



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

915 South Clinton Street • Post Office Box 390
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Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I am grateful that the Saint Hildegard Project is embarking upon the important local work of promoting a deeper appreciation for the Church's rich musical heritage. As emphasized by the Second Vatican Council, "the musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 112).

The cultivation of sacred music is therefore a mission with great implications for the future life of the Church. We are blessed here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to have this mission advanced by a collection of talented musicians who are also students of theology and history. I encourage members of the faithful to take advantage of concerts and educational opportunities offered by the Saint Hildegard Project, so that we may all grow in our knowledge and love of sung worship.

Pope Francis notes that every aspect of our liturgies "must be carefully tended to," and that a "celebration that does not evangelize is not authentic" (*Desiderio desideravi*, nos. 23 & 37). It is my earnest prayer that our music and singing at liturgical celebrations may exude beauty and lead souls to give sincere, joyful glory to God.

May our Lord abundantly bless the work of the Saint Hildegard Project in fostering the true evangelizing potential of sacred music. Saint Hildegard of Bingen, patron saint of musicians and composers, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend