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Other News

Christmas Concert in the Vatican

The 27th edition of the Christmas Concert in the Vatican, organized by the Congregation for Catholic Education and in aid of the Don Bosco Valdocco Onlus Missions and the Pontifical Scholas Occurrentes Foundation, will be held on Saturday, 14 December in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.

This year, the event reflects Pope Francis' commitment to the Amazon, to which the current Synod is dedicated. Indeed, the organizations that promote the Concert are engaged in safeguarding the Amazon and indigenous peoples. Within the framework of a common charity project – "Let's Network for the Amazon" - there will be two specific initiatives, to which everyone can contribute via donations by calling the Italian charity telephone number 45530, active from 2 November to 31 December.

The aim of *Scholas Occurrentes* is to raise awareness among students in 450,000 schools around the world belonging to the social platform *Scholas.social*, so as to promote reforestation activities in schools and to contribute, following the example of the original populations of the Amazon, to the reconstruction of harmonious relations with nature and between men, through student exchanges and sharing activities among schools.

The aim of Salesian Action, on the other hand, is to preserve the presence, tradition and culture of the indigenous population in the district of Lauaretê, in the north-west of the Brazilian Amazon, on the border with Colombia, a remote place often forgotten by political and social institutions. In this area, where social and health conditions are already precarious, the illegal trade in alcohol spreads, with the consequent increase in violence, theft and murder, especially among minors. The Salesians, who help minors at risk on a daily basis, wish to provide them with a protected place to live.

The artists who have joined the concert enjoy great international prestige: Lionel Richie from the United States, Bonnie Tyler from Wales, Susan Boyle from Scotland, and from Italy Elisa, Simone Cristicchi, Fabio Rovazzi, Noemi, Davide Merlini, guitarist Giorgio Albiani and the tenor Fabio Armiliato.

The Orchestra will be the Italian Cinema Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Renato Serio and Maestro Adriano

Pennino. There will also be a Gospel choir from the United States, the Vatican Gendarmerie Corps Band, the *Le Dolci Note* Children's Choir and the Art Voice Academy vocalist group.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.concertodinatale.it or at all TicketOne outlets. For information and reservations, call +39 06 68136738. All proceeds from ticket sales and SMS solidarity donations will go to the Scholas Occurrentes Foundations and the Don Bosco Valdocco Missions.
