

MESSENGER

VOLUME 6 NO.2

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA PARISH NEWSLETTER

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2005

Wonderful Concert, Wonderful Gift

by Peg Edquist

Music and song filled the church and reverberated from the rafters at St. Francis Borgia-North on Sunday afternoon October 16 as the official dedication of the Marianne Huiras Memorial Organ was held. More than 100 children from combined choirs of the parish and school, the full adult choir, the handbell choir, a brass section and guest organist Dr. John Behnke combined their considerable talents and performed a most memorable concert.

"We come together to listen and to bless this beautiful organ today," said Fr. Tom Eichenberger, pastor. With the new organ, "the liturgy each Sunday morning becomes even more joyful and more beautiful than ever," he said.

Lana Schumacher, Director of Liturgical Music and organizer of the event, said the dedication was a culmination of a five-year effort that began with a committee to plan for a new organ. "Music can fill the heart and soul, all for the greater honor and glory of God," she said. "We can now continue to praise God in this way for years to come."

The concert was planned for months to celebrate the new organ which was donated in the memory of Marianne Huiras, the late wife of parishioner Ralph Huiras. In addition, other sanctuary donors, including Carl Edquist, the Ferree and Neuser families and the family of Mary Schulist were acknowledged.

The concert opened with a processional of the bell choir and the adult choir shortly after Dr. Behnke opened the performance with the "Prelude in E Flat Major" by Johann Sebastian Bach. As the processional continued, those attending, as well as the choirs, sang "Come, Christians Join to Sing" and the concert was officially underway.

Several hymns and organ solos followed, including "Morning Has Broken," "Beautiful Savior" and a resounding "We are Marching in the Light of God" sung by the children's choir and the congregation.

Dr. Behnke, a professor of music at Concordia University in Mequon, is a frequent organ recitalist, handbell clinician and organist at the historic Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.



SFB pastor Fr. Tom Eichenberger raises his hand in blessing during the dedication of our new organ. Former Pastors Fr. George Gajdos (center) and Fr. Ed Wawrzyniakowski assisted in the dedication blessing. (Photo by Joe Higdon) More photos on Page 8.

During the dedication blessing, Fr. Tom was joined by former St. Francis Borgia pastors Monsignor George Gajdos and Fr. Ed Wawrzyniakowski. "Let us give him thanks by singing him praises with our hearts and voices," said Fr. George, as he asked the congregation to respond to each petition. "We present this organ for your blessing to express our prayer and praise," said Fr. Ed, "with melodies that are pleasing to you."

The concert ended with the hymn "Now Praise the Lord" followed by a final solo of Bach's "Fugue in E Flat Major."

Afterwards, all were invited to a reception in the church hall which included refreshments, a bountiful buffet and a vast array of desserts, complete with a chocolate fountain. During the reception, a video presentation that chronicled the planning, design and installation of the organ was shown.

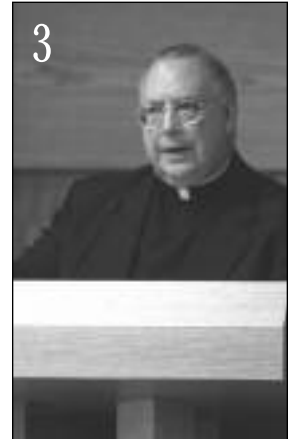
"The spirit of the day captured the essence of what parish life is all about," said Lana. "A community filled with joy, prayerful music, hospitality and memories."

Advent/Christmas

One



Wonderful Concert, Wonderful Gift



1. Ralph Huiras with son Peter (left), daughter Lynn Ferguson and son-in-law Ed Ferguson.
2. Children at the reception gathered at the chocolate fountain for some special desserts
3. Pastor Fr. Tom Eichenberger
4. Ralph Huiras received a basket of flowers --and an appreciative kiss.
5. Over 100 parish children joined in song.
6. Lana Schumacher, Director of Music and Liturgy
7. Guest organist Dr. John Behnke
8. A full church meant many voices to sing praise to God.

Photos by Joe Higdon. (Story on page 1.)
See more photos on the parish website.

