

Media Advisory

**Benedict XVI Institute Offers “How to Teach Chant Camp”
To Catechists, Music Teachers and Religious**

Who: Benedict XVI Institute (San Francisco, CA) is a non-profit dedicated to inspiring the faithful through sacred music and art. By energizing a Catholic culture of the arts, Benedict XVI Institute hopes to elevate or ignite engagement in prayer and liturgy.

What: Benedict XVI Institute’s “How to Teach Chant Camp” provides teaching tools needed to offer a fun, interactive, faith-enriching camp grounded in the timeless sung prayer of the Church, Gregorian chant. Camp Director Mary Ann Carr-Wilson has taught children's chant camps for the past ten years, as well as the Latin Mass to the St. Anne's children's choir and adult choir in the San Diego area. She has appeared as a soloist with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, and the San Diego Master Chorale, and she holds a B.M. and an M.M. from San Diego State University.

“Learning from Mary Ann is learning from the best. We're very grateful she's decided to join the Benedict XVI team,” said Benedict XVI Institute Executive Director Maggie Gallagher. “We hope to expand this program throughout California and the rest of the country. Our goal is to impact one parish at a time.”

Among the participants at this workshop are the Missionaries of Charity, who hope to learn both to improve their own prayer life and to teach children how to participate in the Mass in this special way, as well as the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa.

When: This week from August 9-12, “How to Teach Chant Camp,” will mark the first camp of its kind in the Bay Area.

Where: The camp will take place at Vallambrosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (650) 325-5614.

Why: Gregorian Chant is a way to give praise and glory to God. It helps increase the beauty of the liturgy, the interactive nature of the Mass and it sanctifies the faithful and brings them closer to God. Chant Camp provides kids with rich catechesis and education in Tradition and all aspects of the Mass. They learn that chant is not performance, but prayer. Kids are intrigued to find out they are singing the same prayers their favorite saints prayed through the ages. They are tasked with mastering the Tradition and then charged with handing it down. They love making something beautiful for God.

Press Contact: If you'd like learn more about Chant Camp or Benedict XVI Institute, or would like to do a story on the Chant Camp and visit the Vallambrosa Retreat Center, please contact John Sperrazzo at (858) 361-4495.