

*July 27, 2025*

Dear Sirs,

I gratefully accept such a virtuous tribute: it is an honor for me to receive the title of Universal Catholic Voice in the first edition of the Catholic Music Awards organized by the Ramón Pané Foundation and encouraged by the late Pope Francis.

Being the object of such a sign of approval makes me proud and encourages me to continue - with all my strength - to bear witness through music to what I believe to be the center of gravity of my life, and that is, the gift of faith. Faith that I consider a beacon, a light to be rekindled every day.

I am not a doctor or a scientist, I calmly deal with the smallness of my contribution to society. I sing, and with my singing I wish to offer my contribution, in the desire to offer a moment of relief and optimism, vivifying in the listener the awareness of what, I am sure, in his heart he is already aware of... I am referring to those universal ethical principles capable of giving completeness to earthly life, which I personally trace in the message of the Gospels and in the founding values of Christianity.

I am convinced that all art is a gift from Heaven aimed at promoting the spirit and propagating good. In its immediacy, the art of sounds has the ability to make us better and to act as a bridge, to access with simplicity what stands beyond the veil of the noisy daily life. Thanks to music we can enter the temple of the soul, we can be helped to remember that everything is sacred, that nature is supernatural, that every moment of our life is a miracle to be celebrated. An instrument of faith (as can be any fruit of human ingenuity), music multiplies prayer: Saint Augustine, the greatest Christian thinker of the first millennium, reminds us of this.

There is a definition of music that I consider enlightening. It was conceived by the German philosopher Gottfried Leibniz, who describes it as follows: "A hidden arithmetic exercise of the soul that does not know how to count itself". It is hidden, because there is no formula that can explain why one melodic line arouses emotions and another does not. It remains a wonderful mystery. And it is a fact that good music brings with it a strong message of peace and brotherhood, educating us to beauty, helping us to open our hearts and minds.

Thanking the organizing foundation and all those present for this beautiful recognition, I humbly wish to urge and encourage my colleagues, especially the younger ones, to always listen to their conscience and act accordingly - even more so when one has the privilege and responsibility of setting an example in the eyes of the world-, conveying positive messages of love, brotherhood, peace.

Andrea Bocelli

