios is celebrated every year on 9 November.

Credit Wikipedia.org
Saint Barbara Virgin Martyr

Feast Day December 4, known in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the Great Martyr Barbara, was an early Christian Greek saint and martyr. Accounts place her in the 3rd century in Heliopolis of Syria, present-day Baalbek, Lebanon. There is no reference to her in the authentic early Christian writings nor in the original recension of Saint Jerome's martyrology. Her name can be traced to the 7th century, and veneration of her was common, especially in the East, from the 9th century. Because of doubts about the historicity of her legend, she was removed from the General Roman Calendar in the 1969 revision, though not from the Catholic Church's list of saints.

Saint Barbara is often portrayed with miniature chains and a tower. As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, Barbara continues to be a popular saint in modern times, perhaps best known as the patron saint of armoured, artillerymen, military engineers, miners and others who work with explosives because of her old legend's association with lightning, and also of mathematicians. Many of the thirteen miracles in a 15th-century French version of her story turn on the security she offered that her devotees would not die without making confession and receiving extreme unction. According to the hagiographies, Barbara, the daughter of a rich pagan named Dioscorus, was carefully guarded by her father who kept her locked up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. Having secretly become a Christian, she rejected an offer of marriage that she received through her father.

Before going on a journey, her father commanded that a private bath-house be erected for her use near her dwelling, and during his absence, Barbara had three windows put in it, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, instead of the two originally intended. When her father returned, she acknowledged herself to be a Christian; upon this he drew his sword to kill her, but her prayers created an opening in the tower wall and she was miraculously transported to a mountain gorge, where two shepherds watched their flocks. Dioscorus, in pursuit of his daughter, was rebuffed by the first shepherd, but the second betrayed her. For doing this, he was turned to stone and his flock was changed to locusts.

Dragged before the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who had her cruelly tortured, Barbara held true to her Christian faith. During the night, the dark prison was bathed in light and new miracles occurred. Every morning, her wounds were healed. Torches that were to be used to burn her went out as soon as they came near her. Finally, she was condemned to death by beheading. Her father himself carried out the death-sentence. However, as punishment, he was struck by lightning on the way home and his body was consumed by flame. Barbara was buried by a Christian, Valentinus, and her tomb became the site of miracles. This summary omits picturesque details, supplemented from Old French accounts.

Credit Wikipedia.org
John was born in Damascus in the third quarter of the 7th century AD, to a prominent Damascene Christian family known as “Mansōūr”. The family was named after John's grandfather, Mansour ibn Sarjun, who had been responsible for the taxes of the region during the reign of Emperor Heraclius. Mansur seems to have played a role in the capitulation of Damascus to the troops of Khalid ibn al-Walid in 635 after securing favorable conditions of surrender. Eutychius, a 10th-century Melkite patriarch, mentions him as one high-ranking official involved in the surrender of the city to the Muslims.

Though information about the tribal background of the Mansour family are absent in contemporary sources, biographer Daniel Sahas speculates the name Mansour could have implied that they belonged to the Arab Christian tribes of Kalb or Taghlibī. Moreover, the family name was common among Syrian Christians of Arab origins, and Eutychius noted that the governor of Damascus, who was likely Mansour ibn Sarjun, was an Arab. However, Sahas also asserts that the name does not necessarily imply an Arab background and could have been used by non-Arab, Semitic Syrians. While Sahas and biographers F. H. Chase and Andrew Louth assert that Mansūr was an Arabic name, Raymond le Coz asserts that the “family was without doubt of Syrian origin”; indeed, according to historian Daniel J. Janosik, "Both aspects could be true, for if his family ancestry were indeed Syrian, his grandfather [Mansour] could have been given an Arabic name when the Arabs took over the government." John was raised in Damascus, and Arab Christian folklore holds that during his adolescence, John associated with the future Umayyad caliph Yazid I and the Taghlibī Christian court poet al-Akhtal. When Syria was conquered by the Muslim Arabs in the 630s, the court at Damascus retained its large complement of Christian civil servants, John's grandfather among them. John's father, Sarjun (Sergius), went on to serve the Umayyad caliphs. According to John of Jerusalem and some later versions of his life, after his father's death, John also served as an official to the caliphal court before leaving to become a monk. This claim, that John actually served in a Muslim court, has been questioned since he is never mentioned in Muslim sources, which however do refer to his father Sarjun (Sergius) as a secretary in the caliphal administration. In addition, John's own writings never refer to any experience in a Muslim court. It is believed that John became a monk at Mar Saba, and that he was ordained as a priest in 735.

One of the vitae describes his father's desire for him to "learn not only the books of the Muslims, but those of the Greeks as well." From it has been suggested that John may have grown up bilingual. John does indeed show some knowledge of the Qurʾan, which he criticizes harshly (see Christianity and Islam).

Other sources describe his education in Damascus as having been conducted in accordance with the principles of Hellenic education, termed "secular" by one source and "Classical Christian" by another. One account identifies his tutor as a monk by the name of Cosmas, who had been kidnapped by Arabs from his home in Sicily, and for whom John's father paid a great price. Under the instruction of Cosmas, who also taught John's orphan friend (the future St. Cosmas of Maiuma), John is said to have made great advances in music, astronomy and theology, soon rivalling Pythagoras in arithmetic and Euclid in geometry. As a refugee from Italy, Cosmas brought with him the scholarly traditions of Western Christianity. John had at least one and possibly two careers: one (less well-documented) as a civil servant for the Caliph in Damascus, and the other (better-attested) as a priest and monk at the Mar Saba monastery near Jerusalem. One source believes John left Damascus to become a monk around 706, when al-Walid I increased the Islamicisation of the Caliphate's administration. However, Muslim sources only mention that his father Sarjun (Sergius) left the administration around this time, and fail to name John at all. During the next two decades, culminating in the Siege of Constantinople (717-718), the Umayyad Caliphate progressively occupied the borderlands of the Byzantine Empire. An editor of John's works, Father Le Quien, has shown that John was already a monk at Mar Saba before the dispute over iconoclasm, explained below.
In the early 8th century AD, iconoclasm, a movement opposed to the veneration of icons, gained acceptance in the Byzantine court. In 726, despite the protests of St. Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople, Emperor Leo III (who had forced the emperor to abdicate and himself assumed the throne in 717 immediately before the great siege) issued his first edict against the veneration of images and their exhibition in public places.

All agree that John of Damascus undertook a spirited defence of holy images in three separate publications. The earliest of these works, his Apologetic Treatises against those Decrying the Holy Images, secured his reputation. He not only attacked the Byzantine emperor, but adopted a simplified style that allowed the controversy to be followed by the common people, stirring rebellion among the iconoclasts. Decades after his death, John's writings would play an important role during the Second Council of Nicaea (787), which convened to settle the icon dispute.

John's biography recounts at least one episode deemed improbable or legendary. Leo III reportedly sent forged documents to the caliph which implicated John in a plot to attack Damascus. The caliph then ordered John's right hand be cut off and hung up in public view. Some days afterwards, John asked for the restitution of his hand, and prayed fervently to the Theotokos before her icon: thereupon, his hand is said to have been miraculously restored. In gratitude for this miraculous healing, he attached a silver hand to the icon, which thereafter became known as the "Three-handed", or Tricheirousa.

John died in 749 as a revered Father of the Church, and is recognized as a saint. He is sometimes called the last of the Church Fathers by the Roman Catholic Church. In 1890 he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII. When the name of Saint John of Damascus was inserted in the General Roman Calendar in 1890, it was assigned to 27 March. The feast day was moved in 1969 to the day of the saint's death, 4 December, the day on which his feast day is celebrated also in the Byzantine Rite calendar, Lutheran Commemorations, and the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church.

The 1884 choral work John of Damascus ("A Russian Requiem"), Op. 1, for four-part mixed chorus and orchestra, by Russian composer Sergei Taneyev, is dedicated to Saint John.

Besides his purely textual works, John of Damascus also composed hymns, perfecting the canon, a structured hymn form used in Byzantine liturgies.

Credit Wikipedia.org

The Chicago Federation is once again taking a Winter Trip. This year we are going to Naples, Florida where will will sing the divine liturgy at St. Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Marlene Ego has a winter residence in Naples and is coordinating this visit with the church.

The priest is Father Philamon and his wife Presvytera Maria,

The Presvytera of the late Father Bill Kehayes is the choir director. She will be putting together the music for us. I understand that they sing a pretty eclectic liturgy. We will be expected to bring our robes and Federation stoles.

As usual, each person is responsible for making their own travel arrangements, (flights, hotels, rental cars, etc.) I have made MY flight arrangements to arrive on Tuesday, January 22 and depart on Monday, January 28. I made my hotel reservations through Bookings.com and am staying at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites in downtown Naples. They offer free breakfast, 2 beds, free parking and cancellation. Their rate for the 6 nights is $1010.10 including taxes. This was the least expensive option offered by Bookings.com so I booked it because as of now I don't have anyone to share the expenses with. My long-time traveling partner, Hope, cannot make it this year.

I passed around a sign up sheet at the annual meeting at the conference. If you DID NOT ALREADY SIGN UP but are interested in going, please contact me by email (elen2b0916@comcast.net).

Hope to see some of you in Naples

Elena Biessener, St. Mary's, Minneapolis
The Metropolis of Chicago Choir Federation
Announces its Spring 2019 Musical Theatre Performance, an original two-act musical

Freedom Isn’t Free
A Musical Look at Revolution

and invites and encourages all Metropolis choir members – and indeed anyone interested in singing and acting on a historic Chicago stage – to participate.

The show, written and produced by members of the Choir Federation, incorporates classic songs and scenes from the American Broadway stage – think Les Miserables, West Side Story, Showboat, Oklahoma, The King and I, Fiddler on the Roof, 1776, Man of La Mancha – along with Greek and American folksongs and spirituals, to tell the story of Revolution in the history of the world, up to today.

We’ll employ full-cast group numbers, such as the romping finale of HNS Pinafore and the emotional first-act finale of Les Miserables, to keep everyone involved and busy on stage. We’ll also sing a number of folksongs and hymns that are integral parts of the history of humankind, advancing our theme of Revolution in our hearts and lives. All singers are welcome to join this chorus.

We’ll also have solos, duets, and small ensembles throughout the two-act show, helping to advance our story, and employing people who would like to show their love of this musical literature. (Examples might be the balcony scene from West Side Story, “Sabbath Prayer” from Fiddler on the Roof, or anything from Les Miserables!)

Our Gala Production will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019, in the historic and acoustically marvelous 1000-seat thaeneum Theatre, in the northside of Chicago.

We’ll have a preview performance on the night before, Saturday, May 18, on a suburban university stage as well. All singers are welcome! We repeat, all singers are welcome!

Rehearsals will be held at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, and probably another suburban church or two on an alternating basis, and will start in January, about twice a month – half of them on Saturdays to accommodate our out-of-town friends – until the week of the show, when we’ll rehearse Monday-Thursday, May 13-17, with a walk-through on Saturday afternoon, May 18.

Our organizational meeting and first chorus rehearsal will be Saturday, December 8, at 10:00 am, at Holy Apostles Church, 2501 South Wolf Road, Westchester, Illinois. This will also be the first, best chance, to assign solo and ensemble numbers to those who are interested. The chorus will be finished by noon, so you can go on to your Christmastide activities!

We promise that everyone and anyone has the talent to participate in a wonderful community endeavor like this one. Whether or nor not you have ever been on stage before, we promise to help you succeed, and to grow your wings. And we are tremendously excited to be able to offer this wonderful piece of music and theatre to our community, and to the greater Metropolis and Chicago communities as well.

This will be an event to remember, and we earnestly ask you all to join in! Please do come on December 8!!!!

With any questions, please call our director, Fr. Nick Greanias, (708) 606-1015.
Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
Chicago Metropolis
2018 Years of Service Award Recipients

Honor Stole for 70+ Years of Service

Nia Choles  
Assumption - Madison, WI
Socrates Photopoulos  
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Elaine Douglas  
St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Fran Koremenos  
St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN

Federation Logo Pin for 60 Years of Service

Frances Klimas  
SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Ann Korellis  
SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Ann Stevens  
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Peter Dress  
St. Mary - Minneapolis, MN
Louis Tiggas  
St. Mary - Minneapolis, MN

Mother of Pearl Cross for 50 Years of Service

George George  
Annunciation Cathedral - Chicago, IL
Chrysoula Makos  
Assumption - Town & Country, MO
Nick Paloumpis  
Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
Helen Mariano  
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Irene Panagopoulos  
St. Athanasios - Aurora, IL
Effie Davlantas  
St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Rhea Lindemann  
St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Christine Monanteras  
St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Rosemary DeSanto  
St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn, IL

Icon of Kassiani for 35 Years of Service

Marika Panton  
Assumption - Chicago, IL
George Tzougros  
Assumption - Madison, WI
Mary Athens  
Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
Stavros Fountoulakis  
Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
Sophia Forero  
Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
Georgia Barr  
Kimissis Tis Theotokou - Racine, WI
Paula Dranger  
SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Pam Kyres  
SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Presvytera Tulla Poteres  
SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Christine Sampras  
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Kay James  
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
Chicago Metropolis
2018 Years of Service Award Recipients

Icon of Kassiani for 35 Years of Service

Betty Roussos St. Athanasios - Aurora, IL
Linda Coologeorgen St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Peter Coologeorgen St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Toula Parisi St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Crissy Condes St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Jim Lagos St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
John Morfas St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Nicky Shick St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Tina Yarovsky St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Diana Ott St. Nicholas - St. Louis, MO

Certificate of St. Romanos for 25 Years of Service

Maria Meintanis All Saints - Joliet, IL
Sophia Forero Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
Georgia Barr Kimissis Tis Theotokos - Racine, WI
Andrew Kyres SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Kim Korellis SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Christine Sampras SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Paul Hibberd St. Mary - Minneapolis, MN
Dean Kalomas St. Nicholas - St. Louis, MO

Certificate of Recognition for 10 to 24 Years of Service

Niko Helser (11 years) Assumption - Madison, WI
Athanasia Knutson (10 years) Holy Trinity - Fond du Lac, WI
Jonathan Swartz (13 years) St. Andrew - South Bend, IN
Pat Atsaves (10 years) St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Nicole Leftakes (10 years) St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Lexi Leftakes (10 years) St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Melanie Leftakes (10 years) St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Angela Zervos (15 years) St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Effie Hanes (10 years) St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Jean Morfas (10 years) St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
Zoe Gabor (10 years) St. Mary - Minneapolis, MN
Vicky Bamidis (10 Years) St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn, IL
Ellen Kaldis (10 years) St. Sophia - Elgin, IL
George Karas (10 years) St. Sophia - Elgin, IL
CHICAGO METROPOLIS IN MEMORIAM

We have been notified of the passing of several of our dedicated church musicians in the past year. May their memories be eternal.

All Saints - Peoria, IL
Linda Burnett member for 6 years

Holy Apostles - Westchester, IL
George Vrettos member for 20 years

SS Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills, IL
Helen Fefles member for 62 years, choir director
Victoria Jonas member for 33 years
Soula Kintonis member for 36 years
Connie Makropoulos

SS Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN
Mary Starkey member for 16 years

SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, IL
Ismene Collins member for 52 years
Bessie Gegounes member for 29 years

St. Demetrios - Chicago, IL
Bob Nettleton member for 31 years

St. Demetrios - Hammond, IN
John Douglas member for 70+ years
choir director and founding member of our Federation

St. George - St. Paul, MN
Georgia Ehrich member for 62 years
Pendelis Eliou member for 37 years

St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn, IL
Tom Kakos chanter

St. Nicholas - St. Louis, MO
Anne Souris member for 61 years
Bess Glastris member for 47 years

St. Spyridon - Palos Heights, IL
George Dervos member for 18 years
Choir Loft
Peter Condos
1612 Apache Dr.
Naperville, IL 60563

www.chicago.churchmusic.goarch.org