



Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — August 2008
click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>

In order for this monthly newsletter to reach everyone, we need your help with news articles, essays, observations or anything else of import to our Federation

NEW PHOTO AND VIDEO FEATURE

We have opened an adjunct site for photos and videos! If you have any pictures or videos, please send them on to leonk@bellsouth.net and I'll upload them onto the site. To view them, please visit it by clicking on [New Photo Site!](#)



CONFERENCE NOTES:

Greetings from St. George on Florida's Suncoast! The 32nd Annual Conference of SFGOCM made history as one of the most hospitable and noteworthy conferences thanks to all of the attendees (registrants, neighboring parishioners, and out-of-town guests.) It all began on July 24th with the CMI presenters, **Penelope Jebeles**, **Joanne Kambouris** and **Philip Thevaos**. Their presentations were beneficial and enjoyed by all. During the CMI, the children went bowling and then on to a pool party. That evening the St. George Young at Heart prepared a delicious buffet of pork loin, soutzoukia, pasta, veggies, and all the trimming, ice cream cake and the like. They topped it off with Bible tin favors containing cross-shaped mints. Friday morning, everyone else arrived and rehearsals began. **Fr. Michael Petrides** conducted an opening service which he relished as his personal time with the beautiful voices of the conference choir. Lunch consisted of fresh grouper, mashed potatoes, etc., along with good old spaghetti for the younger set. The Philoptochos Society kept everyone's palate watered with plenty of beverages, fruits, brownies, and other delights three times per day. During the morning the 22 youth/teens rehearsed with Penelope and Joanne and then went to Tarpon Springs in a stretch limo to pet the rays and tour the historic sponge docks! On Saturday, rehearsals resumed, and since the attendees did not have time to see our sparkling white beaches, the Philoptochos brought the sand, pails, umbrellas, and picnic food to them, along with

hibiscus flowers for their hair. The menu consisted of fried chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob, baked beans, water melon, etc. To everyone's surprise, **His Eminence** did away with the 2-sided buffet and took over as a celebrity server, using a two-handed stroke. I dare anyone to serve faster than he did. He relished serving his people and the attendees were charmed. The choir directors in attendance and representatives of those absent met privately with His Eminence during lunch. His Eminence spoke about the trip to Greece and then continued with an explanation of do's and don't during the hieratical liturgy and regular Sunday services. Rehearsal continued with His Eminence joining the entire conference choir and sharing thoughts with them. The director was able to rehearse the necessary material prior to adjourning for the day. Concurrently in the afternoon, the children went to the movies in style again with a limo. During the evening the grand banquet took place. It was a sight for photographs, with its 2-tiered head table. Some of the members of the Tampa Bay Youth Choir gave a lovely performance under the direction of **Joanne Kambouris**. **Dr. Phillip Thevaos** announced the scholarship winners and reported that, so far, a total of \$3750 in contributions and pledges were submitted, which is very good considering the smaller choir this year of 101, including the 22 children. Two arias from *Tosca and Madama Butterfly*, which our own opera soprano, **Stella Zambalis** sang, accompanied by **Artie Thevaos** were the highlight of the evening. The group gave them a standing ovation. His Eminence spoke and the evening concluded with Greek dancing. Sunday morning everyone was up bright and early and convened for a warm-up at 8 a.m. while the Orthros was in progress. Liturgy began at 9:00 with the Doxology in Greek by His Eminence and the chanters. The choir sang the English Doxology as a recessional. This year the choir was very capably directed by **Dr. Philip Thevaos** of Charlotte and the guest organist was **Artie Thevaos** of Augusta. The participants had done their homework on the Zervos bilingual liturgy and the outcome was very good. Hopefully, the CD will be ready by fall for distribution to all the participants. A rare addition to the liturgy was the Sacrament of Ordination. There must have been more than 250 guests in church. The clergy offered four

communion lines and the liturgy continued, followed by a memorial service concurrently with communion. At the conclusion, the new officers took the oath. Then the conscientious and ever-present outgoing president, **John Mitchell**, presented Tina Wilson of the host community with the SFGOCM plaque. **Stanley Evdemon**, read the bios and announced the Athenagoras Award recipients. The farewell luncheon followed. It was a joy having youth and teens who realized they *can* sing and are now motivated to attend future conferences. **The 32nd Annual Conference** is now a memory of thoughts and emotions that will live in the minds and hearts of the participants for a long time. It was a grand weekend for singing, the tropical weather patterns cooperated, and the attendees were gracious guests who are welcome to return to St. George in New Port Richey anytime! It was a pleasure to serve as the Host Committee Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity, Tina Wilson. "God loves you, and so do I." (+Bishop. F.J.S.)



AXIOI TO THE HOST OF THE 2008 CHOIR CONFERENCE

Reverend Father Michael Petrides, Parish Council President Dina Rivers, Conference Chairman Tina Wilson and her Committee, along with the entire parish of St. George in New Port Richey, FL are to be commended for the terrific job they did in hosting the 2008 Choir Conference. You made it a memorable event through your infectious enthusiasm, phyloxyenia and the general royal treatment we all received during our stay.

Sunday's spiritually inspiring Liturgy started earlier than usual because the 80+ adult choir, 22 youth choir members and congregation witnessed the ordination of Fr. John Krokos to the priesthood. He will be assigned as second priest in Tarpon Springs, FL.

Highlights of the weekend:

Clinicians for our CMI Workshops on Thursday were our Guest Director Dr. Philip Thevaos, who presented an "Analysis of Robert Shaw Choral Technique" and our Guest Youth Directors Joanne Kambouris and Penelope Jebles who presented ways to encourage and develop our youth to sing in our choirs. That evening the 30 CMI attendees and spouses were all treated to a home cooked dinner in the Kontos Center by the community of St. George.

Friday's General Business Meeting discussions revolved around the Group Trip to Greece, Relocation of the Federation Library to the Metropolis, the 2008-2009 Budget,

Election of officers, ways to develop a complete list of all the choir members in our federation. A motion was passed to have a CMI Workshop in Atlanta the weekend of the Archangel Michael presentations. Possible hosts for 2009 Choir Conference were discussed.

Friday evening was a free night which allowed many to explore the area on their own.

Saturday at lunch His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios had a meeting with all the choir directors to review the highlights of his trip to Greece with members of our federation. He also discussed the proper tax in our services and the importance of communications between the parish priest the psalti and the choir director.

Scholarships were awarded at the Saturday Night Banquet to the following:

Lygheri Danielides of St. Demetrios in Daytona Beach, FL.

Demitra Sourlis of St. Barbara's in Durham, NC.

Asimina Boutzoukas of Holy Trinity in Clearwater, FL.

Nichole Maria Rallis of St. Nicholas in Wilmington, NC.

On Sunday His Eminence swore in a new executive board of familiar faces:

President – Margaret Sarafoglu of St. Sophia in Miami, FL

Vice President – Kathy Chapekis of St. Marks in Boca Raton, FL

Secretary – Lucy Zapsas of Holy Trinity in Charlotte, NC

Treasurer – Nick Mermigas of Holy Trinity in Charlotte, NC

Librarian – Toulia Chininis of Dormition Church in Greensboro, NC

Immediate Past President – John Mitchell of St. John in Tampa, FL

Patriarch Athenagoras I Medals were given by His Eminence to the following Recipients:

Artie Palios of St. John in Tampa, FL

Peter Zervakos of Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, GA

Mary Zervos of Holy Trinity in Charleston, SC