



150 Years of Faith CONCERT

The Parish of St. Louis, King of France in St. Paul, Minnesota began the celebration of the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1868 with an outstanding concert on Sunday, April 29, 2018 which also marked the 182nd anniversary of the approbation of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836. The concert was dedicated to the memory of John Nasseff, a great friend and benefactor of the parish. It was presented also in observance of the 20th anniversary of the installation of the Laura L'Allier and Raymond Houle Memorial organ, the generous gift of Helene Houle, wife of Mr. Nasseff, in memory of her parents. The organ, built by Casavant Frères of Quebec, has one of the most ornate and celebrated cases of any organ built in the last one hundred years. The top of the case features five crests including that of the Society of Mary. Marists have served the parish community since 1886.



Many of the pieces featured in the performance had been commissioned specifically for the Church over the years. The concert featured a choir of eighteen semi-professional singers under the direction of Brian Carson, the Choirmaster. The choir sang Latin, English and Hebrew selections, all of which were masterfully done. Featured performances included a harp solo by Jann Stein, an organ solo by Brian Carson and another by Ben Kerswell, this year's organ scholar. The concert ended with the Hymn to St. Louis with lyrics provided by Fr. Leo Foley, S.M. The audience of approximately 220 people were struck by the beauty and majesty of the music presented. Afterwards all retired to the parish hall for a wine, cheese, cookies and fruit reception.

by John Sajdak SM, Pastor

See <http://www.stlouiskingoffrance.org/music/organ/>

