

CANTEMUS

BULLETIN OF THE GREGORIAN INSTITUTE OF CANADA



Members of the Choir of the Institute process into the chancel of the Eglise de Tres-Saint-Sacrement in Quebec.

First annual Colloquium an enriching experience

The scene above was the culmination of several hectic days: thirty-seven members of the Institute from Quebec, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Chicoutimi, Rimouski, Ottawa, Hamilton, and Toronto had gathered enthusiastically on the weekend of August 4th, 2006, to take part in the various workshops and to celebrate several liturgical offices together.

The practical workshops began soon after the group's arrival at the Centre de spiritualite des Ursulines in Loretteville, Quebec, as the assembled singers were to sing Compline together the same evening. The beauty and distinctive solemnity of this often-neglected office was shown forth, not least in the beautiful Marian hymn *Salve regina* and the final

invocation of divine assistance echoed both audibly and spiritually as the late evening silence enveloped the chapel.

Saturday began with Lauds and a workshop covering some of the Ordinary and Proper of the next day's Mass. There followed a lecture by Jean-Pierre Noiseux entitled *Dom Joseph Potier, moine et gregorianiste*. Workshops for First Vespers and Lauds of the Transfiguration followed, and then the community sang the former office in the chapel.

Later that evening, participants drove into the city for a concert by Schola Saint Gregoire at the Chapel of the Vieux Monastere des Ursulines. The choir performed chants from the Office for St Ursula from an edition produced by Dom Potier from a manuscript of the Grande-

Chartreuse. The concert attracted many interested members of the public, demonstrating how effectively plainchant can draw the attention of musicians and non-musicians alike. The dramatic surroundings of the nuns' chapel and the rich timbre of the Schola were appropriate counterparts. Readings from the Old and New Testaments, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Catherine of Siena accompanied the antiphons and responsories of the Office.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

INSIDE

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham
A Festival of Chant at St Mary Magdalene's
GIC goes to Kalamazoo
Chant at the Cranmer Conference

Our website, located at gregorian.ca, has recent information in English and French on activities of the Institute and its partners. Membership forms are also available online for printing.

Do let us know of any changes to your contact information by email or by post.

Intensity of Colloquium tempered by contemplative Mass and Office

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As the sun rose, filling the windows of the chapel clerestory, participants rose early to celebrate Lauds of the Transfiguration. Soon afterward it was time to prepare for the first of two Masses that would be sung throughout the day. The first was celebrated in the chapel in the morning by Abbot Pierre-René Côté. The chants of the Ordinary and Proper were shared among the several choirs present. Participants remarked particularly on the clarity and the remarkable union of the voices at this service. After Mass and a brief

break, Lawrence Harris gave a talk entitled *In principio erat Verbum*, on the proper application of the Latin tonic accent in chant.

The participants again drove into Quebec to sing at the Church of the Tres-Saint-Sacrement. With Jean Cote at the organ, the ad hoc Choir of the Institute, led by Robert Castle, sang an alternate Mass (organ and plainchant) for the Transfiguration. A fine dinner at several local establishments followed, providing time for fellowship and for the choristers to enjoy an evening together.

A few participants remained until Monday morning, when the final service of Lauds was sung.

Among the participating choirs were le Choeur grégorien de Sherbrooke (dir.: Yvan Cloutier); Ritual Choir of the Church of St Mary Magdalene of Toronto (dir.: Robert Castle); la Schola grégorienne Scandicus de Québec (dir.: Jean Côté); la Schola Saint Grégoire de Montréal (dir.: Jean-Pierre Noiseux).

The Institute extends its thanks to the Ursulines of Quebec for their hospitality.

Plainchant at the Cranmer Conference

The Gregorian Institute of Canada accepted the invitation of the Cranmer Conference to provide two chant services for the conference in Dunnville Ontario. On Friday, June 9 we celebrated Evensong for the Feast of St. Columba. The liturgical model for this service was the monthly Evensong services that have been a fixture at St. John the Evangelist in Hamilton for the past seven years. Unique features of the service included a Gregorian

setting of *Phos hilaron*, the ancient Greek evening hymn, proper antiphons for the psalm and *Magnificat*, and the Sarum settings of the responsory *Miles Christi* and the *Nunc dimittis*. We also sang the motet by Jacobus Handl, *Ecce quomodo moritur justus*. The service concluded with the *Regina caeli* from the back of the church.

On Saturday, June 10, William Renwick led the Cranmer Conference participants in John

Merbecke's 1550 plainsong setting of Evensong in accordance with the First Prayer Book of Edward VI. Merbecke's lean, understated style certainly complemented the simplified reformed liturgy. A unique feature of Merbecke's composition is the use of varied note lengths to accentuate the text. The Gregorian Institute has been invited to return to the Cranmer Conference next June.

nota bene

Next year's Colloquium will be held in Ottawa, ON, from July 27-29, 2007, at the Maison Notre-Dame de la Providence (Orleans).

More details will be sent to Institute members as they become available.

L'INSTITUT GREGORIEN DU CANADA - THE GREGORIAN INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Mission

The Gregorian Institute of Canada (GIC) undertakes research and education to promote the study and performance of Gregorian and other western chant repertoires in Canada.

The Institute is a not-for-profit corporation, licensed and authorized to provide official tax receipts for donations in support of its mission. Founded in 2004, GIC is a non-denominational association. GIC is affiliated with The School of the Arts, McMaster University.

Board of Directors Robert Castle, Michael Fox, Jean-Pierre Noiseux, William Oates, William Renwick

Cantemus Editor Matthew Salisbury

GIC goes to Kalamazoo

In May 2006, William Oates and William Renwick drove down to Kalamazoo for the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Western Michigan University. With over 3,000 participants and 600 sessions, this is one of the largest medieval studies conferences in the world. William Renwick presented a paper on his continuing research on the Sarum Office. While

there, they were pleased to make the acquaintance of Luca Ricossa, who teaches chant at the University of Basle. The Medieval Congress was a great experience; so we put in a proposal to undertake a performance of First Vespers of Corpus Christi as it might have been performed in the 13th-14th centuries. This proposal has been accepted for the 2007 Congress, to be held May 10-13.

We have been preparing a performing edition based on the earliest manuscripts, and are forming a schola that will work on performance of the music in the coming months. While at the Congress, Institute member Matthew Salisbury will also give a paper on the pace of plainchant in relation to the liturgical and extralitururgical activities of the monastic day.

Ongoing Sarum Office project releases new material

The second installment of Music of the Sarum Office has been uploaded. This includes the Psalter for the little hours and for Matins and Lauds of weekdays. Music of the Sarum Office is being used as a resource at Yale University, Institute of Sacred Music, for a graduate seminar in Sarum Chant under the direction of Professor Margot Fassler. The third installment will be forthcoming in January 2007. This will include Vespers, Compline, the Penitential Psalms, the Litany, and the First Sunday of Advent. Two McMaster students will be assisting with the project in 2007. The URL is www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~renwick/sarum-01.htm

St Luke's, Brantford honours Our Lady of Walsingham

Cantors of the GIC were present at "the highest of High Anglican festivals", the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham at St Luke's, Brantford. Contributing to the atmosphere, which also included a "visiting censing team" from Hamilton, "the

biggest thurible in Brantford (called 'Sputnik')" and visiting clergy and supporters of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, not to mention the occasional visit from the local fire department, the cantors sang the service along with "the longest

processional hymn ever heard in these parts". Participants will certainly never forget this memorable day and look forward to its coming each year.

FROM AN ARTICLE
BY WALTER RAYBOULD

Festival celebrates 85 years of plainchant at St Mary Magdalene's

The Ritual Choir and Women's Schola of the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Toronto, performed November 26th in a concert to commemorate the end of the 85th year of plainchant in the parish. They were joined in performance by Montreal's Schola Saint Gregoire. Promulgated in 1921 by

then music director Healey Willan, St Mary Magdalene's chant tradition continues every Sunday and on feastdays.

The well-attended concert featured a selection of works associated with times throughout the church year, from Advent through Easter and Pentecost to All Saints, along with

congregational hymns and two of the four Marian anthems.

Some choristers noted the usefulness of Latin settings as common ground between the primarily francophone Schola and the Ritual Choir, which ordinarily sings English settings of the Mass Propers.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



Members of the GIC sing in the Walsingham procession

THE GREGORIAN INSTITUTE OF CANADA

45 Mercer Street
Dundas, Ontario
L9H 2N8
Canada
<http://www.gregorian.ca>



The Ritual Choir of the Church of St Mary Magdalene (left) and the Schola Saint Gregoire sing together at the recent Festival commemorating 85 years of plainchant in the parish.

FESTIVAL OF CHANT—from pg. 3 It was also an opportunity for Toronto audiences who might not be comfortable in a service at which plainchant was sung to experience the ancient melodies. Participants agreed that similar collaborations and expositions of chant for the public would be highly desirable.



CHANT AT THE CRANMER CONFERENCE: Some of the happy participants in this annual meeting of young traditional Anglicans. Dr William Renwick coached attendees in a 1552 BCP Evensong and the Plainsong Choir of St John the Evangelist, Hamilton were in attendance.

briefly noted

› A "House of Gregorian Chant" opened in Munich on October 29. The institute, connected with the parish of St. Mary, Help of Christians, is dedicated to preserving, spreading, and teaching Gregorian chant. The leader is the Benedictine monk Gregor Baumhof, 58, of the Niederaltaich monastery. He has studied mathematics and music, and since 1994 he has also been an instructor for Gregorian chant, church history, and Latin at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich.

› Schola Saint-Gregoire travelled to the International Gregorian Festival of Watou, in Belgium, last May. They were the only choir from North America at this event.

› The Ritual Choir of the Church of St Mary Magdalene will give an invited performance in St Joseph, Missouri in late January. The event is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.