Our heartfelt prayers and thoughts go out to all our friends and neighbors residing in the Gulf Coast states recently hit by Katrina. As we helplessly watch the television screen and view the destruction dealt by the catastrophic winds and rain of this devastating hurricane, we can only pray that you will now have the strength and courage to face the awesome task of getting your lives back to some sense of normalcy. Those of us who lived through Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne particularly understand, because a year later, we are still struggling with this undeniable problem connected with a devasting storm. So we send you our love and prayers and may God go with you and be with you in the days to come.
President’s Report

Dear Friends,

As in every new beginning as we approach our ecclesiastical year, my hope and prayer is for a renewal of our choirs and musicians’ commitment to challenge ourselves to keep our church music ministry growing and thriving. Those of the Federation family who were fortunate enough to gather at our 29th Annual Choir Conference in July were truly indulged to a wonderful weekend of spiritual sharing in music and fellowship. Those of the Federation family who were unfortunately not in attendance were truly missed. The Federation is here to serve all and we welcome your input regarding your choir and musicians attending our next choir conference and church music institute. It is a promise that if you attend your first conference, you will always choose to return.

Once again, I would like to thank Father George Alexson, Chairman Christina Polizos and the family of the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations for a benchmark conference! Highlights of the Grand Banquet were the honoring of Catherine Kandilakis of Knoxville, TN by designating our library in her name for her many years of dedicated service and the inauguration of the Metropolis of Atlanta Orchestra with Peter Zervakos conducting. Our weekend began with our church music institute entitled The Next 1000 Years with a group of noted clinicians: Chairman Gerry Clonaris of Charlotte, NC; Dr. Michael Rallis of Wilmington, NC; Dr. Philip Thevaos of Charlotte; and George Raptis, who was our guest conductor. With his beautiful setting of the Divine Liturgy accompanied by our own Artemisia Thevaos, it was spiritually uplifting for the 139 adults and the 23 youth directed by our own Joanne Kambouris.

At the recent President’s meeting in Houston, TX, the National Forum continues to address projects that will enhance our church life. A National Church Music Institute was held in Brookline, MA this June. Among the clinicians were Kevin Lawrence, Joanne Kambouris and Elia Nicholas who ably represented our Federation. One of the highlights was the completion of six hymns frequently sung by entire congregations that were translated into English and set to a traditional melody. It is the objective of the Forum to have a translation to enable all to sing together a hymn such as in Christ is Risen in both English and Greek. Several programs for the beginner chanter are now available and are supported by the Forum and additional projects are also in progress and will be available for those interested in learning the Byzantine chant. A database of

Many thanks to the 39 choirs & 10 individuals who have paid their 2004-2005 memberships. You can find yourselves listed on our wonderful website, courtesy of the generous & capable Charles Joiner, www.SFGOCM.org. Click on the “About the Federation” tab, and then on “Membership”. You also will soon find there a Survey which we hope each choir will complete to help us know where we are, what great things we do, and plan for the future. Please take a few moments to peruse the website and enjoy all that it offers.

Kudos to Savannah’s choir and to Kay Nastopoulos and Nancy Barke who have already sent in their membership $$$ for 2005-2006! You too may send yours without waiting for a “snail-mail” request from me, as we’re already into the 2005-2006 membership year. Dues are a minimum of $60 for choirs and a minimum of $10 for individuals. Please mail your checks, updated rosters, and Survey forms (Page 10 of this issue of Keynotes) to:

Pauline Velonis
7400 Valleybrook Road
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-364-1135
or email
chicGreek@aol.com

Thank you!

Pauline
Pauline Velonis, Membership Vice President

(See President’s Message Page 4)
Congratulations to Atlanta for an outstanding Choir Conference!

One of the highlights of the Saturday evening program was the presentation of a plaque to Catherine Kandilakis renaming the federation library as the Catherine Kandilakis Library of SFGOCM.

Catherine has served on the SFGOCM Executive Board as permanent librarian since it was formed in 1976. She filled in wherever and whenever there was a need and served as our president in 1996-98. Although she retired from the board in 2002, she has agreed to fill the vacancy this year of past president created by the absence of Mary Zaharis. It is an honor to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for her generous service to the Southeastern Federation.

Toula Chininis
Librarian

WHERE WORDS FAIL, MUSIC SPEAKS.
Established in 1986, the †Father George and Anna Gallos and †Michael Zanakos Music Scholarship has made it possible for aspiring students to further their education in the field of music. It is expected that scholarship award and grant recipients will utilize this training of their talents, in part, in service to the Greek Orthodox Church, to the Federation, and to its church music ministry. May these young people utilize their musical talents for the enhancement of the Southeastern Federation music ministry and to the Glory of God.

2005
Natasha Monzolevskaya, Charlotte, NC
Emily Shepherd, Greensboro, NC

2004
Deborah Abdo – Boca Raton, FL
Christopher Johns – Charlotte, NC
Emily Shepherd – Greensboro, NC

2003
Daphne Lenore Deketelere – Augusta, GA
Christopher Johns – Charlotte, NC
Emily Shepherd – Greensboro, NC

2002
Daphne Lenore Deketelere – Augusta, GA
Alex Johns – Charlotte, NC
Risa Poniros – Raleigh, NC

2001
Daphne Josephine Franklin – Matthews, NC
Penelope Jebeles – Hoover, AL
Christina Svilich – Charlotte, NC
Risa Poniros – Raleigh, NC
Christopher J. Yuskaitis – Orlando, FL

2000
Konstantina Marinakos – Charlotte, NC
Dax Anthony Stokes – Knoxville, TN
Christopher J. Yuskaitis – Orlando, FL

1999
Lynne J ebeles – Birmingham, AL
Joanne Kambouris – Clearwater, FL
Christopher Johns – Charlotte, NC
Christopher J. Yuskaitis – Orlando, FL

1998
Christopher Johns – Charlotte, NC
Lynne J ebeles – Birmingham, AL

1997
Jamie Jacobs – West Palm Beach, FL
Joanne Kambouris – Clearwater, FL
Nicholas Miller – Spartanburg, SC

1996
Joanne Kambouris – Clearwater, FL
Dax Anthony Stokes – Knoxville, TN
Jennifer Vahamikos – Charlotte, NC

1995
Demetrios S. Fuller – Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Athena C. Lantz – Miami, FL

1994
Demetrios A. Kousthanas – Clearwater, FL
Elena Macrides – Tallahassee, FL
Gregory Papaemmanuel – Jacksonville, FL

1993
Tasi A. Johns – Charlotte, NC
Christina A. Potter – Atlanta, GA
Nick M. Verges – Mobile, AL

1992
Tasi A. Johns – Charlotte, NC

1991
Tasi A. Johns – Charlotte, NC
Risa Poniros – Raleigh, NC

1990
G. Philip Thevaos, Augusta, GA
The recipients of the 2005 Athenagoras Medal are:

George E. Pappas, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL
Rita Gallos, Annunciation, Winston-Salem, NC
Rev. Fr. Tryfon K. Theophilopoulos, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL

Congratulations!

Artemisia
Artemisia D. Theavos
2005 Athenagoras Awards Chairman

Past recipients are:
2004 - Donna Palios Trakas
Mary Zaharis

2003 - Nikki Alexiou
Diane Anastasiades
Dr. Philip Theavos

2002 - †Angela Ioannides
Elia Nicholas
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Trivelas

2001 - Donna S. Aliapoulos
Katie Faklis
Mary Alice Kays

2000 - George Saclarides
Toula Balabanis Chininis

1998 - Dr. T. A. (Steve) Aliapoulos
Ioanna Trakas Cavalaris
Kevin Lawrence

1997 - Catherine Kandilakis
†Pedro Trakas
Artemisia Thevaos

When you worship God with hymns, you should be worshipping Him with your entire being; your voice should sing, your heart should also sing; and your life should also sing. Everything should sing!

Augustine Enarrat

You must everyone of you join in a choir ... so you may sing in harmony ... with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father, so that He may hear you and through your good deeds recognize that you are parts of His Son

St. Ignatius

A religious hymn is a great blessing for everyone. It constitutes praise to the Most High, honor for His holy people, worldwide harmony, an eloquent proof of the Church's unity. It expresses the voice of the Church, its confession. It brings about a complete spiritual uplifting and absolute peace and joy in redeemed hearts, with the triumphal hymn and song of happiness. It drives away hardness of heart. It chases away disturbance. It dissolves and dissipates despondency ... The voice sings the soul's joy, while the spirit delves into the mysteries of the faith.

St. Ambrose of Milan
Congratulations to the twenty youth choir members and their director, the very talented Joanne Kambouris, who participated in this year's SFGOCM conference in Atlanta. Though their numbers were small, they sounded powerfully strong and well-blended. (The adult choir especially enjoyed the “Oreo Cookie” song). Also, Mrs. Artemesia Thevaos did a wonderful job accompanying them on the organ. We hope that between your terrific performance, fun rehearsals, exciting field trips, and exhausting Greek dancing that these talented kids will join us again next year. Go ahead and mark your calendars for June 23-25, when next year’s conference will be held in one of the most famous family vacation spots in the world, Orlando, Florida!

At the Atlanta conference, I received many requests for information on upcoming choral events for youth in our Metropolis. One of my roles as Youth Choir Initiative is to mail such information to each parish in the metropolis (64 total!). The problem is that often when the church receives my mailings, they are not sure who to pass this information to. Currently we do not have a youth choir data base for our federation so I need your help in getting me your address if you would like any youth correspondence from me. I then could get out any information about the latest Orthodox music, tools, choral competitions, or youth conference information that becomes available.

I plan on mailing a general letter and an updated youth choir survey with the Vice President’s dues notice this fall. It is very important that you send that survey back to me or contact me BEFORE that notice if you did NOT hear from me last year. There is also a youth page on the federation website SFGOCM.org that has my contact information as well.

Maria
Maria C. Nicholas, Youth Choir Initiative
From The Choir Lofts

Holy Trinity
Raleigh, NC

We at Holy Trinity Raleigh were delighted to have six participants at the annual conference in Atlanta including a conference first timer, Angela Depoy of Raleigh. The hospitality extended to our group from the host city of Atlanta was superb, and the weekend was as first class as we could ever remember. Hats off to Annunciation Cathedral for an outstanding job as conference host!

Our big project this year has been the total revamping of our beloved choir books. We sing composite liturgical arrangements now, and our old books from previous choir directors are too worn and outdated for us to continue to use. By the time you read this letter, we will have distributed 30 brand new books to our choir, complete with all the necessary dynamic, tempo, and style markings from the director, already marked in place (with red ink!) as well as color coded tab sections with a table of contents page in both English and Greek. Thanks to Angela Depoy, Maria Nicholas, and Sue Teleoglou for their invaluable assistance on this tremendous project, which has taken over a year to complete. Included in our arrangements will be some of the Raptis music we learned for the conference this year, since His Eminence seemed to really enjoy the First Tone. Our goal will be to present this new music as well as some other arrangements for our community on Choir Music Sunday in October.

On a more personal note, we wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the families of our departed friends, John Palios and Angela Ioannides. May their memory be eternal!

Faithfully,

Elia

Elia Nicholas, Choir Director

St. Catherine
West Palm Beach, FL

In the midst of a long, hot and humid summer, it was a great pleasure to make the trip to Atlanta, Georgia, for the annual Choir Conference. Eight of our number made that trip, with another traveling to Atlanta from her summer home in the northeast.

The experience this year was a little different than usual for our choir - as a rule, the music we rehearse for and sing at Conference is music we have sung regularly on Sundays. This year, George Raptis’ beautiful arrangement was new to us, and while we had had the score and some rehearsal before we got to Atlanta, it was definitely an intensive learning experience, but one we took in stride and appreciated.

The past months have brought both joy and sorrow to our choir. A beautiful baby girl - Stephanie – was born to soprano Rano Bellas and her
Hello to all from Holy Trinity in the Holy City of Charleston, SC

Hardy congratulations to Atlanta for hosting such a wonderful Federation Workshop! Thank you very much. While some of us attended the workshop, our Children’s Choir, under the direction of Mary Perry, sang the Sunday service. From all reports, they did a beautiful job. We try to have the kids sing at least once a month.

This past Sunday, August 14, the Women’s Choir sang the liturgical setting by our dear friend, Anna Gallos. The women also sang Monday the 15th to honor the service of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Difficult to believe that the summer is almost a thing of the past. Even though some of us have taken off a few Sundays from time to time, we still have managed to sing, not only for Sunday liturgies, but for weekday services as well.

We have now begun our regularly scheduled weekly rehearsals and are re-preparing the Bogdanos setting for our visit by Metropolitan Alexios in October.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Mary Zervos for accepting the Presidency of our Federation for yet another year!!! Thank you, Mary!!! That’s it for now. Best wishes and God bless.

Ross Magoulas, Director
Holy Trinity Choir

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, And can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words

West Palm Beach cont.

husband, Alex, making another of our sopranos, Annette Mitchell (her mother-in-law) a very proud grandmother.

Last month, our organist, Rene Werts, lost her beloved sister Dee Staats, and our hearts went out to her. Our choir reassembled from our traditional summer break to sing at the mnimósino for Dee.

We extend our most sincere thanks to the congregation of the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta for their first-class Southern hospitality. It was truly a blessing to have spent time with our brothers and sisters there, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Lia

Lia Fabro, Choir Contact

Forum cont.

primary focus is introducing the youth to our choirs. A nationwide database of youth choirs is currently being established as well as a Youth Music Curriculum to aid directors/churches in recruiting youth. A youth publication is also being considered. Our own Joanne Kambouris will be working with Maria Keritsis of Richmond, VA (Eastern Federation) to bring this ambitious program to fruition.

Thursday evening following a delicious dinner prepared by the ladies of the church, George Stefanidakis, National Forum member and hymnographer, and Diamandis Cassis, iconographer, presented an extremely informative and interesting workshop on Iconography and Hymnology.

On Friday following lunch, Tikey Zes presented a repeat of his wonderful “Congregational Singing Workshop”.

In this off-year, the meetings tend to be long and intense, but by contrast, our after hours are filled with fun and fellowship. Renewing old friendships and making new ones; sharing and learning with and from Greek church musicians from all over the country. It is truly a time of recharging our batteries and becoming excited about what is happening on the National level with our Greek Orthodox musical heritage.

On Sunday morning the delegates that were able to stay, were privileged to sing the Desby arrangement of the Liturgy with the Annunciation Cathedral Choir. After a delightful lunch, we all took off for the airport or in our cars for our respective homes, carrying with us wonderful memories and exciting ideas.

The next meeting of the National Forum will be held in Nashville, TN in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress July 16-20, 2006.

Faithfully,

Your Delegates,
Toula Chininis
Donna S. Aliapoulios
Steve Aliapoulios

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, And can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words
CHOIR/CHANTER SURVEY 2005

Church name ___________________________________________________________ Email _______________________
Church address _____________________________________________________________________________________

Director(s) _________________________________________________ phone ______________ fax _______________
Organist(s) _________________________________________________ ANNUAL CHOIR CONFERENCE:
Chanter(s) _________________________________________________ Preferred month ______June______July

Priest(s) ____________________________________________________ Average number participants_____________

CHANTER CONTACT:

address ___________________________________________________ Registration fees budgeted by Parish?
phone _____________________email ____________________ _____yes _____no ________amount

( Please note preferred method of contact by * )

CHANTER CONTACT: List major fund-raising activities:

address ___________________________________________________ _________________________________
phone _______________________email ____________________ _________________________________
( Please note preferred method of contact by * )

Is chanting in Greek, English, both, or mix? _____________________ Scheduled rehearsal day ____ time ______

PARTICIPATION BY CHOIR (C) / ORGANIST (O) / Number of voices:
CHANTER (CH) / YOUTH (Y): (mark all that apply )

Soprano_________ Alto _____________ Tenor _______ Bass _____________
Liturgy___________ Vespers___________ Heretismi___________
Paraklesis__________ Paraklesis___________ Weddings__________
Funerals__________ Paraklesis___________ Weddings__________
National Church Music Sunday in October_____________ Total choir members ______________
and how it is observed _________________________________ Average singers per liturgy ______________

LITURGICAL MUSIC: ( Please indicate usage by number 1=most used, 2=sometimes, 3=not used )

Anastasiou _____ Gallos _____ Maragos _____ Raptis _____ Vrionides _____
Bogdanos _____ Kypros _____ Pappas _____ Roubanis _____
Desby _____ Lawrence _____ Petrovich _____ Sakellarides _____
Other ____________________________________________________________ Zes _____

Compositeof ____________________________________________________________

CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTES (CMI), co-sponsored by the National Forum and the SFGOCM, are held twice a year:
spring and the day preceding the choir conference. Would your choir/chanter be interested? ______ yes ______ no

“KEYNOTES” Editors, Steve & Donna Aliapoulios, are working to get our publication online at www.SFGOCM.org. Would
your choir still require paper copies by mail? ____________; and if so, how many? ____________

Please submit your members’ email addresses directly to SteveDonna@adelphia.net to receive “Keynotes” online.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONLINE AT WWW.SFGOCM.ORG
OR BY MAIL TO:
PAULINE VELONIS, SFGOCM VICE PRESIDENT
7400 VALLEYBROOK ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28270
CHICGREEK@AOL.COM
CALLING ALL YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTORS

We would like to hear from you through our SFGOCM Survey. We only received 11 surveys out of 64 Parishes in our Metropolis back in the fall! It is important we hear from you so we know how best to offer our youth choral programs through the SFGOCM....

Name & City of Parish ____________________________________________________________

Name/Address/Phone/email of Youth Choir Director ________________________________

Head Parish Priest's Name ______________________________________________________

1. Do you have a youth and/or Teen choir in your community?
   ______ Yes (ages of participants __________________________)_____________________
   ______ No (If ‘no’, would you be interested in receiving information on how to start a youth or teen choir?___________)*
   *If you have a youth and/or teen choir in your community, please continue. If not please send this questionnaire to the address below...

2. For a typical, regular Sunday, what hymnal(s) do you use?
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What other types of music are taught throughout the year?
   ____________________________________________________________

4. How many active members do you have on a regular basis?
   ____________________________________________________________

5. Please tell us how your youth and/or teen choir(s) participate in the activities and church services of your parish?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Please send the completed survey to: Maria Nicholas, Youth Chairman
5108 Bridgewood Drive
Durham, NC 27713
Email: enicholasthegreek@netscape
You could hardly see for all the snow
Spread the rabbit ears as far as they go
Pull a chair up to the TV set,
“Good Night, David. Good Night, Chet.”

Depending on the channel you tuned,
You got Rob and Laura or Ward and June.
It felt so good. It felt so right.
Life looked better in black and white.

I Love Lucy, The Real McCoys,
Dennis the Menace, the Cleaver boys,
Rawhide, Gunsmoke, Wagon Train,
Superman, Jimmy and Lois Lane.

Father Knows Best, Patty Duke,
Rin Tin Tin and Lassie too,
Donna Reed on Thursday night
Life looked better in black and white.

I wanna go back to black and white
Everything always turned out right.
Simple people, simple lives
Good guys always won the fights

Now nothing is the way it seems
In living color on the TV screens.
Too many murders, too many fights
I wanna go back to black and white

In God they trusted, alone in bed they slept
A promise made was a promise kept
They never cussed or broke their vows
They’d never make the network now

But if I could . . . I’d rather be
In a TV town in ‘53
It felt so good. It felt so right.
Life looked better in black and white.

I’d trade all the channels on satellite
If I could just turn back the clock tonight
To when everyone knew wrong from right
Life was better in black and white.
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His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta
Spiritual Advisor
2480 Clarimont Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30329

Orlando, Florida
June 23rd -25th 2006