



## A Family Affair: The Gambrells' First Pueri Cantores Festival



Francis & Dallas Gambrell, II at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Miami.

"Pueri Cantores was a GREAT experience for me. I made lots of friends and had a lot of fun. The best part of it for me was EVERYTHING! I also loved it because there was great liturgical music. I loved that part because I'm a musician and I love music! I give Pueri Cantores a 5 star rating."  
--Dallas Gambrell, II, 10 years old

"It was fun! My favorite piece was Ubi Caritas. I even slept with my medal!"  
--Francis Gambrell, 9 years old



Francis with his medal.

"Participating in a Pueri Cantores Festival has long been a dream for me. I entered the Church as a convert in 2003, and have served as a liturgical musician in multiple capacities since then, including organist, choirmaster, and Director of Liturgy for different parishes. None of these, however, quite prepared for the great joy I would see!

The 2018 Miami festival was a perfect experience for the students. A full day of intense work, focused prayer, fun times, and a huge payoff in the Liturgy at the evening Mass. As a choral conductor, it was both a great honor and a delight to work with Paul French, and to see him communicate so well with so many students in such a short amount of time. Far too rarely do we get to glimpse past the veil of heaven in our work, and I think we had some sweet foretaste of the eschaton that day. As a father to two sons in the festival, my heart swelled with pride to see my own sons singing so beautifully and with such earnest attention. I believe these things that the Church proposes; I hold them to be true. To see my sons expressing the truths of our faith in music brought tears to my eyes, knowing that they were experiencing the ineffable God through music. A heartfelt and sincere thanks to all who helped make the festival and Pueri Cantores itself possible. This has been an energizing experience for my choir; they can't wait to go to Rome!"

-Dallas Gambrell, Director of Music and Liturgy, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Palm Bay, FL



Dallas Gambrell with his two sons at the Festival.