



The Gift of Music

To AFPC parents and friends:

Khalil Gibran once wrote, "Music is the language of the spirit." I didn't truly grasp the magnitude of those words until December 2010, when my family and I first saw thousands of children from around the world come together in song at the International Congress of Pueri Cantores in Rome. I'm proud to say our son, Nick, was one of those singers. Five years later, we were equally excited to hear the voice of our daughter, Kyra, as she participated in the recent 40th Congress.



Michael, Kyra and Holly Schwartz at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Meet the Schwartz Family, Pueri Cantores Ambassadors

Holly and Michael Schwartz recently became members of AFPC's Ambassadors, a support group that makes the work of the AFPC possible. The Schwartz' son and daughter have both benefited from being members of a Pueri Cantores choir, and the family is committed to making sure other children have the same opportunity by providing financial and promotional support that will help sustain the organization.



Being involved with AFPC is a great way to connect young people with their spirituality. Speaking from experience, preteens and teenagers don't always want to go to Mass; however, they invariably love to sing. We have always encouraged this passion and have seen how involvement with AFPC helps them tap into their spiritual side. Kyra, who is not a morning person, gets up early twice a week to attend choir practice at 6:50 a.m. This is a real testament to her choral director and to the excitement and passion that this organization has given to children and their parents.

When we were asked to join AFPC's new Ambassadors program as founding members, it was one of the easiest decisions we've ever made. It is such a worthwhile cause, and we've personally witnessed the results of what this support can do for our own children and for all whose lives are touched by performing or hearing the music. AFPC is unique in the way it educates and engages singers in both their faith and in the arts - whether the students are performing in local parishes, at a regional choral festival or at a National or International Congress.

I feel privileged now to invite you to join AFPC Ambassadors as founding members and help ensure the federation remains a world leader in providing faith-based choral opportunities to youth from grades 4 through 12. Your gift will help AFPC serve approximately 3,500 students across the nation during the upcoming year. For the first time, AFPC Ambassadors creates a national network of parent/grandparent leaders to offer social, promotional and organizational support for local choirs and at regional festivals.

The AFPC Ambassadors program offers four giving levels, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 per year. Whichever level you choose, your generous support will help give young people once-in-a-lifetime experiences as they grow personally and in their faith. I hope you will join this important new group dedicated to furthering AFPC's mission and exemplary work.

Warm regards,
Holly Schwartz

P.S. It is important to note that AFPC receives no funding from the Catholic Church for any of its youth activities. By joining the Ambassadors or making a gift of any amount, you will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of youth we aim to reach in 2016-17.

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