

A Voice Cries Out...

By Dennis Gilhooley



It has been a while since the last time I updated everyone with news from the Voices of Mercy. In the time since I last wrote, we have celebrated the beautiful seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. These are my favorite seasons of the Liturgical year, first because of their holiness and the special significance they have to us as Christians, but secondly because of the wealth of beautiful music that is associated with them and that we get to worship with. It is truly an honor to be able to lead God's faithful in song during such wonderful celebrations.

One of the special blessings for us during Lent was the debut of the completely original Stations of the Cross in Song by Voice of Mercy Drew Bernstein. It consists of 14 original songs, each one written specifically for a different station to help convey its meaning and emotion. It is a powerful ministry.

Now that we are heading back into Ordinary Time within the Church, the Voices will concentrate on learning some new music, with much of it being original. We hope to start teaching our Sunday congregation some of this new music very soon.

Some of the Voices of Mercy have also been busy traveling over the past few weeks. Drew and Sandy Bernstein along with myself accompanied Amy to Pittsburgh for a talk to the Pittsburgh Magnificat group. Amy's talk was very powerful and the over 200 women seemed genuinely moved. One of the highlights for the Voices was ministering with the Magnificat's music ministry. There was a very talented group of women from Steubenville who provide music for the Pittsburgh Magnificat breakfasts and they did a powerful job of leading us all in worship. The Voices got up to sing during Amy's talk. After Amy spoke she wanted us to sing one more song. Norm and Amy have always taught us that where the Holy Spirit is, there is freedom. And I have seen that proven over and over. And this ministry showed it again. As we started our last song: "How Great Is Our God!", the Magnificat Music Ministry, prompted by the Holy Spirit, just came up, grabbed their instruments and began to play and sing with us. It was incredible. It was like we had rehearsed together for weeks, even though we had just met each other that morning. I can tell you that when this happens in music ministry, you know it is truly God at work.

Norm Paolini has also taken our music ministry on the road. A very distant road! Norm travelled to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage led by Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI. Norm provided the music ministry for the liturgical celebrations during the pilgrimage. Just to hear stories from Norm such as: "We had just finished playing Christmas Mass in Bethlehem – it was beautiful" were enough to give us all Holy Spirit bumps as we imagined what a powerful experience that must be.

One last bit of news from the Voices of Mercy. We are hoping to release our double CD of Praise Songs sometime this year. The CD will contain many of our most requested Praise Songs: everything from "Let the Fire Fall" and "Lord I Lift Your Name On High" to "Blessed Be Your Name". We are excited about it and hope you will be too when you hear it.

God bless each and every one of you reading this and all your family.

"Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; worship the LORD with cries of gladness; come before him with joyful song." – Psalm 100: 1 – 2

We're running out of wheels...



At St. Luke's we like to believe that we are able to *roll* with the punches...but lately that's getting harder to do as we say goodbye to some of our, shall we say, more seasoned vehicles! Won't you consider donating your car, van or truck to St. Luke's? It's tax deductible and keeps the Mission on the move! Call 894-4476 today!

Our NEWEST Missionaries!



Sam and Traci Tillman have long been active and treasured members of the St. Luke's community and this year took the plunge! They were welcomed as new missionaries at the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass by the entire congregation. Traci will continue helping in the school and Good Shepherd Residence, and Sam will continue to serve as security, usher, mentor and friend, as well as taking part in the many activities throughout the year. Welcome!



Sandy Bernstein has been a beloved member of the Voices of Mercy for several years, and this year joined the Lay Servants of Divine Mercy to expand her role and duties to serve our community. Sandy, ever the optimist, has already brightened up the Mission with her smile and warm demeanor and has begun helping in the sacristy. Welcome!