



Foederatio Internationalis
Pueri Cantores

January, 2021

Dear friends and colleagues in the International Federation and the National Federations,

This time last year most of us had never heard of Covid-19 and many of us were looking forward to attending our various international, national and regional festivals and doing what we do best – praising God and sharing our song!

Alas, all that changed in the face of the pandemic and the restrictions it placed on our choral activities. For over a year now, our voices have been silent, but though we have not been able to share our song, we remain a people of hope and look forward to the day when we can gather together again. Hopefully, the advent of various vaccines will hasten that joyful day!

As the pandemic restrictions remain in place in most countries, I suspect that the upcoming season of Lent will be a little different for our communities of faith and our youth choirs. But let us hold fast to the hope that we have in Christ and his healing presence. Together let us use these “*silent*” days to allow the song in our hearts to continue to swell and the prayer in our spirits to be filled with a youth like hope. Hopefully you will have seen the Prayer for Lent and will consider using it in the days ahead. I have attached a copy of the prayer to this letter for your convenience.

The proposed international festivals in Florence (July '22) and Rome (Dec' 23/Jan '24) as well as the many regional and national gatherings that are in the process of planning should certainly heighten that sense of hope and give us all something to look forward to in the days and months ahead. Hopefully, you and your choir plan to be part of all or some of these important “*return*” events. I know I look forward to taking my choir on the road again and to joining with others in sharing our song.

So until we all meet again, may the Lord continue to bless our Federation and give us the strength to stay united and firm in our desire to praise him in song and in action.

May he anoint our continuing work at all levels and in all nations as we serve the young people of his Church.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Conlon

**Very Rev. Fr. James Conlon,
American Federation of Pueri Cantores**

PRAYER FOR LENT FOR PUERI CANTORES

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of music and in a particular way for the work of the International Federation of Pueri Cantores as it seeks to worship you and to share your love through singing and service.

In these days of pandemic, while our voices are silent, our hearts continue to beat to the rhythm of your loving presence among us.

So as we undertake our Lenten journey with our hearts set on the glory of Easter, we pray that you will continue to pour your strength into our hearts.

Continue to anoint the work of our youth choirs that together we may find new and creative ways to use our gifts for the glory of your name.

Keep us focused and united, each playing our part in the work of the Federation until we can once again gather together and sing of your glory.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.