

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2008

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THE PIPELINE

Dean's Christmas Message

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Festival of Lessons and Carols at SS Peter and Paul Church yesterday afternoon. This is always one of my favorite Christmas time services, and Tom Teardo and the Adult and Handbell Choirs did a marvelous job with some wonderful music!

I walked into the church while they were in the last phase of rehearsing before the service, and I got to hear the choirs and the organ from the nave. Then, of course, I was more than happy to avail myself of Tom's kind invitation to join the group in the loft for the service. I was even offered the opportunity to fill in for one of the absent members of the handbell choir; but, sadly, I am unprepared to do anything with a handbell beyond fill the role of town crier!

I had the opportunity to hear the music from both perspectives — aloft and alow, and it got me wondering how many of us get to listen to ourselves from the nave. It sounds much better down there, as you would expect, an almost ethereal

sound, especially with choirs like those at SS Peter and Paul. And your choirs too, I have no doubt!

If you haven't had the chance to hear yourselves lately, let me assure you that the music you make is nothing short of inspirational, and as I felt the thrill that always attends my favorite music in a spiritual setting, I wished that I could capture that feeling and give it to all of you for Christmas! It would be small recompense indeed for the good that you do.

Luther is supposed to have said that he who sings prays twice, and I can only imagine the compounding effect of so many singing together — that's higher than I can count!

Merry Christmas!

Tony Vallillo



Pipe Organ Christmas Tree Ornament—from: cafepress.com