



# Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — June 2009

click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>

## Annual Federation Conference Just Weeks Away!!!

### New Photo and Video Feature

If you have any pictures or videos, please send them on to [leonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:leonk@bellsouth.net) and I'll upload them onto the site. To view them, please visit it by clicking on [this link to our photo site](#). Your choir can have its own album as can any special events simply by letting Leon Karahalis know. Please full advantage of this site!



### *President's Message*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. CHRIST IS AMONG US! The presidents' meeting in Indianapolis was everything the past presidents had told me it would be. The presidents or their designees from all the federations met with Vickie Pappas, the National Chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians for two days in Indianapolis, May 14-16, 2009. We had a dynamic exchange of ideas and I came back with several workable ideas for future CMI's and choir conferences. For instance, the San Francisco Federation is having the same CMI in several different locations on the same day to accommodate its church musicians. The Mid-Eastern Federation is interspersing a CMI with three tracts, Youth Choir, Singing, and Chanting, during the choir conference. These are just a few ideas we might think about doing.

Many of you are wondering about what is going to happen at the choir conference this July in Winston-Salem, NC. You already know the place, the date, and the hotel, but the really big question is, "What will the Liturgy of Peace sound like in English?" and "Why don't we have the music?" Allow me to allay your fears. The Liturgy of Peace will be sung predominately in the original Greek as it was written. Any English sung will be at the discretion of the composer/director, Chris Kypros.

I understand from Fr. Demetri Kangelaris of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church that our beloved Metropolitan Alexios has accepted our invitation to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us and will address us on Saturday afternoon at 4 pm.

Make sure your choir or individual dues are paid prior to conference. Come join us in July. We are going to have a wonderful time.

We have a few pictures uploaded on our photo website, which you can reach by clicking on <http://public.fotki.com/SFGOCM/may-2009-council-of/>.

Your faithful servant in Christ,

Margaret Sarafoglu  
SFGOCM President



### *A Message of Great Concern to all Christians from Archbishop Lazar, Ret., Orthodox Church in America*

Friday, May 29, 2009

As some of you know, a groups of us were recently in Damascus and attended a conference at the Islamic Institute. David Goa, Fr Philip Erickson, a small group of other people and I were there. While I had to leave early, before the last series at the conference, in order to participate in a number of conferences in Romania, the Islamization of Europe was discussed during conferences in Romania.

Since returning home, I have continued researching the matter in order to make it the subject for some of my presentations in the autumn at a number of universities and Orthodox parishes down East in America.

There are three salient facts that are abundantly clear, and that we should be aware of. Hopefully they might change some of our attitudes about what we are doing in the Orthodox Church, and especially in the OCA.

1. Within 20 years, Europe will be a collection of Islamic states.
2. Within 10-15 years, active Moslems are likely to outnumber active Christians in Canada.
3. Islam is preparing for a serious-minded and well financed missionary activity in the West.

The demographics are radically on the side of Islam. They do not have to convert even one person in order to be able to dominate Europe. People in Western cultures are reproducing at a rate below 1.5; Moslems living in the West are reproducing at a rate of 4-6, even 8. Christians have abortions, Moslems do not. Christians have small families: on average, 1 or 2 children; Moslems have large families, on average 6 to 8 children. Moslems maintain their traditions, most Christians do not. Commitment and attendance at Mosques outstrips that of Christian commitment and attendance in Church.

Meanwhile, Orthodox Christians exhaust a great deal of energy in petty infighting; many hierarchs, particularly in Eastern Europe, have almost no personal contact with their flocks. Many hierarchs and clergy are arrogant and condescending toward the faithful. No one in the Islamic world is talking about abolishing or shortening Ramadan, but many in the Orthodox world are talking about abolishing some fasting periods, shortening others. Moslems maintain the appearance of their faith, while many Orthodox clergy are embarrassed or ashamed to be seen in public looking like Orthodox clergy. Moslems maintain the tradition of stopping to pray at the given times several times a day, while Orthodox Christians are seeking to reduce the already scant time we spend in the Divine Services. One could go on with such comparisons, but the point has to do with commitment, discipline and self-control.

Faith can only be challenge by faith; commitment can only be faced with commitment. We, as Orthodox Christians cannot offer anything that will counter a committed Islamic missionary effort while we are occupied with petty self-interest, with "defending MY turf" against other Orthodox clergy. On the international level, the efforts of some to re-create a shadowy form of the Byzantine Empire is quite destructive. The divided state of the Orthodox Church today, world-wide, and the internecine power struggles undermine and weaken the Orthodox Christian witness. Self-interested fear of each other on the local level can only make the problems we face more systemic and pervasive. Moreover, they are a betrayal of the Gospel and of the faith.

I simply ask that all make themselves more aware of this challenge and that we struggle, primarily with our own selves, to overcome our own pettiness and find a greater unity of spirit and purpose. Instead of having a delusion of "competition," we should be sharing the



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resources that each has to offer, and strengthening the commitment of our selves and the faithful. Everyone has some ability to offer, and we need to be willing to share our “self” with all for the sake of the Gospel and in order to face, with a unity of love for Christ, the challenges that are so rapidly arising before us.

In Christ,

Archbishop Lazar, Ret., Orthodox Church in America  
and abbot of All Saints Monastery (New Ostrog), British Columbia, Canada



*(Editor’s note: Regretfully, this very important parish’s submission for Keynotes was omitted last month. Please read on to see what our ever-patient and forgiving Billie Spirides has put together)*

*Keynotes From Tarpon Springs  
Greetings from the Epiphany City, 2009!*

### ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΘΗ!

Our choir members who attended last year’s choir conference in New Port Richey, FL, have received a great Paschal gift from the St. George choir/community in the form of a DVD of the conference, with many pictures and the recorded liturgy. We were also able to witness again the moving ordination of our beloved Father Ioannis Krokos, who is the second priest and Presbyter at St. Nicholas Cathedral. Our thanks go to St. George choir/community for their thoughtfulness and generosity in presenting these DVDs to the conference participants.

We have just experienced a most wondrous celebration of our Greek Orthodox faith: The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of us prepare for

this event in our own way. Many fast for the forty days of Lent and throughout Holy Week; many do good works and sacrifice their pleasure for others; and for others it is a time of reflection in their lives. We find ourselves attending church more often during this time. It is a special and private feeling that is our very own.

This is a time when parents reinforce the Orthodox faith in their children, teaching them what is expected of the faithful during this most holy time. From

Palm Sunday through Holy Week, it is understood that every night should be spent in church. The beauty of the 12 Gospels read on Holy Thursday night and the reenactment of the crucifixion of Our Lord are heart-rending. You can feel in your hearts the agony experienced by Christ.

Our choir sang throughout Lent during the Friday night Salutations to the Theotokos, Palm Sunday, Holy Week nights and Good Friday participation in the procession of the Epitaphion. Saturday night was the culmination of those weeks of preparation for the Resurrection.

Now that Easter season is over, we are winding down our activities for the summer. We usually go on a hiatus during the summer months, with the possible exception of practicing for the conference in Winston-Salem, NC, this year. Hopefully, we will have a delegation from Tarpon Springs. We wish the Winston-Salem choir/community great success in their planning, and the execution of their conference plans.

I am again asking all of you to take a moment from your busy schedules to remember the men and women who are laying down their lives for us to be able to enjoy peace and freedom in our lives. Each time you go to church, light a candle and say a prayer for those who are fighting in a foreign land, and for those who have sustained injuries that will require them and their families to adjust their lives to compensate for those injuries. Say a special prayer for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and the families they have left behind. This is the least we can do for the privilege of living in a free and glorious USA.

We hope all our Federation members and their families had a very enjoyable, fulfilling Pascha. And that the blessings of the Resurrection are with you all throughout the year.

Yours in Christ!

### Notable Links to Scholarship 100 and Athenagoras Awards Forms

[Click here to link to the Patriarch Athenagoras Awards Forms and Guidelines PDF](#) There is also a form attached to this page as well as a letter from Stan Evdemon regarding same.

[Click here for the Scholarship 100 Application form!](#)



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**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox  
Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

Spring 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The time has come once again to consider who among your choir members should be recognized for their dedication to the Music Ministry of our Church. The Patriarch Athenagoras I Award was initiated by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and established in 1996 as a means of giving national recognition to meritorious individuals whose contributions to the Music Ministry of the Church are worthy of distinction.

Each year at the conclusion of our choir conferences three individuals are recognized for their meritorious service. Each recipient shall have significantly contributed talents and/ or service to the development and perpetuation of the Greek Orthodox Church Choirs and Musicians of the Atlanta Metropolis.

The **deadline** for 2008 nominations is **May 29, 2009**. The nomination form and biographical data cover sheet are available in this issue of *Keynotes* and on the Federation web site: [www.sfgocm.org](http://www.sfgocm.org). Guidelines are available on the Federation website or by request. A letter with the nomination form and biographical data cover sheet should be mailed to:

Stanley Evdemon  
Athenagoras Award  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Riverview, Florida 33578  
[stan.evde@verizon.net](mailto:stan.evde@verizon.net)

Nominations for this prestigious award should be received by our Athenagoras Award Committee no later than the deadline date in order to be considered as an eligible candidate. Late nominations will be placed on file and reviewed by the committee in 2010.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and seeing you in Winston Salem, North Carolina!

Yours in His Service,

***Stanley Evdemon***

Stanley Evdemon  
Chairman, Athenagoras Award

**Metropolis of Atlanta**  
**Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians**  
**Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

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In order to send committee members copies of the nominations to review, all nominations must  
be post-marked  
*NO LATER THAN MAY 29, 2009*

The nomination form must be signed by the director of the local OR the parish priest.

_____ Nominee	_____ Category
_____ Parish of Nominating Choir	_____ Phone
_____ City/State	_____ Zip Code
_____ Name of Contact Person submitting Nomination	_____ Phone
_____ Address	_____ FAX number
_____ City/ <u>State</u>	_____ Zip Code
_____ Choir <u>Director</u> or Parish Priest Signature	

Send completed material including Biographical Data Cover Sheet

1. Regional Contributions
2. Local Contributions
3. Federation Activities
4. Special Achievements/ Awards /Contributions

To: Stanley Evdemon  
Athenagoras Award  
9216 Estate Cove Circle  
Riverview, Florida 33578

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award  
Stanley Evdemon, Chairman**

Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
and the  
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

**PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS MEDAL  
FOR METROPOLITAN SERVICE**

**Metropolis of Atlanta  
Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians  
Patriarch Athenagoras I Award**

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**NOMINEE'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA COVER SHEET**

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**Nominee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Category**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parish**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State**