



# Notable Notes

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

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

## 2010 Annual Federation Conference to be in New Orleans!!

### Photo and Video Feature

It seems as if only one person other than myself is using the photo site which is for all of you to use. 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 your choir's own albums on the site. **To view them and many other photos, especially from the 2009 Conference in Winston-Salem, please visit it by clicking on [this link to our photo site](#).** Again, your choir can have its own album as can any special events simply by letting Leon Karahalidis know. *Please full advantage of this site!*



### 2010 Conference

As most of you know, New Orleans has been chosen for the site of our next Federation Conference. Tentatively, the dates are set for June 24 through 27. Many of us, I'm sure, will be arriving early to visit the town.

As the furthest outpost of our Holy Metropolis, the conference regulars should all try very hard to make plans and set the time aside now in order to really help the parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, which is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. It has lost many parishioners due to the aftermath of said hurricane.

At the end of this month, the Board of the Federation is going to meet with the parish priest, +Father Anthony Stratis, and the cathedral's committee to plan things out. At the same time, +His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be visiting. For a link to his itinerary, [please click here!](#)



### Spotlight on Pete Nassos



Pete Nassos, a gentleman, a family man, is a fine example of an Orthodox Christian, devoted to our faith, and serving Orthodoxy since childhood. Pete sits behind me on Sundays and his deep voice is great to hear always. I only wish he'd arrive on 'real time' and not on Greek time, so I could hear more of it. He is a good friend of mine, so I know he will take my humor lightly. Pete Nassos' history of involvement in the Orthodox Church began with his baptism in the summer of 1955. He has been a choir member since 1973, serving for 36 years. Pete stays that fortunately for him, his choir directors have been patient and willing to have an enthusiastic, yet tone deaf member. I know his enthusiasm for his faith and his great attitude are an asset to any choir.

From 1962 to 1973 - Pete was the Lead Alter Boy at St. George Antiochian Church, Akron, OH. From 1973 - 1980 He was a Choir Member, at the Annunciation Greek Church, Akron, OH and from 1980 - 1987 - Choir Member at various Greek Churches in Wilmington, DE and the Washington, DC area. We now have Pete as a Choir Member / Men's choir member at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA since 1987. Yiassou, Pete!

Rosemary Hendrix  
Atlanta



### Got some spare time?

How often do you sit at the TV channel surfing? How about dry-eyed at the computer, possibly playing games or otherwise frittering away time?

Perhaps you think that a couple of hours a month cannot make a positive change or initiate any new programs which would leave a mark on the musical ministry of our Holy Orthodox Church.

I've got news for you. It doesn't take much.

Here we have a forum where we can edify and educate each other and the kids and grandkids who will follow us.

"Oh", you think, "It must take a lot of time and effort to get other Orthodox folks together. Besides, we don't know them - *they're not Greek, after all!*"

Are all of your kids and grandchildren Greek? Not likely. Further, we are all American. So many of us let our precious 2000-year-old heritage slip away in just one generation.

We *could* be teaching our future generations to appreciate the richness of our deep-rooted Orthodox Christian tradition. We *could* make many new friends who come from other Orthodox Christian backgrounds as divergent as Eskimos and peoples from southern Asia. We *could* enrich ourselves profoundly by exposure to our Orthodox brethren.

"Oh", you think, "It is so strange to see them prostrate themselves." Or, "They say the Lord's Prayer differently." These are some of the very differences which enrich our Church and our lives.

About 10 years ago, then-+Bishop of Atlanta Alexios thought that there should be a mirror Epiphany celebration in southeast Florida. Like any captain, he said "Make it so." The Greek choirs assembled dutifully and prayed the Divine Liturgy with a congregation of about 1,000 attendees.

We realized that there were more than just Greeks and their families there. Antiochians, Slavs and converts assembled, as did Catholics and other Christians of all walks. +Metropolitan Alexios realized that we could make this a truly ecumenical celebration of the Baptism of our God and His appearance on earth.

As a result, the South Florida Pan-Orthodox choir was formed. It is directed by a convert or a Ukrainian and peopled by Orthodox Christians of every kind.

How much time did this take? Initially, perhaps several hours in a two-month period to gather names and meet people. Visitations to the churches of other jurisdictions ensued and enriched organizers tremendously.

Get your kids and grandkids involved in choir, too. It is, in my humble opinion, the best way to keep the faith for generations to come and serve God as individuals.

It is up to you. And you. And you. And you. And you.

Leon Karahalidis  
Editor, Notable Notes and Keynotes

Not too early for a worthy student to apply for the Scholarship 100 for 2010!

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



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