

NEWS RELEASE

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Saint Mary, Benedictine Choirs Combine for 19th Annual Spring Oratorio

3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, 2006

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Almost two-decades after the original collaboration, the University of Saint Mary-Benedictine College Spring Oratorio continues to run strong. The two choirs join together for a special performance each year. This year's oratorio will feature more than 90-voices singing in harmony, and not in competition.

The University of Saint Mary-Benedictine College Oratorio takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, 2006 inside Annunciation Chapel, located on the University of Saint Mary campus, 4100 South 4th Street. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Call 913-682-5151 extension 6460 for details.

Now in its 19th consecutive rendition, the Saint Mary-Benedictine Oratorio will feature Wolfgang Amedeus Mozart's "Requiem Mass." "The Requiem" was Mozart's final work, and was left incomplete at his death on December 5, 1791. His student, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, completed the final five movements of the 12-movement score. December 5, 2006 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart and is being celebrated world-wide with performances of Mozart's music. "The Requiem" is particularly celebrated.

The combined choirs of Saint Mary and Benedictine joined for the first time in 1988, the first year Saint Mary became residentially co-educational. Works performed in the annual collaboration include Handel's "Messiah," Haydn's "Paukenmesse" and scenes from the "Requiem Mass" by Faure, Mozart, Verdi and Rutter.

The two choirs are led, respectively, by the brother-sister duo of Dr. William Krusemark (Saint Mary) and Dr. Ruth Krusemark (Benedictine College). Student soloists from USM will include Taylor Gillespie (bass), junior from Pueblo, Colo., Ryan Harris (tenor), senior from Kansas City, Kan., and Jesan Barnes (mezzo-soprano), junior from Omaha, Neb.

A repeat performance will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9 at the Benedictine Abbey in Atchison, Kan.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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