

His Grace Bishop Ilarion addresses the Alberta Benevolent Cantor Association at their Appreciation Banquet, September 8, 2012:

Glory be to Jesus Christ,

Pan Marshall Kachmar, President of Alberta Benevolent Cantor Association, honorable fathers, professors, students, members and friends;

It gives me great pleasure and honor to be with you today at this banquet on this lovely autumn evening.

I am very thankful for your dedication to serve the church of Christ. To be cantors in church is not only to be singers who have good musical training and voices, but to be servants of God who use their voices to glorify God.

The church is the home of prayer and everything that happens in the church has a purpose to unite God with human beings. The cantors in the services in the church represent the people of God, who pray to God about their needs, their necessities, their joy and sorrow, in good and bad moments of life, from the beginning of life until the end of life on earth. Every service in the church is the dialogue between the priest and the people of God and cantors represent not only themselves, but all the people who are gathered in the church for prayer. The cantors should remember that they represent all the people and should not only sing alone, but should involve all the people in the service. The cantors lead the people in the church prayers. It is not very difficult when the whole church sings “ Lord Have Mercy”, “ Our Father..”, The Creed, and so on, if the cantors encourage them to be involved to glorify God.

The role of the cantors in the church services is vital. They should be examples not only in glorifying God with their voices, but also in faith and in good deeds. They are not like singers in a theatre, who sing as a job and then go on to their personal life. The cantors should be examples of Christian life, not only in church, but in their personal life as well. The