

For immediate release.

Auction will benefit creation of gallery to house art collection

Lisle, Illinois – Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., spent decades collecting more than 3,000 pieces of art – some of which adorn the Benedictine University campus and St. Procopius Abbey while others remain in storage. The collection is considered to be one of the largest in the United States held by a private university.

Fr. Michael's lifelong dream was to bring these works under one roof in a gallery where the public and students of all ages could enjoy and appreciate all this amazing art. However, Fr. Michael did not live long enough to see the gallery built. He succumbed to pancreatic cancer on August 30, 2009, at the age of 77.

But his dream lives on.

Artists, collectors, past and present donors to the Benedictine University art collection, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and members of the Chicagoland art community can donate art and collectible artifacts that will be made available for auction on Saturday, October 15, at Susanin's Auction House in Chicago.

Proceeds from the event will be used for the construction of the Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery to be located on the campus of Benedictine University. The gallery would join the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum and the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex as destinations serving the western suburbs and the entire Chicago area.

Artwork may be dropped off at the Office of the Curator on the campus of Benedictine University, Scholl Hall, Room 209, in Lisle. The Department of Fine Arts will make arrangements to pick up any large items for auction.

The auction will be hosted by one of the top fine art auction houses in Chicago, Susanin's Auction House located at 900 S. Clinton (at Taylor). A preview of the items and a reception will be held at 11:00 a.m. on October 15. The auction will begin at noon.

Persons interested in donating artwork and/or collectible artifacts for the auction, or those with questions or inquires, should contact Teresa Parker, University Curator, at (630) 829-6270 or by email at tparker@ben.edu.