

NEWS RELEASE

Date Oct. 11, 2007

Contact: Bob Uhlar (You-ler) 913-758-6165

E-mail: Uhlar69@stmary.edu



New Play Chronicles 150-Year Story of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Starting this Thursday, Oct. 4, the University of Saint Mary Fine Arts Theatre Department will present an original play by theatre professor Van Ibsen in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. "What can a Woman Do?" begins when Mother Xavier Ross, foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, converted to Catholicism and goes up to present day.

Last fall, as Ibsen was preparing to leave for a sabbatical, he offered to write a play honoring the 150th Jubilee of the Sisters of Charity. The play has been adapted from the book, "Come North" by Sister Julia Gilmore, and interviews with several SCLs.

"It's really an adaptation of the Sisters' words and I put in all of the bridge work. The play is written for everybody so that the audience can come to know who the sisters are," said Ibsen.

"Our goal together is to use the play during the year to engage the college and all of our different constituencies to tell our story - our founding, development, and our present," said Sr. Sue Miller, community director of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. "All the way through, it's a love story."

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4, 5, and 6 in Xavier Theatre, located on the 3rd floor of Xavier Hall at the main campus in Leavenworth, 4100 South 4th Street.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 913-758-6152 for more information.

"What can a Woman Do?" kicks off a year-long series of special events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.