**Schola at the 2022 Marianist Jubilee**

The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific® sings in celebration of California Marianist Jubilarians – twice!

CUPERTINO, California \_ Schola Cantorum of the Pacific members sang in celebration of six jubilarians of the Marianist Province of the United States including Fr. James Heft, Bro. Jack Dempsey, and Fr. Roland Bunda, who all have connections to the Schola’s Marianist Founder, Fr. Ted Ley.

Fr. Heft, founder of the Institute of Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California, lives at Lalanne House across the street from USC, where Fr. Ted has lived in sabbatical. Bro. Jack lives with Fr. Ted at the West Hills, California Brothers’ House, and Fr. Bunda taught some of the choir members.

“Thank you for being here,” Fr. Heft said. “We are grateful to you for sharing your talent and time and making this jubilee celebration memorable.” Other jubilarians nodded in agreement.

He celebrated his 60th anniversary of religious profession on Saturday, June 18, 2022, while Brother Thomas Spring, and Fr. Patrick Philbin who was unable to be in attendance, both observed 70 years of religious profession, with Fr. Philbin also marking 50 years as an ordained priest. Fr. Thomas Redmond was celebrating 50 years of religious vows. Bro. Jack, and Fr. Bunda both marked 60 years of religious profession.

Fr. Bunda, who taught soprano-cantrice Christina van Ingen at Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii, played his ukulele and sang Hawaiian songs at the luncheon following the Jubilee Mass at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. The Schola went from sacred music to swing songs entertaining the gathering of some 100 people.

Songs at the luncheon included: the Academy Award-winning *In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening,* by Hoagy Carmichael and Johnny Mercer; *All the Things you Are,* by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II; and the *Tagalog* ballad, *Dahil sa Iyo* (Because of You), 1938, by Mike Velarde Jr., for the Filipino movie *Bituing Marikit* (Beautiful Star). The song became a hit in the U.S. in 1964.

“I guess everyone loves a love song no matter what language,” said chorist Louinn Lota, a Filipino American. She said that she gave away her lead sheets to English speaking priests and Brothers who may have Fil-Ams in their parishes able to translate the *Tagalog* words. Members of the lunch crowd also came up to her to say the song sparked memories.

At the Jubilee Mass, the Schola members were conducted by Vicente Bastidas, tenor; with Marilu Reyes, soprano-cantrice; Louinn Lota, soprano; Cynthia Bih, alto, and Alisa Benitez, 16-year-old Schola alto. They were joined by long-time Schola instrumentalist Russ Bartoli of San Francisco, whose cello accompaniments elevated the choir’s sound to sublime.

This music was sung at the Jubilee Mass at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish in the city of Cupertino: *How Blest are They who Follow Christ,* music by 60-year jubilarian Fr. Gerald Chinchar of San Antonio, Texas, words by Harry Hagan, OSB, a monk of St. Meinrad’s Abbey, Indiana; *Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring,* from Cantata 147 by J.S. Bach; an anonymous Tudor anthem, *This is the Day which the Lord hath Made*; the congregational hymn upon Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* with lyrics prepared for the Jubilee; Gregorian *Kyrie XVII;* The *Belmont Gloria* of Christopher Walker; New Grail *Psalm 145* in Anglican chant by C.V. Stanford with antiphon by Fr. Ley; the *Taizé Laudate* of Jacques Berthier; congregation singing of the *Salve Regina*; the antiphonal *To This Table Lord We Come,* words and music by Bro. Howard Hughes, SM, of the Cupertino Marianists; Eucharistic Prayer music from *Mass of Creation* by Marty Haugen; a traditional Paraguayan *Cordero de Dios* arranged by Fr. Ley; *Gift of Finest Wheat,* by R. Kreutz and O. Westendorf; and an *Ave Maria* composed in 1935 for the Marianists by H. W. Howard of Washington, DC. Music was accompanied on a Kawai grand piano by Fr. Ley, with Mr. Bartoli, cellist, and with Cantrices Christina van Ingen and Marilu Reyes who led the Congregation. All the music was conducted by Mr. Bastidas.

The choir hit tourist spots in nearby San Francisco before heading home to Southern California. Christina, Marilu, Cynthia and Louinn had an all-female road trip, driving from the South Bay to the San Francisco Bay, since most of them had never seen the Golden Gate Bridge or Fisherman’s Wharf. This event was, for the Schola choristers, a great experience of Marianist ministry of laity, with many elements of Christian Community and the Marian emphasis of the worldwide Marianist family of religious and laity in the Catholic Church.