



Though many years have passed, I remember singing in the Paulist Choir in Chicago as a boy. Worshipping God in song gave me great joy and satisfaction. It can give the same to singers and their supporters, as well as their listeners. By participating in Pueri Cantores, every chorister enjoys a similar experience – singing the praise of God with youth in their home churches and across the globe.

For parents, Pueri Cantores serves as a wonderful avenue to reconnect with their sons and daughters and share their faith in the Catholic Church. I feel this bond is something we very much need in the Church today, providing, as it does, parents the opportunity to teach their children about our history and tradition.

Equally as important is the involvement of the faithful in general. Through your attendance at Masses and concerts, your donations and good will, you bring strength to Pueri Cantores. We are grateful for you and your generosity.

For choirmasters and music directors, Pueri Cantores can be the fulfillment of desire to bring the voices of children to the highest musical standards in the service of God.

It is my hope that through your involvement with this international group of choristers of the Catholic Church, you will inspire us all with your faith. Indeed, the music you make for others will fill the hearts of the faithful and encourage the souls of all who hear it, making you a messenger of God's peace and love among all mankind. "In song faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God," said Pope John Paul II (Letters to Artists, n. 12).

I hope you will share this message and encourage the cause of Pueri Cantores in your own area. Rejoice in your faith, and your audiences will know the immense joy of your song.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

**FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE, O.M.I.**

*Archbishop of Chicago*

*Episcopal Moderator, American Federation Pueri Cantores*



American Federation Pueri Cantores is dedicated to:

- Enhancing spiritual well-being of young singers through the performance of sacred, spiritual, folk and patriotic music
- Elevating education in the arts resulting in choral excellence, spiritual growth and academic enrichment
- Becoming a community resource through performances in religious, cultural, healthcare centers, and community settings
- Developing cultural compassion through travel and the building of national and international friendships
- Attracting professional choral directors to instill those values and goals embraced by the organization

### HOW CAN YOU JOIN PUERI CANTORES?

If you need further information or would like to join Pueri Cantores, please contact Jan Schmidt, Executive Director. Address, email and website are listed below. A choir membership form is available on our website.

# PUERI CANTORES

**American Federation**

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# PUERI CANTORES

The Official Student  
Choral Organization  
of the Catholic Church

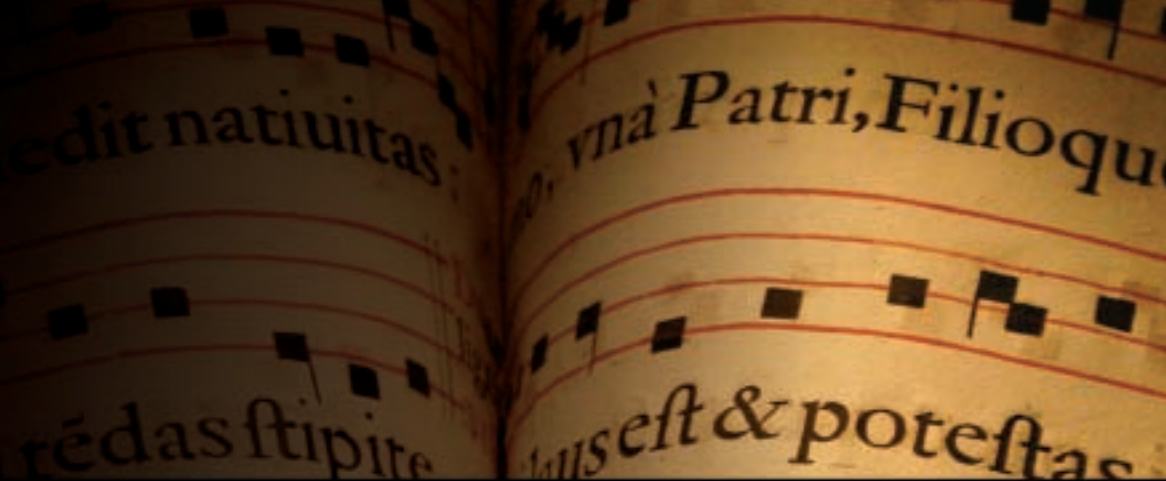


Bringing together  
boys and girls  
throughout the  
United States  
to sing the  
Peace of God



Pueri Cantores is the official student choral organization within the Catholic Church. It has been approved by every pope since Pius XII. It brings together young singers to raise the profile of distinguished choral music in church, school, community and artistic settings and encourages the use of great liturgical music in the Mass.

The American Federation includes school and parish choirs and is experiencing dynamic growth throughout the United States. The International Federation Pueri Cantores numbers 60,000 singers in 30 countries.



Each chorister learns and sings a repertoire spanning 1,500 years including Gregorian through twentieth century music. Pueri Cantores provides the choristers (ages 7-18) with a clearer understanding of our Catholic faith and allows them to experience a closeness to God and Church which they can carry throughout their lives.

A school or parish choir's membership in Pueri Cantores creates optional opportunities to sing in local, national and international settings. In addition to a choir's own individual repertoire, singers learn a limited shared repertoire which they are invited to sing with other Pueri Cantores member choirs at festivals, Masses and community events both locally and nationally, and throughout the world.

Participants who travel with their choirs have the opportunity to meet singers from other cities, states and nations. They establish friendships, learn about different cultures, and bring Christ's message of peace and joy.

**D**ear Pueri Cantores: May your singing help you to make your life a song of praise to God...With your voices, with your youth, with your lives, you proclaim Jesus, the Saviour.. *You are the little messengers of beauty.* The world needs your singing, for the language of beauty moves hearts and contributes to the encounter with God.

Pope John Paul II *in an address to Pueri Cantores International*

**Y**ou have an important mission for helping the people of God to pray with dignity, because sacred music is a ministerial office in divine service. Remember always that because "the Church prays, sings and acts, the faith of the participants is nourished, the souls are raised up to God *to give Him spiritual homage and to receive His grace* with more abundance.

Pope Benedict XVI *in an address to Pueri Cantores International*