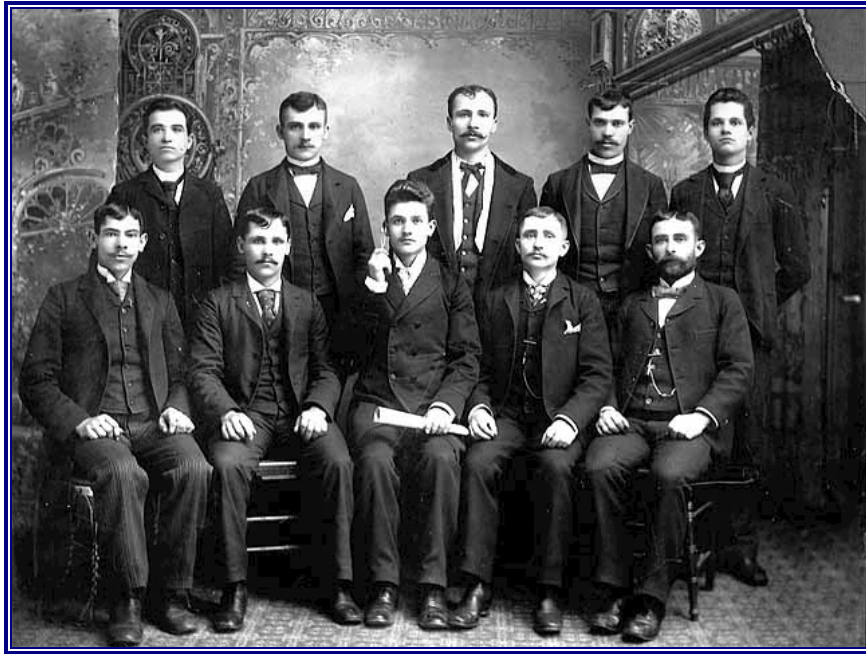


St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Choir

Sunday July 11 (Welcome Party Entertainment)



1891

St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Choir: When St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church was organized in 1887; the music consisted of unison singing by the congregation. The original music was led by laymen who had memorized these responses from the "*old country*". By 1891, the first choir director, Professor Paul P. Zaichenko, organized the first choir consisting of nine members.

Today, the choir is still a vital institution at the Cathedral. It was and still is a group of volunteer singers. Instead of the unison singing of the original choir, they now sing *a capella* music in many different styles – from the Great Russian Masters to Carpatho-Rusin Chant – and they have developed into a renowned choir (of some 60 members). In addition to leading the services, they participate in community events like singing carols at neighborhood senior homes, singing on the choir float in the *Holidazzle* parade during the holiday season, and putting on concerts for the *NE Minneapolis Art-a-Whirl* Art Festival. St. Mary's Choir has also participated in national OCA events, including Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary in 1987 and the 100th Anniversary Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's for Pentecost in 2004. You can frequently hear them on Ancient Faith Radio with their 2005 recording, *God is With Us*.

