

Merry Christmas 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1



The Pipeline

Dean's Christmas Message

A special plant is blooming as I write this — a Christmas cactus, given by the chapter to Virginia, my bride, several years ago when she was sick. This delightful plant has thrived under the green thumb of She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed! Again this year, right on time so as to remind us of the special meaning of the coming season, the red blooms appeared.

Organists and airline crewmembers lacking in seniority are among the few who must labor on this most wonderful of days. Both serve the greater good of their fellow men and women: those in the travel industries bring people together, often to their homes for the holidays; and liturgical musicians add a whole level of beauty and meaning to the celebrations of Christ's birth.

It has been years since I have had to work on or really close to Christmas, but I remember how much fun it was to see the happiness on the faces of our passengers as they arrived at their destinations full of anticipation of the family togetherness that lay ahead. And every Christmas Eve, as Virginia and I attend

services, always at a church with a really good music program(!), I see much the same expressions of joy when a familiar carol or anthem is rendered magnificently by organ and choir. It is perhaps one of the sad things in life that you may not be able to see this from the console, absorbed as you must be with the demands of the King of Instruments, but I have seen it every Christmas and I assure you that it is real!

All of us who love music and Christmas thank you for all of the hard work that you put into the Christmas season! This is your Christmas gift to all of us—the gift of music and song — of sounds and voices raised up joyfully to the glory of God. And I'm sure that He, above all, loves the fruit of your labors.

May God Bless you all, now and always!

Tony Vallillo

