

March 25, 2009

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

The time has come for me to step down as Director of Music at Trinity Cathedral. For the past thirty-six years I have been blessed to guide the music program at this grand and historic place. Through these years I have cherished the relationships and life cycle events that I have been privileged to share with many of you. Trinity Cathedral has generously allowed me to grow as a musician and walked with me as I explored new and innovative directions to witness and proclaim the Gospel message through the gift of music. Together we have created and sustained a music program distinguished and widely recognized in the Episcopal Church.

We have built a Trinity Music Series that brings in over twelve thousand people a season; we have designed and constructed one of the great pipe organs in the world; we have increased funding through an annual fund drive and a healthy music endowment; we have witnessed the growth of the Trinity Choir and inception of the Cathedral Chamber Singers; we have participated in thrilling performances of the Trinity Consort, incorporating the greatest period instrumentalists and our Trinity choral singers performing great musical works of the 17th and 18th centuries; we have shared our facilities and love of choral music with the resident Pacific Youth Choir; we have been privileged to hear in concert many of the great organists from the United States and Europe; we have had in our midst the legendary American organist Catharine Crozier as Artist-in-Residence; and we have provided unique and inspiring music for our festival liturgies. For all of these countless blessings I give you my heartfelt gratitude.

My last Sunday will be May 2, 2010. As the year proceeds there will be ample opportunity for all of us to share memories and stories and, in the meantime, I look forward to continuing my ministry with you at Trinity Cathedral.

Sincerely yours,

Canon Dr. John Strege
Director of Cathedral Music