

Bruce Vantine's
**CORNERSTONE
CHORALE AND BRASS**

P.O. Box 249, Florissant, Missouri 63032
(314) 838-4383 e-mail: bvantine@charter.net
www.cornerstonechorale.org



*Through God's looking glass:
a world of beauty, compassion, love and grace.*

We live in a turbulent world and in unpredictable times. It's natural that we look to our national political and economic power as well as our wealth and military strength for the means to address global issues. It's practical. It's the real world. Or is it only a half-painted canvass that the artist has yet to bring to completion?

After all, God is the ultimate artist – an artist of hope and transformation, constantly renewing creation.

While it is necessary that we focus on tangible solutions to our problems, history shows us that worldly strategies lead us again and again on an inconsistent course – a pendulum swinging between excess and restraint, nobleness and pettiness, strength and weakness, courage and fear.

President John F. Kennedy, honoring the memory of poet Robert Frost, spoke of the vital need to nurture the human spirit:

"Our national strength matters, but the spirit which informs and controls our strength matters just as much.

"When power leads a man toward arrogance, [art] reminds him of his limitations.

When power narrows the areas of man's concern, [art] reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence.

When power corrupts, [art] cleanses.

For art establishes the basic human truth which must serve as the touchstone of our judgment...

I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty,...an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well."

-JFK, Amherst College, Oct. 26, 1963

The Apostle Paul reminds people of faith that "to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." –Romans 8:6



Photo: Getty Images

The arts often help us sense more deeply God's Spirit and its very real presence in our lives and in the world. Nurturing the human spirit helps us recognize the Holy Spirit and God's hope for our highest potential.

As we look to Jesus and his life exemplifying compassion, love and grace, we gain an understanding of God's vision for the future of the human race. We even see tangible evidence that "the kingdom of God is in the midst of you" [Luke 17:21] – signs of "the kingdom" seen in the work of every day saints in our own communities.

"We are sent – sent with an outrageous message that the Creator of the universe loves us all." –The Rev. Dr. Martin Rafanan, Executive Director of Gateway 180: Homelessness Reversed, St. Louis, Mo.

Yes, "we are sent," but it's easy to leave behind God's life saving message of love and grace as we exit through the church door.

After all, don't we have to live in the real world – a world where compassion is rejected in favor of hard hearted, ruthless struggles for wealth and power?

Isn't ours a confrontational world where the loudest, most strident voices lead the way?

Isn't this a lost world that longs for leadership but confuses the word hero with celebrity – one that lives with an upside-down morality as our leaders dismantle budgets that help the most vulnerable while providing almost limitless funding to wage war and favor the wealthiest among us?

As we go out into the "real" world, we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry Christ's message of love and grace with us – trumpeting Jesus' clear call for empathy, personal sacrifice and service to others.

The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass October 2011 Tour presents an all new inspirational program entitled "I Make All Things New." [MO, IL, MI, OH, PA, NY, NJ, VA, NC, MS, AR]

Please help us with a tax deductible gift that will send us out with that "outrageous message" of God's love for all of his children!

Bruce Vantine
July 2011

St. Louis concert:
7:00 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 25
Trinity Lutheran Church-
Chesterfield, Mo.