



# THE AMERICAN FEDERATION PUERI CANTORES

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

October 13, 2014

Dear Worship Directors:

With the adoption of the National Catholic Educational Association's new STREAM initiative, I am writing to let you know of some dynamic new offerings in Pueri Cantores programs for Catholic school and parish choirs and their conductors in your diocese. Uniquely positioned to blend the Religion and Arts components now highlighted in this initiative, Vatican based Pueri Cantores offers no/low cost historically balanced choral music Festivals and Masses for singers grades 4-12. In partnership with Offices of Liturgy and Worship, the strong emphasis continues on Catholic Identity and growth. Your leadership through written and spoken invitations to parish conductors is needed to reach parish conductors and choirs. In collaboration with Education, your offices are the key to offering one of the most memorable and important Catholic experiences in the lives of young singers and their families. Please read on.

## What You Need to Know Now

\*Students grades 4-8 sing the great music of our Church in large combined choirs at traditional Festival Masses (Treble Festivals) held in cathedrals and grand churches with pastors, bishops and cardinals presiding at the liturgies. Nationally recognized Catholic conductors direct the choirs offering advanced liturgical training through music.

\*This will be the inaugural year for the National Catholic High School Choral Festivals designed specifically for students in Catholic high schools and parishes. These are organized as traditional choral music festivals, not involving a liturgy, with a sacred music emphasis. Here you can observe and feel, in performances, rehearsals and conductor clinics, the students evangelize each other and build artistic skills at the same time. Many high school festivals will be hosted on Catholic university campuses.

\*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.

\*Online and other seminars will be initiated this year to advance conductor education in training youth in the great music of our Church and will provide more opportunities for professional growth.

## What Can You Do?

Festivals are costly, but not for Worship Offices or Departments of Education. Costs are outlined in the accompanying festival announcement brochures. A music fund is available for schools in need to purchase music for participation. Four hundred singers-a tiny percentage of young singers in your diocese-are needed to cover the expenses of these

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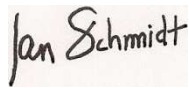
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events for your choirs and to assure their continuation in future years. AFPC does the organizing, proposal submissions, print and email promotion, registration, and oversight, but we cannot reach the students without **YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND DIRECT REQUESTS TO CONDUCTORS IN THE PARISHES 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 to invite and work with conductors of youth choirs to give this experience and advanced training in sacred music to their choirs.

Reach your singers in the best way possible. Put the R and the A in STREAM. Please email and talk with pastors and 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**