Schola/Escolanía sing Mass on the first Sunday of Lent, Feb. 26, 2023

BOYLE HEIGHTS, California \_ A dozen choristers formed the cantoral group marking the First Sunday of Lent at our main music residency, Assumption Parish in Boyle Heights, Feb. 26, 2023. The next Mass for the combined choirs will be **Palm Sunday, April 2** at the parish located on 2832 Blanchard Street, ZIP 90033.

Adult Schola Cantorum of the Pacific members comprised most of the choir with the rest of the singers from the children’s Escolanía Pacífica. Under the direction of tenor/choirmaster and cantor Vince Bastidas, adult choristers included: bass Mike Tabor; alto Cynthia Bih; sopranos Louinn Lota and cantrice Christina van Ingen; tenors Abraham Tadeo and Ricardo Peñaloza; with choir founder Fr. Ted Ley, SM, at the keyboard and singing bass as well.

At the last Mass sung, Jan. 8, soprano Marilu Reyes invited parishioners, in English and Spanish, to rehearse and join the choir. She also described how the Schola’s 47-year music ministry benefitted everyone, especially parish children. Rehearsals are Tuesdays in the Schola studio on school grounds with kids rehearsing 7-8 p.m.; teens and adults 7:30-9 p.m.

“Although our parish school closed, its excellent music program continues with two ensembles (instrumental and vocal) for ages 8-and up,” Miss Reyes said. “Both groups give concerts nearby and on tour and for the 11 a.m. Mass here at the parish.”

“We would like to invite you and your young people to this great, free program,” Miss Reyes continued. “Please tell others, including young adults about this wonderful Catholic social and spiritual opportunity at Assumption.”

To support our music ministry, please click on the Donations tab to give to our efforts.

On Feb. 26, combined choir members sang Catholic Congregation of the Holy Spirit priest Fr. Lucien Deiss’ *Grant to Us O Lord* as the Invitatory, along with the Gregorian Lenten lament/antiphon *Parce Domine* (Spare us O Lord) which was reprised as a Communion hymn. *Grant to Us* was reprised in the Introit. J.S. Bach’s *Jesu Joy of All Desiring* also was sung during Communion.The *Kyrie* of the Gregorian Mass of the Angels and Eucharistic Prayer service music from Marty Haugen’s *Creation Mass* were used, along with the Paraguayan folkloric *Cordero de Dios* (Lamb of God).

The Gospel Acclamation, *Praise and Honor to You, Lord Jesus Christ* was sung for Lent.

During the Preparation of the Gifts, *Lenten Love*, a song with lyrics by Fr. Ted set to a melody by Johannes Brahms, was sung, and was reprised as a postlude, while *Come, O Jesus, Come into My Heart*, also was sung at the preparation. *Come, O Jesus,* was composed by Fr. Ted especially for first communicants. *Lenten Love* was sung again as the Recessional.