

National Catholic Band Association

Established 1953

www.catholicbands.org

NCBA Newsletter | March 2020

The whole assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded.

(2 Chronicles 29:28)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Thank you for your commitment to the National Catholic Band Association. As your new president, I look forward to working to make the organization one that serves your needs. A big THANK YOU to outgoing president Phil Desrosiers. Phil has been a leader that has kept NCBA working. His commitment to the NCBA over many years is an example for all of us. On behalf of all the membership... Thank You!

In the coming months, I am going to initiate a task force to evaluate our programs with an eye to better identifying the needs of the membership, bolstering projects, and growing the membership. If we are to be a relevant organization we need to provide resources that can help you in your unique educational situations. Let us know what we can do for you.

No organization can survive without the support and participation of its members. I ask you to contribute to the newsletter, to be a member of the consortium, to participate in the Honors Ensembles, to volunteer for a committee, and more.

Finally, there is no doubt that these are extraordinary times. Difficult times. The disruptions affect all aspects of our lives. In some ways, the situation provides an opportunity to catch up, to complete some projects that we have been putting off, to communicating with friends with whom we have become disconnected, and to reflect on matters important and unimportant. We can make the best of a difficult situation.

Take care of yourselves, take care of those who are in your charge, stay well, and be safe.

— **George Pinchock** | NCBA President

CATHOLIC BANDS NEWS

(please submit your news items/photos to the editor: stoffel@csun.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME BAND MARCHES INTO HEARTS OF METRO CATHOLIC STUDENTS

(reprinted with permission from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland)

Students at Metro Catholic School in Cleveland had reason to “cheer, cheer for old Notre Dame” this week as 50 members of The University of Notre Dame’s Marching Band stopped by both of the school’s campuses during the group’s fall service trip.



The band members presented a short concert of Notre Dame Fan favorites, including “1812,” “Rakes of Mallow,” “Notre Dame, Our Mother” and the “Notre Dame Victory March,” then allowed students an up-close look at the instruments. Following the concert at the Boniface campus on West 54th Street and Denison Avenue, the fighting Irish musicians got down to work painting hop scotch and other playground games on the parking lot. Other students pulled weeds and planted flowers.

The student-led trip found Metro Catholic after doing a Google search for Catholic schools in Cleveland. After visiting the school’s website, trip organizers said they knew they had to

visit. Sam Miller, a student organizer said that she “picked Metro Catholic because I really wanted to serve Catholic schools because I have been greatly influenced by my Catholic education, and both of my parents are Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Washington.” Miller, a trumpet player, also is studying to be a teacher.

Many members of the band have been coming on the service trip for years. “I love the idea of taking the gift of band and the gift to time and being able to donate to others with my friends,” said senior piccolo player Annie Hill. “This is an opportunity to do something different. It’s about meeting people and getting involved in their community. We can get a lot done while we’re here,” said Daniel Griffin, a junior who plays the trumpet.

In addition to their stop at Metro Catholic, the group took time to serve at Laura’s Home, Drink Local. Drink Tap., MedWish International, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and Green Corps. After completing their service projects in Cleveland, the group boarded its bus and headed back to South Bend, Indiana. The Irish took on that “team up North” that weekend and it’s likely there were a few more younger viewers watching and hoping to see their new-found friends.

THE MIDWEST CLINIC HONORS GREG BIMM

Greg Bimm, Marian Catholic High School Band (Chicago), was honored last December as a “Midwest Clinic Legend” recognizing his outstanding, lifetime contributions to music education. Mr. Bimm is pictured back row, third from the left.

The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference is the world’s largest instrumental music education conference, annually drawing approximately 17,000 attendees to Chicago from all 50 states and as many as forty countries. It is held every December in downtown Chicago.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

(reprinted with permission from the Waxahachie Daily Light)

The band began to play as students walked in through the doors of St. Joseph Catholic School (Waxahachie, TX) in celebration of the 100th day of school. As students settled in, the song “Let’s go band,” rang from the instruments, and they chanted, “Fight! Fight! Fight!”

Principal Autumn Helland was in charge of planning the pep rally that took place Thursday. “Last year was the first time that we decided to do a pep rally and kind of make it a schoolwide celebration,” Helland said. “Our students work so hard, and we just wanted to be like, ‘You made it!’ “



Students weren’t the only ones present at this event. Diana Lund came to enjoy the afternoon and watch her grandson play in the band. “I decided to go this year because usually I’m working, but I decided to take off,” Lund said. She said her grandson has attended the school since kindergarten and has grown up here. Lund usually volunteers in some school events and likes to be involved in the community.

The band teacher, **Kristin Bittick**, was left with her students and a seemingly proud smile on her face. “It’s a lot of fun for them to play for their peers,” Bittick said. Bittick has students ranging from fourth to eighth grade. They play various instruments, which they get to choose from.

Band student Lily Grstenkorn enjoyed performing at the pep rally. “It’s kinda fun because everybody in the school is here, and they usually throw shirts out,” Grstenkorn said.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Our Musical Saints: St. Romanos the Melodist

St. Romanos, the Melodist (or, the Hymnographer), patron saint of church singers, feast day of October 1st, venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, was born c. 490 in Syria and died c. 556 in Constantinople. His works are considered divinely inspired, and he is considered by many to be the greatest poet of the Greek middle ages.

His opus includes more than 1000 *kontakia* (hymns) for various liturgical feasts and on lives of the saints and other sacred themes. Only 85 ascribed to him survive.

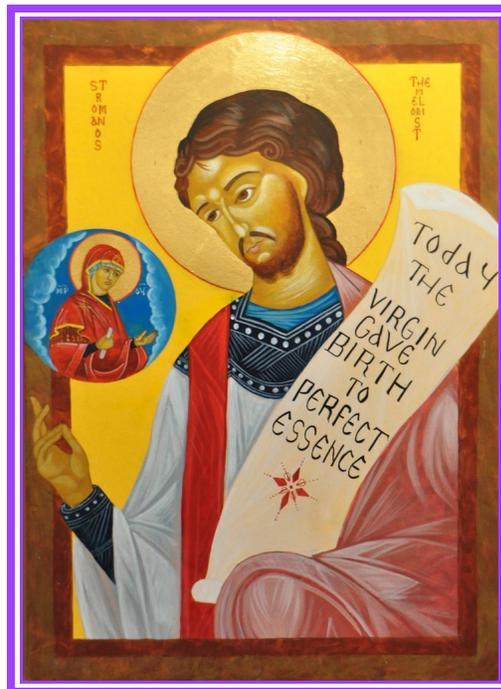
Around the year 518, during the all-night vigil for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, he was assigned to read a portion of the Psalter. He read so poorly he was immediately replaced; humiliated, exhausted, he sat down and fell asleep. The *Theotokos* (Mother of God) appeared with a scroll, gently commanded him to eat it, and, when he did, he awoke. He ascended the pulpit and chanted his most famous *Nativity Kontakion*. Here is the Prelude to the 24 stanzas of the *kontakion*:

Today the Virgin gives birth to him who is above all being,
and the earth offers a cave to him whom no one can approach.
Angels with shepherds give glory,
and magi journey with a star,
For to us there has been born
A little Child, God before the ages...

Other famous *kontakia* of St. Romanos are “The Raising of Lazarus” and “Adam’s Lament.” The beautiful *Akathistos Hymn to the Theotokos* has been attributed to him.

Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all...
Rejoice, for the things of Heaven rejoice with the earth:
Rejoice, for the things of earth join chorus with the heavens...
Rejoice, Thou that has carried in Thy womb the Redeemer of captives...
Rejoice, love that doth vanquish all desire!

*contributed by Katherine Ramos Baker, Oblate, O.S.B.
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Our Liturgical Worship

“Singing and Music”

(from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

(1156) “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy.” The composition and singing of inspired psalms, often accompanied by musical instruments, were already closely linked to the liturgical celebrations of the Old Covenant. The Church continues and develops this tradition: “Address . . . one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.” “He who sings prays twice.”

(1157) Song and music fulfill their function as signs in a manner all the more significant when they are “more closely connected . . . with the liturgical action,” according to three principal criteria: beauty expressive of prayer, the unanimous participation of the assembly at the designated moments, and the solemn character of the celebration. In this way they participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful:

How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What

emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face — tears that did me good.

(1158) The harmony of signs (song, music, words, and actions) is all the more expressive and fruitful when expressed in the cultural richness of the People of God who celebrate. Hence “religious singing by the faithful is to be intelligently fostered so that in devotions and sacred exercises as well as in liturgical services,” in conformity with the Church’s norms, “the voices of the faithful may be heard.” But “the texts intended to be sung must always be in conformity with Catholic doctrine. Indeed they should be drawn chiefly from the Sacred Scripture and from liturgical sources.”

PRAYER IN TIMES OF EPIDEMICS

(extract from the Roman Ritual, Titulus IX, Caput X)

V: Deal not with us, Lord, according to our sins.

R: **And take not vengeance on us because of our misdeeds.**

V: Help us, O God, our Deliverer.

R: **And for thy name’s sake, O Lord, free us.**

V: Remember not, O Lord, our sins of old.

R: **Hasten to us with thy compassion, for we are become exceeding poor.**

V: St. Sebastian, pray for us.

R: **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

V: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: **And let my cry come unto thee.**

V: The Lord be with you.

R: **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Vouchsafe to hear us, O God, our only salvation! And through the intercession of the glorious blessed Mary, Mother of God and ever Virgin, of thy blessed martyr, Sebastian and of all the saints, deliver thy people from the terrors of thy wrath, and restore their confidence by the outpouring of thy compassion. Be moved to pity, O Lord, at our earnest entreaties, and heal the illnesses of body and soul; so that experiencing thy forgiveness we may ever rejoice in thy blessing.

We beseech thee, O Lord, grant us a hearing as we devoutly raise our petitions to thee, and graciously turn away the epidemic of plague which afflicts us; so that mortal hearts may recognize that these scourges proceed from thine indignation and cease only when thou art moved to mercy. Through our Lord ...

R: **Amen**

The priest then blesses the people with a relic of the True Cross, saying:

V: And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain forever.

R: **Amen**

Do you need to renew your NCBA membership? Go online to www.catholicbands.org.