



THE AMERICAN FEDERATION PUERI CANTORES

*Bringing together boys and girls throughout
the United States to sing the Peace of God*

September 29, 2014

Dear Superintendent:

With the adoption of NCEA's new STREAM educational initiative, I am writing to let you know of some dynamic new offerings in Pueri Cantores programs for Catholic students and teachers. Uniquely positioned to blend the Religion and Arts components now spotlighted by NCEA, combined with a focused emphasis on Catholic Identity and growth, Vatican based Pueri Cantores offers no/low cost historically balanced choral music Festivals and Masses for schools in your diocese. Your leadership and invitation to conductors in your schools is needed to reach the conductors and choirs. You are the key to initiating one of the most memorable and important Catholic experiences in your students' lives. Please read on.

What You Need to Know Now

*NCEA will offer Certificates of Attendance for all participating school conductors to be evaluated for professional development credits by Departments of Education. The Archdiocese of Chicago will offer CPDUs for your consideration for all Pueri Cantores (AFPC) events.

*This will be the inaugural year for the National Catholic High School Choral Festivals designed specifically for students in Catholic High Schools. These are organized as traditional choral music festivals, not involving a liturgy, with an emphasis on sacred music. Here you can observe and feel, in performance, rehearsal and conductor clinics, the students evangelize each other and build artistic skills at the same time.

*Students grades 4-8 sing historically balanced music in a large combined choir at traditional Festival Masses held in cathedrals and grand churches with pastors, bishops and cardinals presiding at the liturgies.

*Online and other seminars will be initiated this year to advance conductor education and provide more opportunities for professional growth.

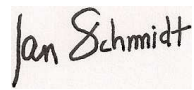
What Can You Do?

Festivals are costly, but not for Departments of Education. Costs are outlined in the accompanying brochures. A music fund is available for schools in need to purchase music for participation. Four hundred singers-a tiny percentage of your total enrollment-are needed to cover the costs of these events for your students and to assure their continuation in future years. AFPC does the organizing, print and email promotion, registration and oversight, but we cannot reach the students without YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND

DIRECT REQUESTS TO CONDUCTORS IN YOUR SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE. If this has been a high priority for you in the past, thank you! If not, or if you know you could do more to better prioritize these events, PLEASE LET THIS BE THE YEAR! Please assign a skilled promoter/s-administrator or teacher-to invite and work with conductors to give this experience and advanced training to their choirs.

Reach your singers in the best way possible. Put the R and the A in STREAM. Email your conductors now and ask them to put these Festivals on their schedules.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "Jan Schmidt" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

**Jan Schmidt, Executive Director
American Federation Pueri Cantores**