

Cathedral of Saint Joseph
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Mr. Eric J. Bermani, Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music and
Organist

Thursday, 21 September, 2017

Dear Colleagues in Music Ministry:

I hope this note finds you well and that your parish and school music programs are off to a great start! My name is Eric Bermani and I am the Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music. I am writing to invite you and your school or parish youth choirs to an exciting, historic and memorable day in the life of the diocese: the 2018 Pueri Cantores Festival being held on Saturday 28 April 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Manchester.

The American Federation Pueri Cantores is the official student choral organization of the Roman Catholic Church. The Diocese of Manchester invites all parish and school mixed voices and treble choirs throughout the Diocese to participate in this special choral Festival and Mass for singers in grades 4 – 12. See the Festival brochure below for more information.

The conductor for the day's festival is Melanie Malinka, Director of Music at The Madeleine Choir School in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ms. Malinka will lead the day's rehearsals in preparation for the Mass with Bishop Libasci at 4:00 p.m. We are excited to say that school conductors whose choirs participate in the festival will be offered 8 professional development credits.

In order to make the day a reality for as many as possible, Mr. David Thibault, Superintendent of Schools, will be working with principals to establish bus transportation to those who need such assistance. Also, the Diocese is able to offer a \$25 choral scholarship to singers who may have difficulty in affording the \$25 registration fee in order to participate in the Festival. Please contact my office if a singer needs financial assistance. Deadline to register is 28 March 2018.

If your school or parish does not currently have a children's choir or school choir, perhaps this festival could be the motivating factor in the establishment of one! If you find yourself in this particular situation, know that we will be offering a separate workshop on the same day as the Festival for those parish or school musicians needing tools, ideas and support in working with children's voices. Contact my office directly to register for "From Ground Up: Starting A Children's Choir." Cost per participant is \$15 and deadline to register is 25 January 2018.

From children to adults, Saturday 28 April promises to be an exciting and transformational day for all involved: Don't miss out! If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for all that you do to educate our young people and to deepen the sacred mystery through music.

Sincerely yours,

Eric J. Bermani

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