



DIOCESE OF
ST. PETERSBURG

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NEWS RELEASE

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YOUTH FROM DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG TO SING IN ROME AND VATICAN CITY

St. Petersburg, FL: Thirty youth from grades 2nd through 12th from the Diocese of St. Petersburg will join more than 5,000 youth from around the world to participate in the 40th International Congress of Pueri Cantores in Rome and Vatican City from December 26 through January 2. Fifteen youth from the Children's Choir of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Seminole and fifteen youth from the Saint Anthony Choristers of Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in San Antonio will be traveling with their choir directors and family members to this event.

During the week-long Congress, the youth will sing in various churches in Rome and Vatican City. The conclusion of the pilgrimage will be singing during the World Peace Day Papal Mass, to be celebrated by Pope Francis, in St. Peter's Basilica on January 1.

Both choirs have been working hard to prepare for this special opportunity. Members of Blessed Sacrament's Children's Choir have been attending an extra hour-long practice session every week for the last six months. "I've been amazed and impressed at the intense homework that our students have done to get the most out of our rehearsal time," said Fred Eschenfelder, Pastoral Associate and Director of the Blessed Sacrament Children's Choir. Saint Anthony Choristers' members have been participating in their own extra "Rome Rehearsals" since July.

Both choir directors are excited to lead the trip and to represent their parish and the Diocese of St. Petersburg at this event. "My hope is that this once-in-a-lifetime experience will help these wonderful young people fall more deeply in love with the Catholic Church," said Sandra Lau, Director of the Saint Anthony Choristers.

For questions, please contact Fred Eschenfelder at 727-504-5882 or at feschenfelder@gmail.com or Sandra Lau at (352) 588-3081 or at sandra@saopcc.com

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Photo 1: Saint Anthony Choristers

Photo 2: Blessed Sacrament Children's Choir