Greetings, Federation Members, and Happy New Year 2013!

We have come to the end of another productive and exciting year in the life of our Federation! Just a few months ago we held our 28th Annual Conference and Biennial Election at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Hempstead, NY. The members of the Executive Board and I were humbled to be re-elected to serve another two-year term, and I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in us. Be assured that we will continue to work with you to further the goals of the Federation.

Senior and youth choir members from twelve DAD parishes participated in the Conference activities, and the attendees appreciated the warm welcome and support they received from the Saint Paul’s clergy, choir members, parish council and parishioners! We are grateful for their kindness and generosity, especially Fr. Luke Melackrinos and Protopsaltis / Choir Director Dr. Efstratios Demertzis who helped to make the Conference weekend so special for all of us!

We were excited to have National Forum Chairman Maria Keritsis attend the Conference along with Past Chairman Dr. Vicki Pappas, who presented an excellent Keynote Address on our Conference Theme, ‘Sing Praises with Understanding’. The Saturday workshops were interesting, fun and informative, and I thank each of our excellent facilitators…Gus Chrysson (Vocal Techniques), Angelo Lampousis (Byzantine Chant), Spyro Kalas (Sight Singing for Youth), Deacon Mathew Kakis (Meaning of our hymns for Youth), and Eleni Pitzel (Youth Craft Workshop). Vicki and I also met with directors and organists to discuss the importance of good choirs and good music. After a busy day of meetings, workshops and rehearsals, Saturday evening’s Banquet was just for fun! We enjoyed good food, the company of good friends, and danced to the DJ’s lively music!
On Conference Sunday, we were honored to have Bishop Sevastianos of Zela preside at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy along with Saint Paul’s clergy Fr. Luke Melackrinos, Fr. Peter Zougras and Deacon Mathew Kakis. Strati did a great job conducting both the Saint Paul’s Byzantine Chant Group and the Conference Senior Choir of over 50 members, as did Archangel Michael’s Youth Choir Director Georgia Kaufman who conducted the Conference Youth Choir of 30 members. Of course, we appreciated the excellent accompaniment by Organist Adrienne Borbely. The service was, as one parishioner described, ‘like being in heaven and listening to a multitude of angels praising God!’

A number of our hard working church musicians were recognized that day with well-deserved awards: Archdiocesan Medal of Saint Paul to Demetrios Pappas; Archbishop Iakovos Distinguished Service Award to Strati Demertzis; Federation Lifetime Achievement Award for Exceptional Service to Nicholas Pappas; Federation Choir Member of the Year Stella Thymius; and 2012 Federation Scholarship Winner Ariana Warren. We will always remember with much love and respect Fr. Manny Gratsias and Jimmy Talas who posthumously received Patriarch Athenagoras I Medallions for Distinguished Metropolis Service. Fr. Dennis Strouzas of Archangel Michael Church in Pt. Washington, NY was also awarded an Athenagoras Medallion, and it will be presented to him at his parish.

On Saturday evening, December 15th, I was delighted to participate in a truly joyous Christmas Concert at Zoodohos Peghe Church in the Bronx, NY. Congratulations to their Choir and their accomplished Choir Director/Organist and composer/arranger Eleni Traganas on a fabulous program!

I was pleased to sing with the Saint Paraskevi Choir, Greenlawn, NY on Sunday, December 16th, and to present a Federation Lifetime Achievement Award for Exceptional Service to Michael Papantoniou, their Choir Director and a past President of our Federation. Mike is retiring and moving to the sunshine state, and although he will be sorely missed, we all wish him many happy and healthy years!

Federation Choir Members are scheduled to entertain the residents of Saint Michael’s Home at 1:00 PM on Saturday, January 19th, and a Federation Council Meeting will be held there at 11:30 AM so that we may conduct important business and cut our annual Vasilopeta.

On Saturday, February 16th, the Federation will present a 6-hour CMI on Sight Singing conducted by Spyro Kalas. Saint Barbara’s Church in Orange, CT, will host the CMI, and it is open to all interested individuals in our Direct Archdiocesan District. Pre-Registration is necessary so that we may be properly prepared. For information, contact: kalimera@optonline.net or call (516) 752-0875. It is my hope that our church musicians, particularly those in our CT parishes, will take advantage of this excellent workshop.

May our Lord bless and keep each of us safe throughout the New Year so that we may continue to serve Him!

Anna Dounelis
DAD Conference Photos

AWARDS

Medal of St. Paul: [L-R] Fr. Luke, Deacon Chrysostomos, Anna Dounelis, Bishop Sevastianos, **James Pappas** and Deacon Matthew

Lifetime Achievement Award: [L-R] Nicholas Pappas, Anna Dounelis, Fay Pavlidis & Irini Kapareliotis

Above: **Years of Service Award**: [L-R] Dn. Chrysostomos, Maria Keritis, Fr. Luke, Anna Dounelis, Bishop Sevastianos, **Dr. Efstratios Dimertzis**, Dn. Matthew and Fr. Peter

Right: **Lifetime Achievement Award**: Michael Papantoniou by Anna Dounelis at St. Paraskevi in Greenlawn on December 16, 2012

Choir Member of the Year Award: [L-R] Anna Dounelis, Fr. Luke, Dn Chrysostomos, Bishop Sevastianos, Dn. Matthew, **Stella Thymiou** and Fr. Peter
Executive Board taking the Oath of Office

DAD combined Senior and Youth Conference Choirs

**WORKSHOPS**

*Left: Dr. Vicki Pappas delivering the Key Note Address*

*Right: Gus Chrysson conducting Vocal Techniques Workshop.*

**Miscellaneous**
AXION ESTIN FOUNDATION

Saturday, December 8, 2012

@ Arts Westchester

The Axion Estin Foundation presented the lecture/concert “From the Byzantine “Echos” to the Ottoman “Makam””. Eleftherios Eleftheriadis, Protopsaltis at St. Nicholas Shrine in Flushing and instructor at the William Spyropoulos School and Achilleas Chaldaeakes, Professor of Music at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece and current director of the “Masters of the Psaltic Art” Byzantine Choir from Athens represented the Byzantine portion of the presentation and performed chants by Theodoros of Phocaea (1790—1861), Petros Lambadarios of Peloponnese (1730-1777) and Gregorios Levites (1778-1821).

Mehmet Ali Sanlikol is a composer, multi-instrumentalist and ethnomusicologist. He is the president of DÜNYA ensemble located in Boston, MA and is a member of the faculty of Emerson College and Brown University. He lectured and performed classical Ottoman music.

The narrator for the evening was Stelios Taketzis, the Radio host and producer of Cosmos, FM.
The Cathedral Christmas Concert
Gus Paul Chrysson, Conductor
Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
Sunday, December 9, 2012

In the magnificent setting of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the choir and orchestra presented the \textit{Oratorio de N"{o}el} by Camille Saint-Saëns followed by Byzantine Hymns: \textit{Christos Genate, I Parthenos Simeron, Magi kai Pimenes/Megalimon Psychi Mou,} and \textit{Osi is Christon} which was followed by a magnificent \textit{O Holy Night}. The choir and congregation then joined in singing traditional Christmas Carols.

Zoodohos Peghe Christmas Concert
Eleni Tranganas, Director and Organist

The Choir of Zoodohos Peghe in Bonox, NY, in collaboration with members of the DAD Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, presented "\textit{A Joyous Christmas Concert}" on Sunday, December 15, 2012. Their Director/Organist, Eleni Traganis is also a composer and arranger.

The following ZP choir members participated: Catherine Kagani, Angela Karounos, Stephanie Karounos, Olga Katsiris, Athena Longoria, Alice Papajohn, Maria Papazachariou*, Mary Paraskevadies, Penny Petrakis, Mary Vlahos and Olga Zelatis. Theodore Zavales, Music Director of St. Anthony Antiochian Church in Bergenfield, NJ also participated as did Bill Kerkenides* on the flute, a Federation Member from Holy Trinity, Hicksville.


(* soloists)

It was a beautiful and uplifting experience for all who attended and participated in this very special event. The Federation appreciated the warm welcome they received from the Zoodohos Peghe choir community and wish to thank Father Sylvester Berberis, Eleni Traganis and the choir members of ZP.