

Award criteria and application for the Magnificat Award

The *Magnificat Award* is presented annually to choirs that make an outstanding contribution to helping children and young people deepen their faith through singing and praying together in church.

Selection criteria include, among others:

- Catechetical accompaniment beyond choir rehearsals: e.g., regular faith discussions or themed group sessions.
- Spiritual opportunities outside rehearsals: such as retreats, pilgrimages, or dedicated times of prayer.
- Participation in faith-nurturing initiatives: including musical contributions to catechetical programs, confirmation preparation, first communion courses, or missionary events.
- Choir work in challenging social or pastoral contexts: for example, in crisis areas, in the diaspora, or in economically disadvantaged regions—aimed at providing young people with stability, community, and access to faith.
- Liturgical life of the choir beyond musical performance: such as shared celebrations of the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours, or regular prayer times.
- Strengthening liturgical education: projects where children learn not only the music but also the meaning of the liturgy—e.g., through age-appropriate introductions to the structure of the Mass or the liturgical year.
- Involvement of families: fostering an environment where parents and siblings also participate in the choir's activities and faith life—through joint worship, pilgrimages, or other initiatives.
- Catechesis through music: exploring the religious content behind musical works during rehearsals and public performances.
- Integration and inclusion: choir work that intentionally welcomes children from migrant backgrounds, those with disabilities, or those from socially disadvantaged families, giving them a sense of belonging within the Church.

The *Magnificat Award* consists of a financial grant for the choir's activities, certificates for all choir members, and three medals: one for the choir director and two for choir members.

The selection committee includes two representatives from the Pueri Cantores association and three from the Magnificat Foundation.

Applications must be submitted by **August 15** each year. The award is presented in **the following months of that year.**