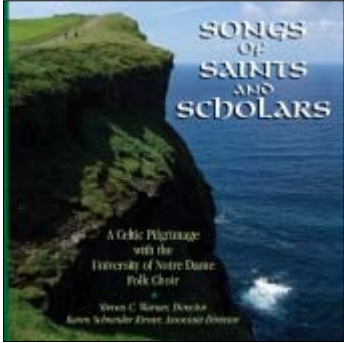


✠ Folk Choir Mini-Update ✠

Spring Semester 2009

St. Patrick's Day Liturgy and *Songs of Saints and Scholars* Release



Notre Dame will celebrate its annual Mass on the Feast of St. Patrick on Tuesday, March 17, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. As great tradition dictates, the folk choir will offer a bilingual repertoire of Irish and English selections to mark this festive occasion for both the campus and local community. The Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria, will be this year's celebrant.

Following the liturgy in the first-floor lounge of the Coleman-Morse Center, the choir will host a reception for the release of our most recent collection of sacred music, *Songs of Saints and Scholars*, an album which combines traditional Irish hymn tunes, blessings, and prayers with the rich sounds of the four-part choir, strings, organ, bodhrán, tin whistle, and Uilleann pipes. Long-standing folk choir songs such as "Céad Míle Fáilte," "Those Who Love and Those Who

Labor," and "Rian Phádraig" join newly written and arranged pieces by Steve, Karen, and Master of Sacred Music alumna Carolyn Pirtle. The album will be available for purchase on the evening of the release party, but will also be available to order online through our publisher, World Library Publications.

All are welcome to attend our St. Patrick's Day events on campus. Mass begins at 5:15 P.M. with reception to follow.

Quick Links: [About the Recording](#) + [Audio Samples](#) + [Album Summary](#) + [Ordering Information](#)

Teach Bhríde Intentional Lay Community in County Wexford

Following the choir's most recent trip to the isle of Éire last spring, dialogue developed to create an international service program as a branch of the folk choir directed to cultivate the advancement and renewal of liturgical ministry among the Irish Church, especially as it relates to music and worship. The past nine months have been filled with trips, interviews, brainstorming, and prayer, and the choir joyously announces that the pilot year of this program will begin this August in Clonard Parish in County Wexford, Ireland. Under the special patronage of St. Brigid, *Teach Bhríde* (House of Brigid) will be an intentional lay community of four Notre Dame graduates—two men and two women—serving and being served by the community at Wexford. This year's inaugural group includes Carolyn Pirtle '08 MSM, Tim Masterton '07, Martha Calcutt '09, and Chris Labadie '09. We extend warm congratulations to these four individuals for their willingness to embark on and set the framework for this undertaking, and come August we send with them our blessings, prayers, and luck of the Irish.



Folk Choir Spring Break Service Week in Boston



While the folk choir normally saves touring for the end of the spring semester in May, a small contingent of singers and musicians will be heading east to the Boston metro area this March for a week of service in liturgical ministry over spring break. One of the highlight visits of the trip will be to Sacred Heart Parish in Lynn, Massachusetts, where Jen Cimino '07 MSM currently works as music director. The choir has been in contact with Jen's grade-school students, exchanging cards, pictures, and letters, and our folk choir ambassadors will unhesitatingly admit that they anxiously await the opportunity to work with the young students in this parish school.

Quick Link: [Sacred Heart Parish](#)

Continuing Our Day-to-Day Ministry

As one staff member in Campus Ministry recently remarked, we find ourselves in the “May You Cling” season here at Notre Dame, vigilantly observing the preparation of our candidates and catechumens as we approach Lent and Easter. With a noticeable absence of football and the perpetual presence of ice and snow, the second semester definitely has a different feel than the first. All the new freshmen—including folkhead newbies—are settled in, we welcome back friends from study abroad programs, and myriads of varieties of boots, scarves, caps, and coats conceal every square inch of the student body bracing against subzero wind chills.



As a choir, we have remained quite active this semester both in terms of our music preparation and also our ministry. On Sunday, February 15, the choir took up the invitation to provide music for the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend (photo above). The regular Sunday liturgy included the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick for the members of the parish community, and as a choir we were more than happy to contribute to this wonderful celebration. A word of thanks goes out to Theresa (Sherman) Slott '05, the director of music at St. Joseph, for making this occasion possible for both the choir and the parishioners.



Over the next few days Notre Dame hosts its annual Junior Parents Weekend. The culminating event for the juniors and their parents will be the Saturday evening liturgy at the Joyce Center followed by a class dinner, both presided over by Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President of the University. Along with the other Basilica choirs and the Notre Dame Orchestra, the folk choir will assist with the music for Saturday’s Mass. Much rehearsal time has been dedicated to learning John Rutter’s masterful 2006 composition “Winchester Te Deum,” and we enthusiastically present it and dedicate it to our junior class parents.

In addition to “May You Cling to Wisdom,” the season is also soon upon us for candles, Psalm 137, chant responses, and “Magnificat: My Soul Flies Free.” Beginning Sunday, March 1, the folk choir will provide the music for the celebration of Lenten Vespers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. All are most welcome to attend our shared “evening prayer of the Church” during the Sundays of Lent starting at 7:15 P.M.

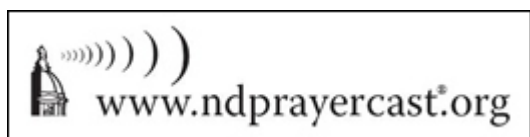
Quick Links: [St. Joseph Parish](#) + [Junior Parents Weekend](#) + [Lenten Vespers](#) + [Basilica of the Sacred Heart](#)

On Air: National Broadcast of Notre Dame Easter Liturgy

At the request of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Notre Dame’s Easter Sunday Mass from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart will be broadcast on NBC-affiliate stations across the United States on Sunday, April 12. Underwritten by the Catholic Communication Campaign, this event will be an important act of evangelization by the Holy Cross community, the staff of the Basilica, and the folk choir to reach out across the nation to fellow Catholics and non-Catholics alike to tell the triumphant resurrection story on Easter morning. The choir is humbled to be offered this opportunity to extend our ministry beyond the Notre Dame campus, and we look forward to working to make this broadcast event possible as we travel together through our observance of Lent.



Quick Links: [Catholic Communication Campaign](#) + [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) + [NBC Local Stations](#)



Plugging into the PrayerCast

The Sunday 11:45 A.M. Mass featuring the music of the folk choir continues to be broadcast weekly on NDPrayerCast.org alongside regular episodes of the podcast. Additional prayer resources will be coming out for the upcoming

Lenten season, so please check the website for ways you can enhance your daily prayer practices for Lent. A special token of appreciation belongs to all members of the choir who volunteer their time to contribute to the various projects and to this year’s Campus Ministry Intern, Christina Holmstrom '08, for her planning and expertise.

Christmas Break in Atlanta at the CCMA National Convention

During the last week of both the liturgical Christmas season and the academic Christmas break, a representative group from the folk choir spent five nights in Atlanta at the Catholic Campus Ministry Association's 2009 National Convention. As the "resident choir" for the convention participants, we assisted musically in both morning prayer and noontime Mass for each of the days of the conference. Apart from these duties, we adopted Holy Spirit Parish in Atlanta as our gracious host parish and provided both a concert for their upper-school students as well as music for their Saturday evening vigil Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During some free time, we took in downtown Atlanta by visiting the World of Coca-Cola museum and Centennial Olympic Park. Much gratitude goes to CCMA, all support staff at Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta, Tommy Curtin '08 JD, and the faculty, staff, students, and families of Holy Family Parish for their generous hospitality.

Quick Links: [Catholic Campus Ministry Association](#) + [Holy Spirit Parish](#)



Upper left: The upper-school students of Holy Spirit Parish in Atlanta gathered for our afternoon concert. *Upper right:* Megan, Jessica, Maria, Adjoa, and Whitney with the Coca-Cola polar bear at the World of Coca-Cola museum in downtown Atlanta. *Lower left:* Following the leader in Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta. *Lower right:* Steve and Patrick rehearsing the morning responsorial psalm at the conference center.



Keep in Touch with Us

Online: <http://www.nd.edu/~folk/>

E-mail: folk@nd.edu

In Person: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays in 329 Coleman-Morse

From Our Lady's University, many blessings to you, your family and friends for a peaceful Lenten season. St. Cecilia, pray for us. St. Brigid, pray for us.