



**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

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



2023-24 Pueri Cantores Rome Congress

After being delayed 3 years due to the pandemic, Pueri Cantores choirs (around 4,000 singers in total) from all around the world—from countries as far apart as Brazil and Korea—are finally descending upon the Eternal City in less than one week for the 44th International Congress of Pueri Cantores! In this week-long celebration, choirs will partake in thrilling liturgies, concerts, and sight-seeing.

Some of the main events include:

- **Mass of the Nations** at St. Paul Outside the Walls where all English-speaking nations will gather together for Mass
- **Prayer for Peace** at The Church of Santa Maria where singers will invoke God's intercession to bring peace to the earth
- **Gala Concert** at Basilica of the 12 Holy Apostles where four of the most accomplished Pueri Cantores choirs from around the World (from Germany, France, Poland and South Korea) will give a concert
- **Colors of Pueri Cantores** at Basilica Sant'Andrea della Valle where nine Pueri Cantores choirs representing the US, Mexico, Canada, Lithuania, Rwanda, Italy, Venezuela, Germany, and Brazil, will offer a concert showing the varied styles (colors) of sacred music sung in their national federations. The choir representing America is the *Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers* from San Francisco, CA
- **Papal Audience** with Pope Francis! As the world-wide Pueri Cantores choirs gather at Sala Nervi/Paul VI Audience Hall to rehearse for the Papal Mass on New Year's Day, they will have the honor of an hour-long audience with Pope Francis
- **Carol Singing** around Rome. Various Pueri Cantores choirs will be paired together to sing carols in myriad languages and representative of the many Pueri Cantores nations. American choirs will be singing *Go Tell it on the Mountain*.
- **New Year's Day Papal Mass at the Basilica of St. Peter's with Holy Father Pope Francis.** The Congress culminates with all 4,000 Pueri Cantores choristers from around the world singing for the Papal Mass on January 1, 2024 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), with the Holy Father, Pope Francis presiding. The Mass will be televised live January 1st on EWTN at 4:00 a.m. EST / 3:00 a.m. CST / 2:00 a.m. MST / 1:00 a.m. PST.

More than 1,000 U.S. Pueri Cantores singers and their families will be making the pilgrimage to Vatican City. The following choirs will be representing America:

- Church of the Nativity, Santa Fe, CA
- God Faith Choir, Carson, CA
- Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers, San Francisco, CA
- Holy Family Children's Choir, Orange County, CA
- Holy Family Children's Chorus, Glendale, CA
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Youth Choir, Los Angeles, CA
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Choirs, Chicago, IL
- South Hills Catholic Academy, Pittsburgh, PA
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux Choir, Scottsdale, AZ
- St. Brendan Catholic School Choir, Los Angeles, CA
- St. Cecelia School Choir, Tustin, CA
- St. Edward Catholic School Choir, Spring, TX
- St. Francis of Assisi Choir, Ann Arbor, MI
- St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Choir, Las Vegas, NV
- St. Genevieve Catholic School Choir, Arieta, CA
- St. Jane de Chantal Choir, Bethesda, MD
- St. Mary's Catholic Church Choir, Royal Oak, MI
- St. Pius X Catholic Church Choir, Granger, IN

Please enjoy the following video of St. Francis of Assisi Choir, Ann Arbor, MI rehearsing for the Congress and hear what some of the singers are looking forward to most.



A Message from AFPC President

Dear Pueri Cantores family,

A new year is upon us, and this Advent Season I find myself reflecting on the many blessings 2023 brought forth, from our 14 regional festivals involving more than 2000 young singers from 130 different schools and parishes across the U.S, to our educational webinars serving over 500 music teachers, music directors, and worship leaders, to the incredible generosity of 90 donors during our recent Giving Tuesday campaign, to our 1,000 American singers and family members traveling to the Rome Congress, to the upcoming 2024 Festival season with a record number of 16 festivals across the country. *We are incredibly grateful to our community and the abundant support you have shown us over the past year.*

We at Pueri Cantores send our very best to you, along with *heartfelt gratitude* for your involvement and support of our mission, young singers, and sacred music. We wish you and your loved ones a joyous, healthy, and blessed Advent and Christmas!

I hope we can look forward to having you join us for one of our 2024 Pueri Cantores Festivals (listed below).

See you in the New Year!



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**



PUERI CANTORES 2024 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



PHOENIX Treble (grades 4-8)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
St. Mary's Basilica, Phoenix, AZ
Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Celebrant

SOUTH FLORIDA Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Chapel of the Holy Cross @ Jesuit High School
Tampa, FL

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL
Bishop Michael G. McGovern, Celebrant

TEXAS High School (grades 9-12)
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Our Lady of the Atonement Church, San Antonio, TX

SALT LAKE CITY High School (grades 9-12)
Thursday, February 22 - Friday, February 23, 2024
Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, UT

CHICAGO Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, February 24th, 2024
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, IL
Bishop Mark A. Bartosic, Celebrant

HOUSTON Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 2nd, 2024
Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston, TX
Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Celebrant

NEW YORK Treble (grades 4-8)
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York, NY

MILWAUKEE Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Church of the Gesu, Milwaukee, WI

NEW ENGLAND Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, MA
Bishop Robert P. Reed, Celebrant

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA
Bishop Kevin W. Vann, Celebrant

LOUISVILLE Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY
Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, Celebrant

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 16th, 2024
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco, CA
Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, Celebrant

PITTSBURGH Treble (grades 4-12)
Saturday, March 16th, 2024
St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA
Bishop David A. Zubik, Celebrant

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 (closed registration)
St. Pius X. Church, Granger, IN

MID-ATLANTIC Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)
Saturday, April 20th, 2024
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception, Washington, D.C.
Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, Celebrant

Visit www.pcchoirs.org for individual festival brochures, repertoires, and additional details.

Registration is open for all Festivals!

Visit the AFPC website (www.pcchoirs.org) for festival brochures which include the repertoire, schedule, registration details, and other important information for each individual festival.

Festival Preparation Resources for Choir Directors

[What is Pueri Cantores, exploring the ins and outs of a Festival, and how best to prepare your choir \(video\)](#)

[MP3 practice recordings are available to help with your choir rehearsals](#)

[FAQ about Pueri Cantores Festivals](#)

[AFPC/NCEA archived webinars for music teachers, choir directors, and worship leaders \(videos\)](#)

[Choir organizational tips from Pueri Cantores conductor members](#)

Meet the Singers



Marin M.

Age: 12 Years in Choir: 6

*St. Columbkille Partnership School Choir
Brighton, MA*

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

Singing makes me feel happy! I love making memories with my friends in choir. When I am singing, I feel the most like myself. I can express my emotions and learn more about myself through different types of music

How has being in choir strengthened your faith and enriched other areas of your life?

St. Augustine said, "The one who sings prays twice." Singing in choir has allowed me to learn psalms and better understand God's messages. When I sing with friends and family, I feel closer to them because we are sharing in something together.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I attended the 2023 New England Pueri Cantores Festival at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. I was really impressed with the talent of the other singers, especially their experience singing in Latin. My favorite song was Miserere Nostri Domine. I loved how beautiful it sounded with all our voices combined together.

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

Our music teacher, Ms. Zani, has given us so many great opportunities to sing - we carol at the Senior Center, sing the National Anthem at Boston College basketball games, and have added student singers to our school Masses. I plan to continue singing in the choir and eventually pursue performance opportunities through high school and college.



Abigail D.

Age: 12 Years in Choir: 5

*St. Columbkille Partnership
School Choir, Brighton, MA*

My choir and I at the Boston College basketball game!

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

Being in choir has given me confidence, taught me to work with others, and has given me an avenue to grow my relationship with God. I love that I get to have fun by sharing what I love to do with my friends and my school community. I'm grateful to my choir teacher, Ms. Zani, for the way she teaches us and provides opportunities for us to share our voices (a couple of weeks ago we even got to sing the National Anthem at a Boston College basketball game!).

How has being in choir strengthened your relationship with God and others?

When I sing at church I feel like I'm helping my peers (especially the younger students in our school) stay engaged during Mass. The songs are prayers and singing them helps me personally feel closer to God.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I participated in the New England Festival last year at Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. It was a great opportunity to share what I love to do with tons of other kids who love the same thing. I learned new songs and new ways of singing. It was a fun experience to learn more about music and singing with other choirs but also to grow closer to my own.



*The combined choirs with Bishop Robert P. Reed at the
2023 Pueri Cantores New England Festival!*

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

Pueri Cantores Alumni Spotlight



In 2017 I attended my first AFPC Festival in Manchester, NH. This was my first time singing with a large choir in a cathedral. Even though I was only twelve at the time, the sense of unity I felt with the other choristers and the amount of accomplishment I found within myself that day led me to realize my passion for music. As I later went on to attend three more AFPC events during my time in high school, I found a deep sense of fulfillment in elevating the liturgy with the dozens of other talented and like-minded AFPC singers.

Now as a sophomore in college I recently decided to raise my sacred music minor to a major and continue my education in music. I am currently in two choirs and plan to join a chamber music ensemble within the next year. Without my wonderful choir director, Katherine Yost, and the members and directors of AFPC, I would likely not have chosen to pursue an education in music. I would never have learned all the wonderful choral pieces I know today, nor would I be composing music, something I never thought I would be able to do!

Lastly, one of the most amazing things about AFPC is reconnecting with alumni after high school. I recently found out that one of my good friends from my college choir sang at an AFPC festival that I also attended in Boston in 2018. She is a music major and is also working on compositions. I love spending time with her as we have similar tastes in music and are able to bond greatly over its beauty, especially in the liturgy.

Music is amazing because it is so orderly, complex, and beautiful. It provokes many wonderful discussions and creates long lasting friendships. To bond over what is beautiful and partake in the emotion that music evokes is one of the greatest things for the soul. I am so glad that AFPC is able to continue their festivals and encourage more young people like me to seek what music has to offer; to pursue knowledge of it and embrace the sanctity it possesses. It is truly a blessing to have been able to experience the beauty, community, and educational opportunity that the American Federation of Pueri Cantores Festivals brings to cities across the world.

- Maryrose McLaughlin
Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2022
Mount Royal Academy 2023
Saint Anselm College, Sacred Music & Philosophy 2026



Maryrose McLaughlin with her fellow Mount Royal Academy Choristers at the 2019 New England Festival - St. Mary's Church, Newport, RI

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!



Thank you!

for your support of
Pueri Cantores this

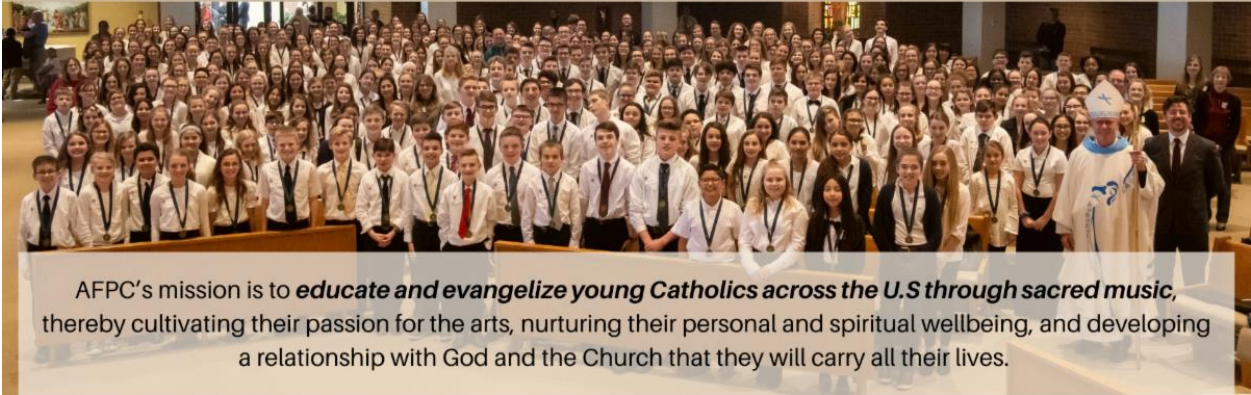
GI  ING TUESDAY

Together we raised
\$23,055!



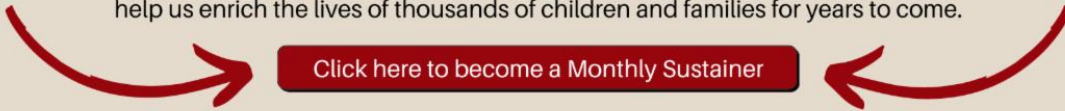
Thank you again for supporting Pueri Cantores this #GivingTuesday. This global day of giving comes around once a year, but you can support Pueri Cantores year-round by becoming a Monthly Sustainer:

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.



Or make a one-time donation to Pueri Cantores here

Pueri Cantores sings for St. Peter's Church and The Papal Foundation in Washington, DC

On the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, 2023, parishioners of St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill and guests from The Papal Foundation were treated to the combined youth choir from St. Peter's and St. Joseph Church. It was a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist made even more beautiful by the presence of the singers from the American Federation of Pueri Cantores!



Pictured: Combined youth choirs of St. Peter's and St. Joseph's Church of Capitol Hill, Washington, DC



Pictured: Music Director Paul Griffin (St. Peter's), Papal Foundation Trustee Member Rob Neal, Music Director Maria Balducci (St. Joseph's)

A Christmas Greeting from AFPC President Jean Henric



AFPC Office Holiday Hours



The AFPC office will be closed
starting Thursday, December 21 and
will reopen on Monday, January 8.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



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