



**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

The Student Choral Organization of the Catholic Church

National Catholic High School Choral Festivals & Pueri Cantores Choral Festivals

April 2017

Vol 9, Issue 1

AFPC Announces New Episcopal Moderator

American Federation Pueri Cantores is honored to announce Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as the organization's newly instated Episcopal Moderator. As an advocate for sacred music and the youth of our Church, Bishop Zubik is excited to join AFPC and aid in the organization's mission of educating and evangelizing students through singing the beautiful music of the Catholic Church.



[Click here to learn more about Bishop Zubik.](#)

The 2017 Festival Season is Underway!

We are more than halfway through the 2017 Festival season, and AFPC would like to thank all of the participating choirs for joining us! Please enjoy the photos below from each Festival, and click on the links to see more on the [AFPC Facebook page](#).

Miami Festival & Mass
Saturday, February 25, 2017
Cathedral of St. Mary, Miami, FL

Participants:

St. Bonaventure Children's Chorale, Davie
Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Women's Chorus, Miami
Cardinal Gibbons High School Concert Choir, Ft. Lauderdale
St. Thomas Aquinas Chorale, Ft. Lauderdale
St. Ann Youth Choir, W. Palm Beach
All Saints Catholic School, Jupiter
St. Joan of Arc Concert Choir, Boca Raton
Cathedral of Saint Mary Advanced Children's Choir, Miami



St. Bonaventure Children's Choral, Davie



All Saints Catholic School, Jupiter

[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)

Chicago High School Festival
Friday, March 3, 2017
Loyola University
Madonna della Strada Chapel, Chicago

Participants:

Cecilia, Noblesville, IN
Marmion Vocal Ensemble, Auroa, IL
Marmion Men's Chorus, Aurora, IL

Marian Catholic Spartan and Varsity Choir, Chicago Heights, IL
Messmer High School Concert Choir, Milwaukee, WI
Central Catholic Chamber Singers, Lafayette, IN



Combined choirs with Guest Conductor,
Melanie Malinka



Marmion Men's Chorus, Aurora, IL

[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)

Chicago Treble Festival & Mass

Saturday, March 4, 2017
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago

Participants:

St. Francis of Assisi Middle School Choir, Ann Arbor, MI
The Treble Choir of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Chicago, IL
LFS Fusion, Springfield, IL
St. James Youth Choir, Arlington Heights, IL
St. Bridget School Liturgy and Music Class Choir, Loves Park, IL
St. John Brebeuf Children's Choir, Niles, IL
Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission Children's Choir "Vyturys," Lemont, IL
Epiphany Catholic School Choir, Chicago, IL

St. Frances of Rome School Choir, Cicero, IL
Seraphim Choir of Communion of Saints Parish , Cleveland Heights, OH
Pueri Cantores Peoria Choir, Peoria, IL
St. William Children's Choir, Chicago, IL
St. Joseph Preparatory School - Selah, Maumee, OH
St. Ita Children's Choir, Chicago, IL
St. Odilo Jr. High Choir, Berwyn, IL
Visitation Children's Choir, Elmhurst, IL
Queen of Martyrs Choristers, Evergreen Park, IL



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School Choir,
Ann Arbor, MI



St. James Youth Choir,
Arlington Heights, IL

[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)

Texas High School Festival
Friday, March 3, 2017
Chapel of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio

Participants:

The Atonement Academy Honors Choir, San Antonio
Frassati Catholic High School, Spring
Notre Dame Catholic School, Wichita Falls
St. Anthony Mary Claret Pueri Cantores Ensemble, San Antonio
Holy House Academy High School Choir, Houston



Combined choirs with Guest Clinician,
John Robinson



Holy House Academy High School
Choir, Houston

Houston Treble Festival & Mass

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston

Participants:

Flos Cantuum, Sugar Land

St. Michael Youth Choir, Bedford

Cathedral of St. John Berchmans Treble Choir, Shreveport

St. Rita Jubilate Deo Choir, Dallas

St. Martha Children's Choir, Porter

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School Choir, Houston

Corpus Christi Cathedral Youth Choirs, Corpus Christi

Christ the Redeemer Combined Choirs, Houston

Cantate, Spring

St. Thomas More Parish and School Choirs, Houston

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School Choir, Houston

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Schola Cantorum, Houston

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Children's Choir of the Co-Cathedral of the
Sacred Heart, Houston

Holy House Academy and Treble Choir, Houston

Epiphany of the Lord Children's Choir, Katy

Assumption Catholic School Choir, Houston



Christ the Redeemer Combined Choir,
Houston



St. Rita Jubilate Deo Choir, Dallas

[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)

Indiana Festival & Mass

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Participants:

**St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School, Avilla + St. Louis Academy, Besancon
St. Joseph Catholic School, Decatur + St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Elkhart
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Elkhart + Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
Bishop Luers High School, Ft. Wayne + Most Precious Blood Catholic School, Fort Wayne
Queen of Angels Catholic School, Fort Wayne + St. Charles Borromeo School, Ft. Wayne
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Fort Wayne + St. Jude Catholic School, Ft. Wayne
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Fort Wayne + St. Pius X Catholic School, Granger
St. Joseph Catholic School, Hessen Cassel + Huntington Catholic School, Huntington
Marian High School, Mishawaka + Queen of Peace Catholic School, Mishawaka
St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Monroeville + St. John the Baptist School, New Haven
Holy Family Catholic School, South Bend + Our Lady of Hungary School, South Bend
St. Joseph High School, South Bend + St. Jude Catholic School, South Bend
St. Matthew Cathedral School, South Bend + Sacred Heart Catholic School, Warsaw
St. Aloysius Catholic School, Yoder + Catholic Homeschoolers from the Diocese**



[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)

Southern California Treble Festival & Mass

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Sts. Simon and Jude Church, Huntington Beach

Participants:

St. Aloysius Catholic School Choir, Tulare, CA

St. John the Baptist Children's Choir, Costa Mesa, CA

Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Children's Choir, Huntington Beach, CA

Diocesan Children's Choir, Orange, CA

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Choristers, Scottsdale, AZ

Ville de Marie Pueri Cantores, Scottsdale, AZ

St. John Choristers, Encinitas, CA



Diocesan Children's Choir, Orange



Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Children's Choir, Huntington Beach

[Click here to view more photos from this Festival.](#)



A Special Event for Catholic School and Parish Choirs (grades 4-12)

YOUR 4 DAY PERFORMANCE TOUR INCLUDES

- Join hundreds of other singers to participate in a Mass at majestic Holy Name Cathedral
- Tour and join in a brief performance of patriotic music at Chicago's internationally renowned Field Museum of Natural History
- Attend or perform in the national Gala Concert at Dominican University's newly renovated Lund Auditorium
- Celebrate at a send-off river cruise and dance party onboard the *Spirit of Chicago*
- Stay in quad occupancy hotel rooms with daily breakfasts and 3 group dinners provided.
- Enjoy the famous sights of Chicago such as the Cloud and a breathtaking view of the city and lake from the observation deck of 360 Chicago
- Relax on a private bus for all services and transfers, security, and all taxes and gratuities covered for drivers and restaurant personnel.



AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES
WWW.PCCHOIRS.ORG

Click on the image above to learn more about the 2018 National Congress of Catholic Youth Choirs.

Organizational Tips For Youth Choir Directors

Cultivate parent volunteers. Most churches and dioceses have common sense safe environment policies requiring ample adult supervision. Create a roster for parents to sign up to volunteer once a month. Parents can help with discipline issues, bathroom breaks, sick children, etc., so that you can concentrate on making great music!

Use incentives. Reward good behavior and musicianship with a system of points - stickers on a chart, marbles in a jar, etc. When your choir reaches a certain number of points, throw them a pizza party or take them to the local amusement park.

Sing every week. If your youth choir is used to singing once a month, transitioning to a weekly choir will be hard at first; but, it's worth it! The level of commitment, not to mention the musical quality, is guaranteed to skyrocket.

Make a calendar for the year. Parents are accustomed to receiving yearly calendars from schools, sports teams, scouting groups, etc. Your choir needs a calendar, too! Consult your parish calendar and local school district calendar for potential conflicts, and ask parents for input. Here's a copy of my youth choir calendar, if you'd like to use it as a template:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o7opyae26dsmn42/2016-2017%20Choir%20Calendar.docx?dl=0>

Learn by rote. While it is every choir director's goal to teach young choristers to sight-sing, learning by rote should not be abandoned entirely. When a child imitates a director, he not only learns notes on a page, but also learns expression, dynamics, and diction, as well as personal comportment and devotion. Learning by rote emblazens a piece of music on a child's heart - never underestimate its worth!

Sing the Propers. Most hymns we sing at Mass are actually replacements for the "Propers" - antiphons from sacred Scripture, specifically intended for each Mass of the liturgical year. Start small: maybe your choir could sing the communion antiphon from the Simple English Propers before launching into a hymn or anthem? Here's the link for free downloads:

<http://musicasacra.com/additional-publications/sep/>

Create choir officers. Like any good team or club, a choir can use a system of

ranks or offices to give children more of a sense of pride and responsibility. Perhaps a choir manager can help you with attendance, or a section captain can make sure the music binders are organized for the altos.

Pray at every rehearsal. Pray good, solid Catholic prayers. Teach them the Angelus, the Regina Caeli, and the Memorare. At the very least, make sure to recite the traditional Chorister's Prayer: "Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts; and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

MICHAEL OLBASH serves on the board of directors for the American Federation Pueri Cantores, and helps organize and manage AFPC festivals around the country. He holds music degrees from St. Joseph's College and Harvard University, and is the 2012 recipient of the Choirmaster Prize and S. Lewis Elmer Award from the American Guild of Organists. As Organist & Choirmaster at St. Adelaide Parish in Peabody, Massachusetts, he directs five ensembles in chant, polyphony, and sacred choral music. He can be reached at olbash@post.harvard.edu.

Pueri Cantores on Facebook



As part of the gradual reconfiguration of AFPC's website and online presence, individual photo albums are being posted for each U.S. Festival. Please encourage your colleagues, singers, family and friends to check out these posts and "like" AFPC on Facebook!

Stay up-to-date with special event announcements, interact with other members, share fundraising ideas and choir tips in order to make the AFPC Facebook page a great resource for other choirs.

Encourage your choir to serve the Church and community and share their experiences. Send us photos and videos of your activities and they will be featured on our Facebook page.

Make a Gift to Pueri Cantores Today!

AFPC is pleased to provide our donor community with an online donation solution through FirstGiving, a secure giving site. We invite you to make your tax-deductible gift today to ensure AFPC continues to fulfill its mission.

Encounters with sacred music can have a profound, transformational and lasting impact on the lives of young people. By bringing Catholic youth together to sing beautiful music from the Church's rich historical repertoire, the American Federation Pueri Cantores provides a unique opportunity to educate and engage these young singers in their faith and in the arts. In addition, Pueri Cantores offers resources and educational opportunities to conductors to assist with their knowledge and training. Through its work, Pueri Cantores seeks to bring the peace of Christ to our cities, our nation, and our world.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make your donation- any gift amount counts!



Checks can also be made out directly to American Federation Pueri Cantores and mailed to the AFPC office at 1188 N. Tustin St., Orange, CA 92867.

On behalf of the AFPC Board of Directors, thank you for your generosity and support.

Happy Easter!



American Federation Pueri Cantores | 1188 N. Tustin St., Orange, CA 92867
714-633-7554 | info@pcchoirs.org | www.pcchoirs.org



STAY CONNECTED:



