

# *Notes from the Choir Guy*

March 19, 2010

IMPORTANT NOTE: I included June 5/6 on this current schedule, as that was the last weekend of the choir season. Please check your assignments and let me know if you cannot sing/play that weekend.

## **Unavailable Dates**

**Please provide any unavailable dates for June / July before May 15.** If you can help out this summer with a small cantor group or by yourself, please let me know right away, as I will need to see how short we will be on vocalists. Also, don't forget about July 4 and any other summer events.

## **A Thank You for Sr. Mary Jo Polak**

As most of you know, Our Lady of Peace will be closing this summer and the Benedictine Sisters who live there will be transferred to other locations. Therefore, we bid a most fond farewell to Sr. Mary Jo Polak, accompanist extraordinaire, who has served Our Lady of Lourdes for many years. While we are sad that she will be leaving the ranks of our music ministry, we know that God has blessed her with many good memories. May Christ guide your future endeavors and grant you peace in this time of transition. All of our prayers and good wishes go with you! (Don't forget to write!) ;-)

## **Lenten Reminders and Other Information**

Just a few reminders as we switch to a new liturgical season (and new Mass setting):

- 1) **Scheduling for Summer Masses** – *If your schedule changes and you must be absent, be absolutely certain that your slot is covered.* Small groups will be covering more of the schedule during the summer, so please do not strand anyone at the last minute. Finding a substitute is *your* responsibility, so please be considerate.
- 2) **Independent Cantors** – If you are able to help during the summer, please contact me with any information you may have. We may be pretty short, so the sooner I know who is available, the better.
- 3) **Accompanist Shortage** – We will be pretty thin on accompanists in the summer, as a couple of people are expecting new additions to their families and Sr. Mary Jo will be leaving. If any of our experienced keyboard people can offer some extra help, I would appreciate it!
- 4) **Personal Travel Plans** – I will be visiting family the weekend after Easter, but this has created a problem in the schedule, as several other people are unavailable. If you can help on this weekend (vocally-speaking), please check the schedule. Since Jennifer had to “put in” for this date in February, we cannot change the date without losing the ability to go, so our options are rather limited.

## **An Additional Way to Recruit New Music Ministers**

Summer is a time when music ministers, especially choir members, are more likely to be attending Mass within the congregation. I'm sure you've all had the experience where you overhear someone singing who you'd like to invite into the Music Ministry program. You may have been reluctant to approach the person directly so Jim Judd created mini-invitations to help make this task easier. These invitations are business cards which contain an invitation to consider becoming a Music Minister. Simply carry a few of the cards in your pocket when you attend Mass and hand them to the person as in invitation and reminder to consider becoming a Music Minister. A supply of the cards will be maintained during the summer in the white choir cabinet near the choir area. They will be in a green index card box with the label "Music Ministry Recruiting Cards" on the top. There are three styles so take the one that suits you the best and invite others to serve our faith community.

## **Warm Weather Reminder**

Please remember that our obligation to lead by example does not change with the weather. As ministers in the church, we must provide good leadership in not only our participation and behavior but also our state of dress. When you select your clothes for Mass, please keep modesty and good taste in mind, not just adequate ventilation. Thank you from the entire congregation!

## **Personal Update / Continued Request for Prayers**

I wanted to thank everyone who has been praying for Jennifer and me. Our meetings with a high-risk pregnancy doctor have been productive, and we feel as though we are on the right track. At the same time, I was just informed this week that the wife of my first cousin has been diagnosed with Stage 3 Lymphoma, and they have 3 small children. This has been an especially hard blow for them, as just a year ago, Amy lost her Father. Please keep Amy and the rest of our family in your prayers.

Paul Fell, Director of Music / Liturgy