

VILLANOVA, PA, OCTOBER 19, 2007 – Sanctuary, a ritual music ensemble from Villanova, PA, has released a new collection of 28 songs entitled *Sacred Earth*.

A release party to celebrate the ensemble's new double-CD will take place at the Connelly Center, Villanova University, on November 17, 2007 at 7:30pm. The event will begin with beverages and appetizers, followed by live performances by Sanctuary. The release party is free, but attendees should RSVP by November 10 to 800-834-6250 or online at <http://sanctuary.villanova.edu>

The Reverend T. Shawn Tracy, O.S.A., an Augustinian priest associated with Villanova University for over 30 years, is the founder of Sanctuary. The group, whose music echoes rhythms in Augustinian spirituality, records and performs ritual music for prayer and contemplation. Under the direction of Dan Mason, the ensemble has produced three albums of sacred music prior to this release, including: *Passion*, with chant, hymns and narration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus; *Magnificat*, a rich tapestry of contemporary Marian prayer in the tradition of a rosary; and *Ancient Light*, a celebration of Divine Light through psalms, canticles, and chant.

Sacred Earth celebrates the spirituality of the natural world and the synergetic relationship between humankind, nature and God.

“This is a masterfully produced album,” says Michael Dolan, Director of Communication for the Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. “Uplifting and haunting at the same time, *Sacred Earth* captures the joys and sorrows of the earthly journey toward something greater. It is a valuable soundtrack for a spiritual life.”

In a review of *Sacred Earth* (for Villanova Magazine), E. Connelly wrote “The sound is at times Middle Eastern, in one case vaguely Caribbean, and at points, almost Irish in its lyricism. But the rainforest instruments, interspersed with more traditional fare (the ardent notes of a violin, for example, introduce "I Am Filled") eloquently envision a theme of Earth's innate, God-created divinity, one that is both inclusive and nonproprietary.”

Sacred Earth retails for \$24.00 and can be ordered through the Augustinian Press at www.augustinianpress.org or by contacting Sanctuary: <http://sanctuary.villanova.edu> or 800-834-6250.