



Choristers singing at
St. Agnes Cathedral



**BISHOP
JOHN O.
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MESSAGE TO PARISH CHOIRS AND LITURGICAL MUSICIANS

To our Parish Choirs and Liturgical Musicians,

As we celebrate the Feast of our Diocesan Patroness, Saint Agnes of Rome, I write to express my sincere gratitude for your faithful dedication to Catholic worship so beautifully embodied in your humble commitment to excellence.

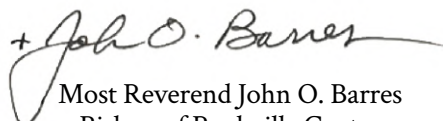
I also wish to share with you the attached homily of Pope Leo XIV for the Jubilee of Choirs, celebrated on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, on November 23, 2025.

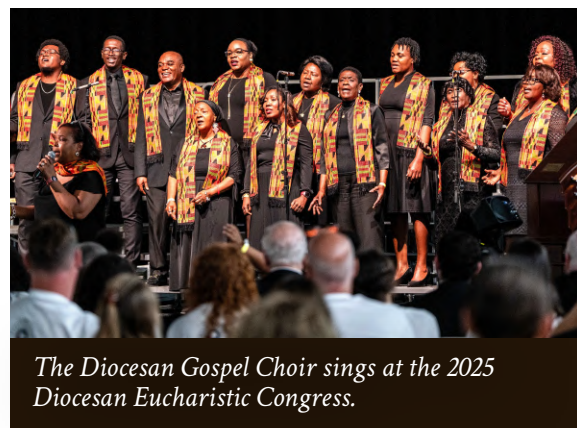
In his reflection, Pope Leo emphasizes the profound ecclesiology, along with the commitment to Catholic teaching and spiritual life, that gives the parish choir its evangelizing power: "The different voices of a choir harmonize with each other, giving rise to a single hymn of praise, a luminous symbol of the Church, which unites everyone in love in a single pleasing melody."

Liturgical music is critical to the Church's mission of evangelization. Your commitment to making liturgical music an act of prayer, your continual refinement of musical skill, and your study of the principles of sacred music and Catholic liturgy glorifies God and builds up the Church.

Thank you for your generosity, fidelity, and the exquisite Good Samaritan charity you offer within the Church and for her mission. Saint Agnes and Saint Cecilia, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



*The Diocesan Gospel Choir sings at the 2025
Diocesan Eucharistic Congress.*

**TO READ
POPE LEO XIV'S
2025 HOMILY
FOR THE JUBILEE
OF CHOIRS**

*visit vatican.va
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