Schola Adults as Faith Community

Labor Day Weekend GATHERING 2022

Schola Chalet, Wrightwood, California

The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific® is a choir but also a Christian Community. On the Sept. 2-5, 2022, Labor Day Weekend, the Schola adults gathered at our "chalet" in the mountains above Los Angeles, for an end of summertime, new Schola year Mass and celebration.

The Schola's Alpine-style chalet is the site of our home chapel – what we call, from the French, our *Manecantory*, the "place where the Music begins," our Chapel of Saint Joseph of the Holy Family. The pine-covered valley village of Wrightwood, of 6,000-foot elevation in the "alps" above Los Angeles, is within what is now the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

At the Mass, the choristers sang Gregorian chant and classic hymnody. Then plans were made to give in the coming Liturgical Year the renewed emphasis needed to "come fully out of COVID" and celebrate both great Liturgical Music and Marianist family spirit.

To the delight of all, choirmaster Vince Bastidas and his wife, soprano Stephanie, introduced to the choir cheerful four-month-old "Little Vince," while Schola Vice Chairman and Guitar instructor Julio Maldonado and his wife Noely, introduced their fascinated thirteen-month daughter Melody.

Choir Founder Fr. Ted Ley, SM, introduced two new Schola members – Alex Marquez and his wife, Veronica, who knew Fr. Ted from the Schola’s days at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Gardena. On the Saturday, Alex, chef extraordinaire, whipped up tri-tip, cod and all the trimmings. Alex had assisted Fr. Ted all spring and summer in sprucing up the Chalet for its re-activated use as the

Nearly all Schola adults were able to come. A delicious country-style meal was provided on Sunday by cantrices Christina van Ingen and Marilu Reyes. Alto Cynthia Bih took many pictures. Bass Mike Tabor helped manage the chalet all weekend.

Members of the Marianist Lay Community of Wrightwood assisted with lodging. Schola bass and youth leader, Bob Montana of Wrightwood, Marianist affiliate, though moving to Oregon, was able to visit. Woodwind soloist tenor Brian Clements and his wife Sara, and principal soprano Louinn Lota, added both mirth and helpful initiative.

A few of the choristers were new to Wrightwood and the Chalet. So the short scenic ride to the "top of the hill" – highest drivable point in Southern California, was a source of amazement.

The Schola added to Wrightwood Village's population of 5,000 for the weekend, and additional scoops and waffle cones were in order during the excessive heat warning, to the delight of the local ice cream and candy parlor.

The family spirit of our Schola is an essential ingredient in "who we are." The need for small-group Catholic Faith community is greater today than ever. It is hoped that our Marianist family spirit might in some way be seen and emulated by the Faithful with whom we endeavor to share fine Sacred Music.