

NEWS RELEASE

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Saint Mary Students to Perform Play About the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth at Folly Theater

2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, March 16, 2008

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary Department of Fine Arts - Theatre will present two performances of an original play, “*What can a Woman Do?*,” as a fundraiser for student scholarships on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at the Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th Street, Kansas City, Mo. Performances are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each.

The 90-minute play, performed by Saint Mary students, explores the 150-year history of the university’s founders, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs). The title comes from a comment made to the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Mother Xavier Ross, which inspired her to lead a community of women who have served the needs of thousands in this country and South America. In 1828, 15-year-old Ann Ross told her father she was joining a Catholic religious community to make a difference in the world, to which her father, a Methodist minister, responded, “What can a woman do?”

The pioneer Sisters of Charity arrived in Leavenworth on Nov. 11, 1858, with three missions: education, care of the sick, and care of children. In addition to founding the University of Saint Mary, the SCLs have touched countless lives through schools, hospitals, parishes, and other ministries in 11 states and Peru. During this 150th anniversary year, several events taking place in the Kansas City area will recognize the sisters’ generous continuance of service to the people of the metropolitan area.

The play debuted on the main campus in Leavenworth in October 2007. The script was written by Van Ibsen, director of the USM theatre program. It is based on the book “*Come North*” by Sister Julia Gilmore.

Tickets are available at the Folly Theater box office or by phone at (816) 474-4444, or through Ticketmaster at (816) 931-3330. A reception will be held from 3:45 to 5 p.m. in the theater foyer. Call (913) 682-5151, extension 6610 or email trebusd@stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The main campus is located at 4100 South 4th Street in Leavenworth, Kan. Saint Mary offers accelerated graduate and degree-completion programs at three additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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