

St. Albert the Great

St. Philip Neri

Cluster Parish

March 8, 2009

Second Sunday of Lent

What Is *This Music* We Now Sing?

You may have noticed at today's mass that we sang some music that may or may not be familiar. You might know *this music* as *Gregorian Chant*, *Plainchant*, *Plainsong*, or, just plain *Chant*! There are various reasons for why *this music* is known by these varied names, but suffice it to say that we hope that singing *this music* will help to foster a more prayerful atmosphere and a more contemplative liturgy during this season of Lent.

We may ask the question: Why sing *this music*? The obvious answer is: Why not!? Singing *this music* in Latin, which is still the official language of our Roman Catholic Church, can help to cultivate a sense of solemnity as we head toward Easter. *This music*, by its very nature and essence, is sung prayer. As such, we have the opportunity to be drawn closer to our faith by intentionally exploring this music through the lens of another language.

More than this, however, we have an opportunity to recover a lost treasure of the Church by singing *this music*. *This music* is a part of Roman Catholic history and is the progenitor to much of the liturgical music we know today. The Second Vatican Council has deemed this music as having *pride of place*, all other music considered. Though the connection may not seem immediately apparent, long before there was Dan Schutte, John Foley, Marty Haugen, Jesse Manibusan, and Bernadette Farrell (with all due respect to all of these composers), there was ... *this music*.

So, whether we call *this music* *Gregorian Chant*, *Plainchant*, *Plainsong*, or, just plain *Chant*, we would like to take this time to remember our shared history beyond our Euro-American, Asian-American, African American, Latin American, Native American, or just plain American identities and join together in sung prayer in a common language and prayerfully reflect our Roman Catholic heritage.

Chris Trinidad, -
St Albert the Great Choir Director