



May 12, 2020

Dear Nikki, Family, and Friends of Archon Peter Vatsures,

Christ is Risen!

On behalf of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, I would like to express our deepest sorrow on the passing of our beloved brother in Christ, Peter Vatsures. Peter was a dedicated officer and a pillar in the life of MEFGOX, for which he labored resolutely until his last day on this earth.

Throughout his life, Peter was a faithful servant of the Orthodox Church. He began his service as an acolyte assisting the clergy in the Holy Altar and progressed through his GOYA years, eventually becoming a member of the choir, a ministry that brought him much joy for over sixty years. Peter was a constant figure at our Federation church music events. He rarely missed the opportunity to sing and enjoy fellowship with others, especially at our annual MEFGOX convention, which he chaired four times.

For more than fifty years, Peter was a devoted member of MEFGOX, serving on the Executive Board and in a variety of other capacities. In 1967, he held the office of President, and more recently was our liaison to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Perhaps most remarkably, Peter was lovingly nicknamed our “eternal treasurer” for his long-time role attending to our finances. Additionally, he maintained the Federation’s parish leadership database, and represented MEFGOX as a member of the National Forum’s Coordinating Committee. Peter did the work of several people and wore his many hats with distinction.

Peter’s efforts extended well beyond the borders of MEFGOX. He was a generous steward of his home parish, the Annunciation Cathedral of Columbus, Ohio, as well as a founding member of the National Forum of Church Musicians, where he chaired the Publications Committee and most notably served as the editor of the Liturgical Guidebook. Peter was greatly deserving of the Archdiocese’s highest honor for church musicians, the St. Romanos the Melodist Medallion, which he received in 1986. In 2011, he was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, *Archon Kastrinsios* of the Order of Saint Andrew, another honor he was exceptionally proud of. *Axios!*

On a personal note, Peter was a mentor, a guide, and a fountain of wisdom. I will forever be grateful for our many conversations and the advice he gave, even the day before his passing. MEFGOX will forever be indebted to Peter for his lifelong service to our church music ministry. He will truly be missed among our choirs here on earth, but let us rejoice knowing that he is now singing with the choir of angels in God’s heavenly kingdom.

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” May his memory be eternal.

In the Risen Lord,

Nicholas C. Bodle
MEFGOX President