

Report of the Director of Music Ministries

2011 was a year of many compliments about our wonderful choir and The Gregory's! One musician (me) does not make a great church music program. It takes many individuals, working in tandem -- and with a lot of dedication.

Our choir rehearses every week (concurrent with the church school season). They arrive at least 45 minutes early on Sunday mornings, and an hour early beginning several Sundays before Easter and Christmas. It requires a lot of commitment and the ability to set aside one's own agenda for the common good. I am so, so grateful to the parishioners who participate in our choir.

We are very fortunate to have our professional singers: Susan Nelson, Sammi Block, Dena Borman, Rob Cunningham and Hans Royal-Hedinger. Without them, we would be a pretty average church choir. With them we can perform many different types of music which would otherwise be impossible.

Thanks to Rob Cunningham (guitarist and lead vocalist), Bill Babcock (lead guitarist, mandolin, improvisateur), Jim Swager (vocalist, percussionist & librarian) and Art Bielski (bass) for their dedication to The Gregory's -- and for countless hours spent setting up and taking down the equipment, as well as playing so beautifully. Thanks to Erika Hernandez, Dena Borman and Hans Royal-Hedinger for their assistance with the vocals, too.

Special thanks to Mother Meredith! She has been a **GREAT** supporter of The Gregory's -- and a strong advocate for the modernizing of our music and liturgy. I have really enjoyed collaborating with you, Meredith. You will be sorely missed!

I am especially appreciative of the many generous gifts which have been given to the Ministry of Music over the past year. Your support means the world to me, and to the choir.

Finally, thanks to my fellow staff members -- especially Father Bill & Mother Meredith. You are rare birds, indeed. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the two of you.

Jim Collins

Director of Music Ministries