

34th Annual Choir Conference held in New Orleans, LA

Reverend Father Anthony Stratis, Parish Choir Director & Conference Chairman Alex Tiliakos, his Committee, along with the entire parish of The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New Orleans, LA are to be commended for the great job they did in hosting the 2010 Choir Conference. You made it a memorable event through your phyloxyenia, tasty meals and the royal treatment we all received during our stay.

On Sunday 55 adult and 12 youth choir members congregated in the church choir loft to spiritually uplift all in attendance by singing The Divine Liturgy under the direction of guest director and composer Mr. Steven Cardiasmenos of Belmont, California.

Highlights of the weekend:

Thursday's CMI Workshop titled "Body, Mind and Spirit" featured clinicians Joseph Dupre Quigley an Opera Singer from Houston, TX who spoke about Vocal Health and the care of our voices; Steven Cardiasmenos who spoke on preparing and rehearsing the choral hymns beyond the notes; and Fr. Anthony Stratis who reminded us all that we should be looking beyond the music and remember that we were facilitating the clergy and congregation to pray during the service.

Friday's General Business Meeting discussions revolved around the current membership of our federation choirs, reasons for our low conference attendance, scheduling dates for future conferences, ways to attract the youth to our choirs. Annual Budget was approved, Election of officers and ways to develop a complete list of all the choir members in our federation. It was announced that St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Spartanburg, SC would like to host the next Choir Conference in July 2011.

At the Saturday Evening Banquet:

Scholarships were awarded to the following:

Nichole Maria Rallis of St. Nicholas Church in Wilmington, NC
Lygheri Danielides of St. Demetrios in Daytona Beach, FL.

Patriarch Athenagoras I Medals were presented to the following:

Bessie Petrou of St. Catherine's in West Palm Beach, FL
Lucy Zapsas of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, NC

On Sunday Archmandrite Gregorios Tatsis swore in the existing executive board:

President – Margaret Sarafoglu of St. Sophia Cathedral in Miami, FL
Vice President – Suzy Balasis of St. John The Baptist in Tampa, FL
Secretary – Lucy Zapsas of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, NC
Treasurer – Nick Mermigas of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, NC
Librarian – Toulia Chininis of St. Nicholas Church in Spartanburg, SC
Immediate Past President – John P. Mitchell of St. John The Baptist in Tampa, FL