



(Photo by Fred Clark)

THE COLLEGIATE CHOIR of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul sings 11 A.M. Mass every Sunday at the center-city church from September to June. In addition, they sing ceremony music whenever Cardinal Krol officiates there, and maintain a parish concert schedule throughout the year.

Busy Spring, Summer for Cathedral Choir

By JUDY BAEHR

Customarily, as summer approaches, the 60-voice Collegiate Choir of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, having sung 11 A.M. Mass at the center-city church each Sunday from September to June, begins to look forward to a vacation.

This year, however, is different. Spring and summer promise to be busy seasons. And, say choir members, "Viva la difference!"

Already, they have taped two radio programs for the WFIL Catholic Hour, broadcast on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday; a third program is in the planning stage.

On Wednesday evening (April 24), they taped a television program for KYW's "Sunday" show, to be aired on May 5.

This weekend (April 27-28), the choir travels to Reading to join the Reading Choral Society in a performance of Francis Poulenc's "Gloria" and Giuseppe Verdi's "Four Sacred Pieces."

And at 8:30 P.M. on Monday, May 13, the Collegiate Choir will join tenor Walter Rinaldi of the Philadelphia Grand Opera Company, and the Reading Choral Society on the stage of the Academy of Music for a benefit concert featuring Verdi's "Four Sacred Pieces" and selections from their repertoire.

The Church concerts, the publicity, are only a preparation, however, for the choir's greatest undertaking.

On July 4, the choir will leave for a 17-day concert-study tour of six European countries, a tour which every choir member has dreamed of for at least the past five years. During the tour, the choir hopes to have an

opportunity to sing for the Pope, and to hear the best European choirs, including the Benedictine monks of Solesmes, whose Gregorian chant is world-famous.

The group has come a long way since its founding in 1965 by Richard Tecca, when skeptics predicted that it wouldn't last — college kids were too fad-conscious and would lose interest.

The successor to several choirs of men and boys sponsored by various Cathedral administrations since the turn of the century, the Collegiate Choir carries on a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, when each cathedral had its own "college of singers" who were that cathedral's official choir.

In addition to singing the Mass each Sunday, the choir also provides the ceremony music whenever Cardinal Krol officiates at the Cathedral, his home church.

Dr. Peter LaManna, the choir's present director, who replaced Dick Tecca in 1968, is keeping alive the traditional music of the Christian churches as well as introducing the best new sacred music: the same Sunday might see the choir sing LaManna's own "Mass of Praise," written for Cardinal Krol, as well as a Latin motet such as "O Sacrum Convivium" from the 16th century.

"Comments from people leaving Mass on Sundays indicate that the choir is fulfilling its primary aim — that of leading worship in the Archdiocese," says LaManna. "That, too, is one of the purposes of this trip; to make it a learning experience so that we can continue to present music of which we and the Archdiocese can be proud."



(Photo by Robert S. Halvey)

SUPER SUNDAY '71 brought the Cathedral Choir to the front steps of the Cathedral for a concert. On May 13, the choir will be featured in a performance of Verdi's "Four Sacred Pieces" at the Academy of Music. Tickets may be obtained from the Academy box office, or by calling CL 9-5481.