



**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY**

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AUGUST 21, 2012

Christ is in our midst!

The Diocese of New York and New Jersey will mark **Choir Appreciation Day on September 30, 2012**, the eve of the feast day of Saint Romanos the Melodist. As in the past, rectors and faithful of the Diocese should take time on this day to thank and encourage their choir leaders and singers. The dedication and abilities of these Orthodox Christians contribute immeasurably to our worship – a Liturgy without sung responses is impossible!

I am pleased to offer my archpastoral support to the Commission on Liturgical Music by endorsing the resources they have placed this year on our Diocesan website. For the first time, we are offering choirs on-line tools through which they can select music and network with each other. I encourage pastors as well as choir singers to use them and to attend the regular workshops the Commission offers.

We need to nurture and encourage our singing leaders – and thank them on this day for their pious work!

*Many years
to our choirs and their leaders!*

With love in Christ,

MICHAEL
Bishop of New York and the
Diocese of New York and New Jersey