

Dr. Gerardo Marti from Davidson College will be at Baylor University January 26-27. Dr. Marti is one of the leading sociologists studying multiracial congregations. He is the author of three significant books on this topic: *A Mosaic of Believers* (2005), *Hollywood Faith* (2008), and *Worship Across the Racial Divide* (2012). He will deliver a talk about his latest book on Thursday afternoon, January 26.

"Have You Seen Our Gospel Choir?" Worship, Music, and the Integration of Races in Multiracial Churches

Thursday, January 26, 3:30 pm, Bennett Auditorium

Multiracial churches bring together racial and ethnic groups successfully, and worship is central to all of them. How does race connect with worship music? And could music be the secret to their success? Observation of diverse churches and interviews with over 170 of their members reveal that gospel choirs take a privileged role—even when few or no African Americans attend. The question, "Have you seen our gospel choir?" becomes a point of pride, an indication that the church is firmly committed to the principle of diversity. In the end, the practice of rehearsing and performing congregational music, more than the sound of music itself and regardless of liturgical style, create profound opportunities for building and sustaining interracial community.

For more information contact:

Kevin D. Dougherty, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Sociology

Baylor University

254-710-6232