NEWS RELEASE
March 21, 2012

Contact: John Shultz (913) 758-6165
Email: shultz35@stmary.edu

USM Annual High School Art Invitational Provides Professional Venue for Budding Area Artists

March 25 – April 13, Goppert Gallery

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Dozens of students from 11 Kansas City metro area high schools will have their artwork on display in a pro gallery setting at the University of Saint Mary annual High School Art Invitational this month.

USM's High School Art Invitational is a juried show, and opens with a reception and awards ceremony from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, in Xavier Hall's Goppert Gallery on the USM Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street. The exhibit is open through April 13 in Goppert Gallery on the first floor of Xavier Hall.

Both the reception and general exhibit are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and weekends by appointment.

Student artists will compete for cash prizes and scholarships, with entrants coming from multiple area high schools including Bishop Miege, Bishop Ward, Lansing, Leavenworth, Maranatha Academy, Notre Dame de Sion, Oak Park, Piper, Platte Co. R-III, Tonganoxie, and Winnetonka.

The annual USM event is a key opportunity for area high school artists because it gives them an important chance to have their work displayed in a professional-level art gallery setting, said Susan Nelson, associate professor of art at Saint Mary. "Art contest opportunities are many for local students, but this show provides a unique setting."

The theme of this year's show is "Small Scale," and entries must reflect the theme by not exceeding 10 inches in any direction. Previous High School Art Invitational themes have included "Spaces…Places," "Black& White," and "Portraits."

Howard Collinson, owner of the Collinson Gallery in Weston, Mo., and former gallery curator and crafts specialist, will serve as this year's guest juror.

Call Susan Nelson at (913) 758-6151 or email nelsons@stmary.edu for more information on the art show. Visit www.stmary.edu for a complete listing of Saint Mary events.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

###