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### Christmas at Loretto Rings in Holiday Season

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — The South Bend Chamber Singers, under the direction of Saint Mary's College Music Professor Nancy Menk, begin their 19<sup>th</sup> concert season with their annual "Christmas at Loretto" performance. The concert is Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto at Saint Mary's College.

The Chamber Singers with organist David Eicher will present beautiful music for the season featuring Ottorino Respighi's beautiful *Laud to the Nativity* and newly commissioned works by American composers Cary Boyce and Axel Theimer. This concert is sponsored by June H. Edwards.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, \$8 for SMC/ND staff, and \$5 for students. Tickets are available through the Saint Mary's College Box Office by visiting Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or by calling 574-284-4626.

The South Bend Chamber Singers, an ensemble-in-residence at Saint Mary's College, was founded in 1989. The members have extensive musical backgrounds, but their current professions encompass a wide variety of fields. The choir draws its members from throughout north-central Indiana and southwestern Michigan. The ensemble concentrates on works by living composers, but its repertoire includes traditional compositions and unusual and complex arrangements. They have performed with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, Germany's Chamber Orchestra of the Rhine, the Avalon, Cavani and Chester String Quartets, the Walker Chapel Brass, and the NIU Steel Band.

In 2000, the Singers were one of five finalists for the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, given annually by Chorus America, and they won the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming in 2004. Since 1992 their efforts have been rewarded by annual grants from the Indiana Arts Commission.

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