

## NEWS RELEASE

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## LINCOLN COLLECTION PUTS UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY IN THE REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Aug. 25 – Dec. 17

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Interest in Abraham Lincoln continues, and his legacy as president reverberates still. From Aug. 25 through Dec. 17, the Saint Louis University Museum of Art, in collaboration with the University of Saint Mary and its Bernard H. Hall Abraham Lincoln Collection, will present the exhibition, *The Lincoln Legacy: Presidential Years*. The exhibit underscores our nation's continuing discourse and reflection upon the president's actions and decisions and their continued impact on our society. *The Lincoln Legacy: Presidential Years* marks the first time the University of Saint Mary Lincoln Collection will be exhibited outside of the Leavenworth, Kan. campus.

The exhibit will feature manuscripts and autographed documents, as well as significant historical artifacts relating to the presidency of Lincoln. Most noteworthy in the collection is a rare parchment copy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution signed by Abraham Lincoln. Pre-Civil War papers in the Sir John Craig Manuscript Collection at the University of Saint Mary will supplement the Hall Collection.

Father David Suwalsky, director of museums and galleries at SLU, is a native of Leavenworth. He approached Penelope Lonergan, director of USM's De Paul Library, about using USM's Hall Collection more than one year ago. "This partnership will be a tremendous promotional opportunity for the University of Saint Mary and the city of Leavenworth," Lonergan said. "The exhibit coincides with the annual meeting of the Western History Association hosted in St. Louis where more than 20,000 historians, librarians, archivists and authors are expected to attend."

Bernard H. Hall, M.D., F.A.C.P., donated his 10,000-piece Lincoln Collection to Saint Mary in 1970. Dr. Hall was former director of psychiatry at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan. He was a lecturer, an author, and a collector of Lincoln documents and memorabilia for some 40 years. Mindful of Lincoln's visit to Leavenworth in 1859, Dr. Hall wished his collection to be in Leavenworth in an academic setting and hoped that it would become "a shrine to a great man" and "a memorial to the incomparable Abraham Lincoln."

"We are very pleased that our Lincoln Collection will be seen and enjoyed by so many people at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art exhibit," University of Saint Mary President Sister Diane Steele said. "We know that this would have greatly pleased Dr. Hall. Father Suwalsky's research in putting the exhibit together has also afforded us the opportunity to learn more about the historical significance of several pieces within the collection."

The most significant piece within the collection, the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, is the document that abolished slavery in the United States. It is one of only three existing versions of the amendment to have been signed by 36 of the 38 members of the U.S. Senate serving in 1865. Additional items in the Hall Collection include: a library of nearly 2,500 books; campaign medallions; funerary and memorial medals; autographed manuscripts and documents; lithographs and engravings from the period, daguerreotypes, tintypes and glass plate photographs.

As part of the exhibit, a vocal quartet comprised of a current Saint Mary student, two alums and one faculty member has recorded a CD of 22 Lincoln-era songs. The CD will be on sale inside the SLU museum gift shop. Professor of Music Dr. William Krusemark spent over six months researching the music for the recording. "I picked a variety of songs related to Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. I liked the idea of using faculty, students, and alumni together for this project. Our vocalists are Jesan Barnes, who is a senior, Margaret Waddell, a 1985 graduate who is one of the most accomplished vocal performers in the history of Saint Mary, tenor Ryan Harris, Class of 2006 and currently a graduate student at Saint Mary, and I sing baritone. Our piano accompanist is Assistant Music Professor Freda Proctor," Dr. Krusemark said.

For additional information and programming updates visit <http://lincoln.slu.edu> or call 314-977-2666. The Saint Louis Museum of Art is located at 3663 Lindell Blvd. in St. Louis, Mo.

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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