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John M Boe
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09/08/12

Dear Dr. John Boe:

I called you Monday, September 3. I am a physics graduate student at the University of Arizona who attends St. Gianna's Oratory (338 West University Blvd.; SaintGianna.net), the only Catholic church in Tucson to sing almost entirely Gregorian Chant every Sunday. I also sing chant myself, which I learned from the ASU mariachi professor and choir director of the Mater Misericordiæ Mission in Phoenix, Dr. Richard Haefer. I absolutely love chant and can see why Haydn wept at hearing a young boy's choir sing chant or why Mozart would've rather composed a Proper or Preface in this style than anything else he'd written.

I was happy to see you specialize in Beneventan chant, since I have ancestry from southern Italy (Campo Basso and Aversa, near Naples). Beneventan chant is very unique and beautifully melismatic.

I'm organizing a group of men to learn the chant notation so we can have a true, men's Gregorian chant schola for High Mass at 1:00 PM on Sundays at St. Gianna's Oratory. Would you be interested in singing with our schola or helping us out in other ways? I could pick you up for Sunday High Masses, after which we could rehearse; I could also ask a fellow parishioner from Green Valley to take you, if you'd like.

Thank you,



Alan Aversa