

PBCAC: Songs of Pascha

In observance of its 10th Anniversary in 2008, the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir (PBCAC) recently presented a series of Paschal programs in celebration of the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord. Entitled “Songs of Pascha,” the program included diverse arrangements of Resurrection themes sung in English and Slavonic by the PBCAC. A special reading from the 1996 Paschal pastoral letter by PBCAC founder Metropolitan Judson of blessed memory was a program highlight.

The first stop on the Choir’s mini-tour was **St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, Pa.**, where Father Thomas Wesdock is pastor. Metropolitan Basil was in attendance, along with members of the clergy and several Sisters of St. Basil, who traveled from nearby Mount St. Macrina to enjoy the program with members and guests of the parish.

Following the Sunday, April 13, 2008 presentation, a hospitality reception was held in the St. John School lyceum, where refreshments and sumptuous sweets (made especially for the occasion by St. John parishioners) awaited all in attendance.

St. John the Baptist Church in Lyndora, Pa. was the PBCAC’s second “tour stop” on Saturday, April 19. Very Reverend Archpriest Dennis M. Bogda began the program by welcoming attendees with a joyous reminder of the reason for the late afternoon gathering: “*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*” Divine Liturgy followed the musical presentation, with responses led by the choir.

All were then invited to enjoy a delicious hospitality meal prepared and served by a dedicated team of parishioners in the church social hall.

The final PBCAC Paschal program was given on Tuesday, April 29 at **Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, Pa.** Acknowledging Metropolitan Basil, pastor Father Ronald Larko welcomed all in attendance, including guests from several neighboring churches. Brother Deacon Jerome Wolbert later joined the choir to deliver the heartfelt Paschal pastoral letter reading.

A hospitality reception, with treats and sweets prepared by Holy Ghost parishioners, was enjoyed in the social hall after the program. The PBCAC continued the musical mirth with a Rusyn folk tune sing-along, accompanied by accordionist and PBCAC member Greg Fejka. ■



St. John the Baptist (Uniontown, Pa.) parishioners Bonnie Balas (*front row, third from left*) and Kay Balas (*far right*) are thanked for their hospitality by Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir altos (*front row, left to right*) Helen Hopey and Barbara Karolcik, and basses (*back row, left to right*) Tom Stagon, Greg Fejka and Tom Karolcik.



Serving heaping helpings of hospitality following the April 19 “Songs of Pascha” program and Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Church in Lyndora, Pa. are (*back row, left to right*): Barbara Nemcek; Betsy Sychak; Martha Sychak; Father Dennis Bogda; Flora Sapar; Marge Brandt. (*front row, left to right*): Terri Molczan (*kneeling*); Nicole Schneider; Jenna Molczan.



PBCAC soprano Anne Chemsak (*center*) is congratulated by (*clockwise from left*) Metropolitan Basil, Father James Hess, O. Carm., seminarian Diodoro Mendoza and Deacon Raymond Zadzilko for a job well done following the Choir’s program at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks, Pa..

photos by Darlene Fejka

Metropolitan Basil and Father Ron Larko (*front row, center left and right*) are pictured with the Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir following the conclusion of the Choir’s “Songs of Pascha” musical program presented at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks on April 29.

