



**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

*The Vatican-based official student choral
organization of the Catholic Church.*



April 2023

AFPC Newsletter

Vol. 15, Issue 1

2023 Pueri Cantores Festival Season Wrap Up

Greetings Pueri Cantores family:

Our March 25th grades 4-12 Festival in Houston marked the conclusion of our very robust and inspiring [2023 Festival Season](#). We held 14 festivals this February and March (up from 8 in 2022) across the country - from Southern California to Boston- which involved more than 2,000 young singers from 130 different schools and parishes.

After a tumultuous few years due to COVID and slowly starting things back up last year, I'm thrilled to say that AFPC is finally graduating from a state of survival and moving toward a state of thriving. With the addition of four new festival locations to our 2023 schedule (San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Milwaukee, and a High School Festival in Houston), we'll also be adding several new festivals to our roster in 2024. Our goal to expand our services, festivals, and resources and reach more Catholic youth across the U.S is becoming a reality!

The mission of Pueri Cantores and our Festivals is, through sacred music, to educate and engage young people in their faith and in the arts, and through them, enrich the lives of their families and communities. AFPC believes that the young people are the future of Our Church, and in order to keep them engaged in their Catholic faith, we must nourish their souls and wellbeing through enriching experiences within the Church.

The Pueri Cantores Festival is designed for this very pursuit. Singing and music is one of the most enjoyable and effective ways to participate in the Mass and become more deeply involved in the faith for years to come. It not only fosters personal holiness and promotes individual faith formation, but it also evangelizes and catechizes those we sing in the presence of. At our Festivals, the 'Pueri Cantores' or 'young singers' that participate in the event become evangelizers. They not only catechize themselves, but they also evangelize their peers, families, choir directors and music teachers, congregations, schools, churches, and communities, uniting us all as one family of faith.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores, and the thousands of children and youth across the country involved in this ministry, we offer our *most heartfelt gratitude* to all of our host churches, conductors, organists, volunteers, participating choirs, parents, and all those who helped make these Festivals possible this year.

We are working diligently to create an exciting and meaningful 2024 Festival Season for our members and singers. I hope we can look forward to having your choirs join us next year! Dates and locations will be announced soon.

Please enjoy the slideshow below with photos and videos from our entire 2023 Festival Season.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Paul French, President
American Federation Pueri Cantores**



2023 Festival Season Photos/Videos/Media



[Click here for Festival Photos](#)

[Click here for Festival Videos](#)



[Click here for Festival Media](#)

2023-24 Pueri Cantores Rome Congress

**Join us for the 44th Pueri Cantores International Congress in Rome
December 26, 2023 - January 2, 2024- *it's NOT too late to register!***

This extraordinary week-long celebration is part pilgrimage and part choral festival that traditionally occurs every five years, bringing together Pueri Cantores choirs from around the world to participate in many thrilling liturgies and concerts. The Congress culminates with thousands of Pueri Cantores choristers singing for the Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on January 1, 2024 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, presiding.

The interest and planned participation for the 44th International Congress in Rome has been phenomenal over the past several months. **Over 800 travelers, including Pueri Cantores choristers, their families and friends have signed up for this once-in-a-lifetime event, and there's still time to register!**

Currently 18 choirs will represent the American Federation, coming from coast to coast (California, Arizona, Texas, Nevada, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Maryland) for this extraordinary experience.

Please consider joining us at this magnificent weeklong celebration of sacred music, fellowship, and fun. The Eternal City, the Vatican, and all the splendors of Italy await you. We hope to see you there!

Click on the brochure below to learn more about the Congress and contact David O'Brien at Corporate Travel at dobrien@ctscentral.net or 734-223-3348 to start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime experience!



44th International Congress of PUERI CANTORES

Your Choir Is Cordially Invited To Join Choirs of Young Singers From
Around the World to Sing the Peace of God at this Extraordinary Event

Rome & Vatican City
December 26, 2023–January 2, 2024



Sistine Chapel Private Tour

Opportunity limited
to initial registrants

Deposit early to guarantee
your space!

Please note that in order to be admitted to the 44th Pueri Cantores International Congress, all travelers ***must*** register with **Corporate Travel**, the exclusive travel provider for the American Federation of Pueri Cantores. AFPC contracts a sole travel partner for each International Congress to ensure that:

- Participants have access to **all** Rome Congress events
- The latest Rome Congress information from the International Federation of Pueri Cantores is efficiently and swiftly communicated to participants
- The movements of the American participants happen in a unified and safe fashion
- Congress pricing for our singers and their families is as economical as possible

Meet the Singers



Hayden H.

Age: 11 Years in Choir: 1

*St. Bernard of Clairvaux Youth Choir
Scottsdale, AZ*

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

I love singing in the childrens choir because it helps me grow more with Christ, and I get to sing for Him.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I went to the 2023 Phoenix Festival where we sang for Bishop Olmsted at the Mass. I loved participating in the festival because I got to meet some new friends and I got to see some friends I had not seen for a while too.

What else would you like to share about yourself and your choir experience?

Being in choir helps me make new friends and my singing is improving all of the time. There are lots of kids at choir and we all sing and praise God...and He loves us all.

*My choir and I at the
2023 Phoenix Festival!*





Carol U.
 Age: 10 Months in Choir: 7
 St. Vincent de Paul Choir
 Phoenix, AZ

*What do you love about singing and being in choir?
 I like to sing and it makes me feel closer to God.*

*How has singing and being in choir strengthened your faith?
 Because the songs we sing are dedicated to God and I feel them from my heart and I share my Catholic faith with my family and friends.*

*Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?
 My choir participated in the 2023 Phoenix Festival. It was my first experience at a Pueri Cantores Festival and the first time I sang with more choirs than just my own. Everyone was very friendly and sang very good. I want to keep practicing the music and sing better so I can participate again next year.*



My choir and I at the 2023 Phoenix Festival!

[Click here to sign up your child to be featured in a future AFPC newsletter.](#)

AFPC-NCEA Webinar Series
for Conductors of Catholic Student Choirs, Worship Leaders and Classroom Teachers, Elementary through High School

Catch up on our latest webinar here:



[Click here to watch our archived AFPC-NCEA webinars.](#)
Stay tuned for one more webinar next month!

Pueri Cantores Alumni Spotlight



I have been singing in church ever since I was a little kid. My mother was the organist and children's choir accompanist at St. Ignatius of Loyola in Spring, TX for many years, which is where I started singing. Throughout my youth, my choir sang regularly at Choristers Guild Festivals around the Houston area, and it wasn't until I was in 12th grade in 2010, that Pueri Cantores had their inaugural festival at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish in downtown Houston. I remember being super excited to finally go and be a part of a Catholic choir festival! It was also very exciting because the Co-Cathedral was brand new at the time, and

I had never sung there before. My children's choir at the time had 24 singers that year, which was a mix of high school, middle school and elementary students. We greatly enjoyed our time at the festival that year, and wish it had been around for us graduating people a bit earlier, as we would have loved to have been a part of it for many more years.

My time singing with the Music Ministry at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church, which in total has now been 24 years, with 18 of those years being a Cantor as well. My upbringing in Sacred Music will always be special to me and more enhanced because of the opportunity to sing with Pueri Cantores.

After graduating high school, I attended Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX and majored in Child Development with an emphasis in Child Life, and received my minor in Music with an emphasis in Voice. There, I was a part of the Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Joni Jensen, and I loved being a part of choir in college! I also took voice lessons and continued my pursuit and passion for music. I was a Cum Laude graduate and pursued my certification as a Certified Child Life Specialist and am now working as a Special Education Teacher in Klein ISD.

For the past two years, I have been a member of Cor Jesu Choir at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston, under the direction of Dr. Crista Miller and Mr. Patrick Schneider. I absolutely love my new parish home and being able to sing with such a magnificent choir! I think it is an incredible gift to be able to share the love of Christ with others through music. Cathedral Musicians have such a huge role to play within the Mass, and I am beyond blessed to be an integral part.

-Kathryn Allen, Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer 2010

Are you a Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer? Email info@pcchoirs.org to let us know what you are up to and to join our alumni network!

Join our Monthly Sustainers Program!



AFPC's mission is to **educate and evangelize young Catholics across the U.S** through sacred music, thereby cultivating their passion for the arts, nurturing their personal and spiritual wellbeing, and developing a relationship with God and the Church that they will carry all their lives.

AFPC's work is made possible through the support of individuals like you who see the value in this apostolate and are committed to seeing it continue. **Please prayerfully consider becoming a Monthly Sustainer** to help us enrich the lives of thousands of children and families for years to come.

[Click here to become a Monthly Sustainer](#)

[Or make a one-time donation to Pueri Cantores here](#)

From the International Federation of Pueri Cantores Learn about Pueri Cantores Choirs across the globe!

FIPC News & Events

Foederatio Internationalis Pueri Cantores | April 2023 | Issue 001

Message from Jean Henric, President FIPC

Dear members of our Federation

It gives me great pleasure to launch the FIPC Newsletter. This Newsletter will give you news from our Pueri Cantores Family around the world. We want this newsletter to be lively and to inform you about happenings in our Federation located in countries around the world and speaking different languages, yet belonging to one family - our Family of FIPC. We really need your help! Please send us information and share your news with us so that we can have the same features in our following issues. We hope to have one release every 3 months. You may send written material in your own language with a translation and some pictures too.

Jean Henric, in charge of the communication for communication, will receive your messages jeanhenric@fipc.com.

Our every first Newsletter also gives you the latest information about the next congress in Rome. Do not hesitate to contact us if you need any clarification.

I wish you a beautiful Easter period.

Jean Henric,
President FIPC

Chers membres de notre Fédération
Voici notre dernière newsletter qui vous donne quelques nouvelles de nos Pueri Cantores dans le monde. Nous souhaitons que cette newsletter soit plus vivante et informative tout à la fois. Nous avons vraiment besoin de vous ! Si vous possédez des informations et faites partager à notre grande famille vos actualités. Jean Coudu, responsable de la communication, recevra vos messages. jeanhenric@fipc.com

Cette newsletter vous donne aussi les dernières informations concernant le prochain congrès de Rome. N'hésitez pas à nous écrire si vous avez besoin d'aide.

Je vous souhaite une belle période Pâcale.

Jean Henric,
Président FIPC

*This is what Easter is:
It is the exodus, the passage of man from the slavery of sin, of evil to the freedom of love, of goodness. Because God is life, only life, and His Glory we are: the living man.*
- Pope Francis

Foederatio Internationalis Pueri Cantores

Second Congress of the National Pueri Cantores Federation of Portugal - February 2023

At the invitation of its president, David Facetti Correa all choirs of the national Federation of Portugal met in Santarém, the "Cathedral City" from February 17th-19th. The festival started on Saturday morning with a master class for all the choir conductors by Professor Christoffer Bachmann. Mathias Bahner presented the International Pueri Cantores Federation as their vice president and sang with the participants at the opening ceremony.

Concerns and church activities followed with about 70 singers between 6 and 25 years old from the north and the south of the country. A wonderful Pueri Cantores spirit filled the hearts of the children and young people as they returned home.

<https://www.facebook.com/puericantoresportugal/>



Message from Mn. Jaume Gené, Councilor, Pueri Cantores, Catalonia

Antes una bona Pasqua!
Aiguad any 2023 amb el diumenge 9 d'abril.

Abans de Pasqua, celebrem el Dijous i Divendres Sant acompanyant Jesús en el seu camí fins a la Creu. Un camí que Jesús va fer moltament, empenyent-se a morir. Així és la solidesa dels qui passen el mal dia aquest, menys al vèncer amb la vida eterna. Era costat fins a l'últim perquè amb El font tinguem vida. La gran festa de Pasqua, l'amor és més fort que la mort.

La Pasqua la celebren cantant, cantant molt. La Pasqua demana cantar, cantar i alegrar-se de la resurrecció. Faltava del ritual de Jesús. Per recollir, Pueri cantores, petits i grans, canten i lloquen, que la festa de l'amor de Jesús ha local als nostres cors i renouem la nostra fe amb El. La Pasqua, celebren-ho cantant i demanant que a pu, arribi a tots els corrons de la terra.

Cris ha resuscitat, l'home ha resuscitat!

Jauron
Bonos setmana Santa i molt bona Pasqua a tothom!

A new Easter is coming!
The year 2023 will be Sunday April 9.

Before Easter, we celebrate Good Thursday and Good Friday accompanying Jesus on his way to the Cross. A path that Jesus takes by going and teaching us to love. This is how he shows solidarity with those who suffer from this evil of the world and overcomes it with his dedication. He loves us to the end so that with His love we all have life. It is the great Easter holiday, love is stronger than death.

We celebrate Easter by singing, singing a lot. Easter calls for singing, singing the joy of the resurrection: the fulfillment of our dreams. For us, Pueri cantores, young and old, singing is the expression that the strength of Jesus love has touched our hearts and we renew our faith with Him. It's Easter, let's celebrate it by singing and asking for peace to come to all corners of the earth.

Dear to read
He is truly resurrected!

James
Happy Easter and happy Easter to everyone!

Acompanyem Jesús en el camí fins a la Creu

SETMANA SANTA 2023

Letter from Sri Lanka

Dear Sector Mathias,
Thank you for your message of 23.21. Congratulations for setting up the Communication Group of FIPC.

- Your intentions are commendable:
 - Inclusion of members of different age groups.
 - Create awareness of Music related activities of member Federations and if things pertaining to the FIPC parent Federation.
 - Sharing songs, videos, etc. of member Federations.
 - Sharing of information related to projects, social consciousness, current news.
 - Following home congress.
- I would like to thank you experiences. These are specific to Sri Lanka's conditions:
 - We have a strong relationship with our Cardinal Archbishop as well as the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission.
 - We have strong links with all the Catholic schools of Colombo, Andhra Pradesh and parish children's choirs.
 - We are fully involved in the promotion of Sacred Music Education in the north and south.
 - We are involved in regular training programmes (seminarium based) which in a single session could involve over a thousand children. In the past 22 years we have trained 15,000 students.
 - We are involved in major Archdiocesan Liturgical programmes including choral masses, Requiem, etc.
 - Relief of state School Music (choirs, prophetic choirs, hymns) through publication of books, translations and learning programmes.
 - Training of courses (vocational) and curriculum development in vocal choral activity.
- Currently we are preparing for the Annual Holy Week Choral Presentation (and the patronage of the Holy Spirit) in Sri Lanka on Sat, April 2023 involving over 200 students (boys & girls).
- Because of the deep economic crash and the severe consequences on our children and their families (over 70% inflation, it is difficult for us to pay the annual fee (the country is still in a bad state but dependent on imports. When the situation improves we will pay our dues).

I am sending this document to the Communication Group who may share this to other FIPC National Federations. We have a great rapport from other National Federations to help us in our own development.

Yours Sate Mathy,
Felix O'Connell,
Sector Mathias,
SETC,
2023.04.09

FIPC President's visit to Canada

It took place in February, from 18th to 24th 2023. He could visit the eastern part of the country, especially Quebec region with Quebec City, Trois-Rivières and Montreal. He listened to the choirs of these three cities and heard their concerns too. He could meet the Bishops of Trois-Rivières and Montreal. This whole region of Canada is very de-Christianized. Our movement is affected by this attitude to the Catholic faith and the situation is very difficult indeed.

The picture is totally different in Ontario, especially in Toronto, where the Church is much more alive. St Michael's choir is a very strong structure. The meeting with Cardinal Collins has been very encouraging and very motivating. Cardinal Collins is an active supporter of our FIPC movement.

The Canadian Federation, chaired by our friend Louise Marie Pelletier, is very committed to defending the faith and our movement in this part of the world. We thank her for the good work she is doing.

Visite mission du président FIPC au Canada

Elle s'est déroulée du 18 au 24 février 2023. Il a pu visiter la partie Est du pays, notamment le Québec avec Québec City, Trois-Rivières et Montréal. Il a écouté et partagé les préoccupations des chœurs de ces trois villes et il a pu rencontrer les évêques de Trois-Rivières et Montréal. Toute cette région du Canada est très déchristianisée. Notre mouvement est touché par ce rejet de la religion catholique et la situation est très difficile.

Ce n'est pas le cas en Ontario et plus particulièrement à Toronto où l'église est très vivante. Le St Michael's choir est une structure très solide. L'entretien avec le Cardinal Collins qui apporte un soutien total à cette institution et à notre mouvement, a été très encourageant.

La Fédération du Canada présidée par notre amie Louise Marie Pelletier, est très engagée pour défendre notre mouvement dans cette partie du monde. Nous la remercions pour le beau travail qu'elle réalise.



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News from Congo (PC DRC)

Pope Francis visited Congo in January 2023. Unfortunately we could not participate at the Pope was in Kinshasa the capital and we are 2,300 Km away in Bukavu. But we were certainly very blessed that he was able to visit our country.

Since the start of 2023 the Congo Federation organized two major events, the mass on January 1 and recollections during the Lenten season. The Directors also meet regularly to focus on issues of common interest.

Sosthène Anzima
Mevush Choir, Butaba Parish



Rome 2023/24 44th International Congress of Pueri Cantores

At the end of the year 2023/24, we shall be hosting the 44th International Choir Festival again in Rome. The theme "Et in terra pax" Starting December 28, 2023 and concluding on January 1, 2024, all Pueri Cantores choirs will gravitate to the Eternal City - Rome to sing together, meet each other and celebrate worship with Pope Francis.

The online registration for choirs has been open since February 15, 2023 and will remain open until April 30, 2023. Registration takes place via an online website directly with our Italian colleagues.

The festival fee per participant is 50000 EUR. If you book accommodation through Pueri Cantores, the festival fee per participant is 70000 EUR.

The Program
The traditional opening ceremony on Thursday and the national services on Friday morning will not be followed this time by a central prayer for peace, but by many prayers for peace. These will take place throughout the afternoon and evening in the Church of St Mary in Trastevere in cooperation with the Community of St. Egidio.

After the rehearsal for the first service on Saturday, there will be an audience with Pope Francis for all the choirs, in the afternoon, the choirs will then spread out to three large Basilicas in Rome for Choir Singing, which also involves tourists and the people of the local communities to sing along. The day will be completed by the Gala concert on Saturday evening in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

Sunday services will also be celebrated in different churches, but in smaller parishes in the metro area of Rome. The individual choirs will organize the Holy Mass there and then have the opportunity for a small concert on site.

Finally, the highlight of the festival will be the joint celebration of the New Year's Day service with Pope Francis on Monday.



[Click here to download a pdf of the FIPC April newsletter.](#)

CMI Partnership

CMI
THE CHURCH MUSIC
INSTITUTE

The American Federation Pueri Cantores (AFPC) and Church Music Institute (CMI) are pleased to partner in our shared ministry and resources. Aligned by our commitment to the transformational power of music, and the rich liturgical repertoire of the Roman Catholic

Church, this partnership makes available the vast resources of CMI's online choral library numbering over 17,000 titles. The searchable database employs over a dozen criteria assisting choir directors to both new and historic choral works appropriate for any season, feast, voicing, text, language, accompaniment, duration, etc. Learn more about CMI [HERE](#).

Access to this curated music library is via an annual membership, whose fee is dramatically reduced for current members of AFPC. Please email info@pccochoirs.org for the discount code to obtain the \$35 annual membership rate. Click [HERE](#) for CMI's online membership form.



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