

# METROPOLITAN CANTOR INSTITUTE

*for the*

## ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH

*at the*

### BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY

3605 Perrysville Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15214



2010-2011

The Metropolitan Cantor Institute in the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, initiated in 1998, has a threefold purpose, to:

- prepare men and women to serve as parochial cantors,
- serve as a resource center for liturgical music, and
- provide professional support for the cantors of the Archeparchy.

The first year of the four-year cantor education program aims to teach new cantors to lead the **singing of the Sunday and weekday Divine Liturgy** in a parish setting. This material is provided every year to first-year students. It is set up to provide instruction for those new to church singing, and for experienced cantors who are just entering the MCI program.

The remaining three years of the program, taught on a rotating basis, will teach the liturgical aspects and music of the various groups of services in our tradition:

**Year A: The fixed cycle of feasts and fasts** (services of the Menaion). The service of Vespers. The Christmas and Theophany services

**Year B: The moveable Paschal cycle:** from the beginning of the Great Fast through Pentecost and the Sundays that follow it. Presanctified Liturgy, Holy Week and Pascha.

**Year C: The occasional services:** baptism, chrismation, anointing, marriage, ordination, the funeral service, and devotional services (panachidea, moleben, akathist).

In 2010-2011, we will be teaching **Year C**, with concentration on the funeral service.

Students of the cantor institute program are also expected to take the 6-week course for reader education, which teaches the preparation and reading of the Epistle and other Scriptural texts, the reading tones and psalm tones. We plan to offer the reader education course twice each year, in the Fall and Spring.

Each session of the cantor education course provides liturgical education, vocal lessons with an experienced voice teacher, and opportunities to learn and practice our Church's plainchant. Students will receive practical experience singing in the seminary chapel during services held as part of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute sessions.

Completion of the reader course and all four years of the cantor course should prepare an individual to lead the singing of all the services ordinarily celebrated in a parish of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Examinations are given at the end of each year, and a Certificate in Church Music is awarded at the successful completion of the reader and cantor courses.

All students, new and returning, should fill out the enclosed registration form and return it with your payment to the Metropolitan Cantor Institute by September 10, 2010. Thank you and God bless you for your devotion to our Church and its chant.

