

HOLY WEEK: Schola/Escolanía sing Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023

Nearly 60 young student-choristers from Immaculate Conception Church and School in downtown Los Angeles sang with Schola Cantorum of the Pacific and Escolanía Pacífica members of Assumption parish in Boyle Heights in celebration of Holy Thursday Mass the afternoon of April 6, 2023.

Under the direction of tenor/choirmaster and cantor Vince Bastidas, adult choristers included: bass Mike Tabor; alto Cynthia Bih; sopranos Louinn Lota, and cantrice Marilu Reyes; with choir founder Fr. Ted Ley, SM, at the keyboard and singing bass as well.

For Holy Thursday's Family Mass, the Schola's congregational parts were led by Miss Reyes with wonderful bell accompaniment during Christopher Walker's *Gloria* from his Belmont Mass, a Gregorian plain chant styling of the English-language *Glory to God*.

Before that, choristers sang the *Kyrie de Angelis* (Lord Have Mercy from the Gregorian Mass of the Angels). The young choristers, who fastidiously have been rehearsing with Mr. Bastidas, sang John Goss' *God So Loved the World*, Harry Wheaton Howard's *Ave Maria*, as well as Ms. Lota singing George Frederic Handel's *He Shall Feed His Flock*, all for the Invitatory. The Entrance Hymn, *To This Table, Lord, We Come*, was composed by Marianist Bro. Howard Hughes, SM. Fr. Ted's congregational setting of the Responsorial Psalm, *Our*

Blessing Cup is Communion, was followed by the Gospel Acclamation, *Praise and Honor to You, Lord Jesus Christ*.

At the Preparation of the Gifts, the choir and people sang a hymn composed by Fr. Ted especially for first communicants. *An Upper Room*, by Fred Pratt Green also was sung at the preparation.

Eucharistic Prayer service music from Marty Haugen's *Creation Mass* was used, along with the Paraguayan folkloric *Cordero de Dios* (Lamb of God).

During Holy Communion, choristers sang *Gift of Finest Wheat* by Robert E. Kreutz and Mr. Bastidas soloed the famous *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck, based on a text by St. Thomas Aquinas, with the Schola responding as the chorus. The Recessional was more somber and reminiscent of Renaissance style *a cappella* harmonization by Fr. Ted of the traditional *Parce Domine* (Spare us Lord), sung in successively higher keys by the students, with the middle school boys and adult Schola men forming effective tenor and bass sections.

Parce Domine was a fittingly somber ending to a Mass which could not include the Eucharistic Processional. The latter took place at the parish after its evening Spanish Mass. The afternoon Family Mass was the first Mass sung with a regular parish congregation by the new student choir at Immaculate Conception School under the auspices of the Schola.

After Mass, school Principal Walter Ortiz, praised choirmaster Bastidas and Schola founder Fr. Ted, for their Music Education and Music Ministry at Immaculate Conception School, an attractively special feature of the school.