



# Marian Library

## NEWSLETTER



**INSIDE:** Documenting Devotion

**An Illuminating Gift**

*Online Innovation, Virtual Visits*





SARAH BURKE CAHALAN  
*Director of the Marian Library*

## From the DIRECTOR'S DESK

*Error Treatment, Bumblebee*, Sarah Harris and Chris Tomlin, Copyright 2006, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition, Copyright 1993, 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

As spring unfolds, I am cautiously optimistic that in the not-too-distant future there will be exhibit visitors in the Marian Library gallery, drop-in researchers in the reading room, students stopping by the front desk to check out a book. I love the buzz and chatter of a library being used, a bit like bees making honey and wax from the flowers in a garden. For now, it is still fairly quiet in the library. It's spring in Ohio, but there's something winterlike in waiting for a safe return to normal after a year of loss, fear and suffering — a year that often revealed deep flaws in society's "normal" settings.

The relative quiet in our spaces can be misleading, however. As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, Marian Library personnel have been doing much of the work we normally do, just in different ways. Working staggered schedules and meeting online, we have curated exhibits, assisted researchers, run programs for UD students and done outreach to the broader community. We have archived ephemeral materials about the Virgin Mary, including numerous examples of how people have turned to her during the pandemic.

When the University of Dayton was closed during the spring and summer of 2020, University Libraries personnel came to campus weekly to provide materials to patrons. In the brief window when I was allowed in the building in a given week, I would hurriedly snap photos of collection materials in order to address some of the hundreds of questions from researchers that we received and answered during the pandemic. Even during

those months of full "closure," we provided hundreds of books and digital scans to patrons at UD and beyond. When the Marian Library reopened in August for in-person appointments with members of the UD community, one graduate student immediately booked a flight to Dayton!

Despite restricted budgets, we made some important purchases in 2020 with a focus on items that fill gaps in the collection and contribute to the University of Dayton's commitment to anti-racism.<sup>1</sup> Behind the scenes, we have made progress on a long-term project to organize the space we use to prepare artworks for exhibit and loan. We have processed donations to the collection, such as books and holy cards, some of which you will be able to read about in future newsletters or on our social media accounts. We have trusted one another and shown grace to one another.

It has been a difficult year. There is still a long way to go. But I hope the initiatives and objects highlighted in this newsletter will bring you some of the joy and energy of a library being used to generate ideas and build community.

Peace and blessings,

Sarah

<sup>1</sup>Visit [udayton.edu/about/diversity/antiracist-university.php](http://udayton.edu/about/diversity/antiracist-university.php) to read more about University of Dayton's commitment to anti-racism.



*[7] I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.*



# DOCUMENTING DEVOTION DURING A PANDEMIC

BY KAYLA HARRIS

Since its founding in 1943 by the Society of Mary, the Marian Library has collected materials that document popular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Very common in these materials are appeals to Mary for intercession in healing and protection from danger.

During a video broadcast at the opening of a Mass in Rome on March 11, 2020, Pope Francis delivered a prayer he had composed to Mary. He referenced Mary under one of her titles — Health of the Sick — and asked for protection once again in light of the impact of the coronavirus on Italy and the world. As Angelo Jesus Canta explained in an article for *America*, “at a time of social distancing, increased anxiety and worldwide fear, Francis is not just making an appeal to Catholic devotion. He is calling us all to consider Mary not as an abstract helper but as a mother who has a proven track record of healing, protecting and watching over her people.”

As the world has changed due to the coronavirus pandemic, numerous acts of Marian devotion have continued unabated or been adapted for the circumstances. The Marian Library began a project to document the various ways individuals, institutions and communities have appealed to Mary during the crisis,

from prayer and devotion to national consecration.

## ANECDOTES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**Danielle Lehr** from Pennsylvania shared the way she used fabric featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe that she had been saving for a special cause:

*A few years ago, a colorful remnant of fabric in the dollar bin at Walmart caught my eye. It featured Our Lady of Guadalupe and her immaculate heart surrounded by vibrant flowers and patterns. I bought the fabric with the intention of saving it for something special. When the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia put out a call for masks, my mother (Melissa Lehr) and sister (Lynsey Lehr) asked if they could use the fabric. They realized this was the “special project” I was waiting for. Along with my aunt (Donna Eiser), they sewed and donated 70 masks to the hospital. We hope the image of Our Lady will bring comfort to the medical professionals and their patients at this difficult time.*

Mia B. Eballo offered an example of Marian piety in the Philippines, sharing images and explaining:

*“Dungaw” in Filipino means “looking out the window.” This practice was done not only because people cannot go out of the house to engage in religious activities, but this also is an invocation of the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints whose images are put near the window in a manner that they are looking out as an act of request/appeal for God to help us.*



Leanne Koffskey, a University of Dayton alumna living in South Carolina, shared several videos she created. She wrote:

*When the pandemic hit, we began virtual Zoom classes for our parish, including “Mary Mondays” where we focused on different aspects of the Blessed Mother. ... We had our own virtual May Crowning. ... Our singing at the end isn’t winning any awards, but it sure is lifting spirits!*

## ONLINE ARCHIVING: A GIFT FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

In addition to the stories, photos and videos contributed by individuals, the Marian Library is also archiving news stories and social media posts on the Internet about Mary and the pandemic. Using a tool known as Archive-It, the Marian Library Web Clippings collection is a digital equivalent to a newspaper clipping collection known in the Marian Library as the Sutton File. Compiled by longtime Marian Library volunteer Mildred Sutton, the file includes stories about Mary from religious and secular press. Without active archiving of web content, information may not be available for future study. The diverse stories collected from across the world about devotion to Mary during the pandemic are not just a gift to future researchers; they make up a central resource today for examining the ways Mary has been present during the pandemic.

In Italy, a statue of the Virgin of Loreto, the patron saint of the Italian Air Force, was flown across the country.<sup>1</sup>

In Ecuador, an image of the Virgin Mary was flown by helicopter across the country to mark the end of a “Route of Health” pilgrimage. Normally, pilgrims wait hours in line at the shrine in Guayaquil to receive a blessing. Instead, the Virgin Mary was brought to them during the flyover.<sup>2</sup>

News outlets reported about a North Dakota teenager, Maria Loh, using her time during quarantine to bring art to her community through sidewalk chalk drawings of Our Lady of Lourdes. In an interview with the Catholic News Agency, she stated, “I heard that the shrine had been temporarily closed off to the public, and I remember ... thinking, ‘That’s really sad,’ because especially in this time, we’re really looking for healing in more ways than one, like physically and mentally and spiritually.” She added, “I felt like drawing this image of Our Lady of Lourdes would be a good way to remind people that Our Lady is still with us even if we can’t go to her shrine.”<sup>3</sup>

Documenting and archiving these transformed acts of Marian devotion has provided its own form of hope and inspiration for Marian Library faculty and staff.

— Kayla Harris manages the arrangement and preservation of the Marian Library’s archival materials including photographs, personal papers and other artifacts.

<sup>1</sup> Andy Roman, “The Italian Air Force Flies a Statue of the Virgin Mary over Italy to Combat the Coronavirus,” *Advent Messenger*, published March 17, 2020, archived website from March 31, 2020, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/13066/20200331211941/http://adventmessenger.org/the-italian-air-force-flies-a-statue-of-the-virgin-mary-over-italy-to-combat-the-coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup> “Virgin Mary image flown on Helicopter over Ecuador’s COVID-19 hotspot as families struggle to bury the dead,” RT, published May 11, 2020, archived website from May 15, 2020, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/13066/20200515145158/https://www.rt.com/news/488321-virgin-mary-flyover-guayaquil-coronavirus/>

<sup>3</sup> Perry West, “Catholic teen seeks to inspire neighborhood with Marian sidewalk art,” Catholic News Agency, archived website from May 8, 2020, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/13066/20200508175616/https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-teen-seeks-to-inspire-neighborhood-with-marian-sidewalk-art-99542>.



# Supporting Patrons and Colleagues

In this issue, we are shining a spotlight on our administrative assistant and office coordinator. Shari Neilson specializes in many things — particularly her ability to multitask in a role that currently serves both the Marian Library and the International Marian Research Institute.



SHARI NEILSON

*Administrative Assistant and Office Coordinator*

## How long have you been working in the Marian Library?

I have been working at the Marian Library for over two years, and it is

the best job I have ever had. The people, both colleagues and patrons, are a joy to work with.

**What are some of your routine responsibilities in the Marian Library?** My duties include supporting the faculty and staff for the Marian Library and IMRI as well as IMRI students; answering the patron phone calls; scheduling tours; supervising student employees; pulling requested books; and providing the occasional comic relief in the form of “dad” jokes.

**What is one of the more interesting parts of your job here?** Working with the collection every day, I am surrounded by beautiful works of art, pieces of history and opportunities to learn more about my faith. During the *At the Manger* exhibit I enjoy learning about the new crèches displayed. I’ve also had the opportunity to help catalog some of our holy cards, identify art in an 1864 scrapbook called *Two Months in Italy* and research a 17th-century pastry mold.



**If you were to pick one favorite item from the Marian Library’s collections, what would that item be?** That is such a difficult question because I have so many favorites. One is a statue of Our Lady of Hope (also known informally as “pregnant Mary”). She has her hand on her stomach and a serene look



on her face. The other is the Kelly Latimore print “Refugees: The Holy Family.” The print is beautiful and a connection to today’s discussion on refugees and immigration.



**What’s a detail about you that may surprise people?** Prior to joining the Marian Library, I was a purchasing supervisor for an international electronics manufacturer, as well as a preschool teacher. I also love listening to Italian pop music.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?** I love to travel and explore different cultures, so I would like to travel around the world, in particular South America, Africa and the Pacific Islands since I have never been. However, I would also love to spend a year exploring Rome and all of its churches. A few years ago, my family and I visited for a couple of days, but in our eagerness to see as much as possible, we only saw the outside of these beautiful locations as we walked past.

**What is your favorite board game?** My favorite board game would have to be Pictionary. No one in my family can draw very well, so the end result is a lot of laughter and some great memories. To this day we still laugh about the “man impaled by a nacho.” The clue was Wisconsin, and the artist was trying to draw a cheese head.

## FACULTY & STAFF

### SARAH BURKE CAHALAN

*Associate Professor; Director of the Marian Library*

### JILLIAN EWALT

*Associate Professor; Librarian for Visual Resources*

### MELANIE FIELDS

*Library Specialist*

### HENRY HANDLEY

*Assistant Professor; Collections Librarian*

### KAYLA HARRIS

*Associate Professor; Librarian/Archivist*

### SHARI NEILSON

*Administrative Assistant and Office Coordinator*

### FATHER THOMAS THOMPSON, S.M.

*Former Director of the Marian Library*

### ANN ZLOTNIK

*Communication and Creative Coordinator*

# ILLUMINATING!

## *A gift of a medieval prayer book is a new highlight of the Marian Library's collection*

BY HENRY HANDLEY

If you've visited the Marian Library in the past few years, there's a good chance that you've seen at least one of the Marian Library's Books of Hours (or *horae*, the Latin term for hours). From sections of REL 103 to medieval history and literature courses, Books of Hours have frequently appeared in primary source instruction offered in the Marian Library. They provide many surprises for students who never imagined they might be able to turn the pages of these medieval and early modern marvels.

Centered on the Little Office of the Virgin Mary, often shortened to the Hours of the Virgin, these prayer books are examples of Marian devotion from the mid-to-late Middle Ages — some humbly written and sparsely illustrated; some produced as luxury items for the nobility; and many others surviving only as fragments. Thanks to a generous donation from Stuart and Mimi Rose, a richly illuminated Book of Hours from 16th-century France, previously on loan for an exhibit on Books of Hours, is now part of the Marian Library's permanent collection.

For its first owner, this prayer book was a status symbol as well as a devotional object — a richly illuminated manuscript with prayers, psalms, hymns and texts accompanied by full-page miniatures depicting scenes from the lives of Christ, Mary, the apostles and

The Annunciation, fol. 29. The Master of the Ango Hours is noted for an Italianate artistic flair, visible in the borders and background of this illuminated miniature.

the saints. The manuscript is attributed to the Master of the Ango Hours, an artist (or more likely one or several members of a workshop of artists and scribes) credited with a Book of Hours produced for the Ango family of Normandy. The work of the Ango Master is “readily recognized in every aspect, from facial types or drapery folds to its generally proto-rococo character, from its opalescent flesh to the tumultuous terrain of its landscapes,” according to John Plummer, a former curator of the Morgan Library and Museum in New York, where another Book of Hours by the Ango Master resides.<sup>1</sup> Only a handful of Ango Master Books of Hours like this one — produced for the use of Rouen, a variant on the Roman liturgical rite that was practiced in northern France — remain.

We don't know much about the original owner of this book: The cartouches (oval shapes which usually depict a coat of arms) that the artist reserved for family heraldry are incomplete; no male owner portrait matches the masculine forms of prayer; and there is no indication as to why this Book of Hours was commissioned, such as a wedding, or how it was passed down.<sup>2</sup> One of the earliest descriptions of the book notes that it was once held closed with a clasp engraved H. Revel. Other bibliographical assessments surmise that two women in the Visitation miniature standing next to Elizabeth may be the owner's daughters. It is quite possible that the owner would have identified with John the Evangelist, who appears in the foreground of several miniatures, including the



Agony in the Garden, the Crucifixion and Pentecost, where John, traditionally interpreted as the beloved disciple, is kneeling in the foreground next to the Virgin Mary and gazing devoutly beyond the frame.

The *O intemerata* prayer that appears in Books of Hours offers one explanation for John's prominence here; it petitions both Mary and John as *duo luminaria divinitus ante Deum lucentia*, "two lights shining divinely before God." In the Pentecost miniature, their alabaster skin and garments match the dove of the Holy Spirit, though not its rich gold illumination, and are starkly white in contrast to the skin tones of the apostles in the background.

The images in this Book of Hours are full of potential for research on French Renaissance art and religion, and in combination with its texts, they reveal something about the value of miniatures in devotional practices. These horae are an example of mixed hours; that is, the three offices contained in the book — the Hours of the Virgin, the Hours of the Cross, and the Hours of the Holy Spirit — are combined in the order they would be read together throughout the day.

The owner of these mixed hours would have prayed Matins and Lauds from the Hours of the Virgin together upon rising, reflecting on the Annunciation and Visitation images with, perhaps, the portraits of two family members in the latter, then turned the page *ad matutinas de cruce*, "to the Matins of the [Hours of the] Cross," to behold the Crucifixion, and then *ad matutinas de sancto spiritu*, "to the Matins of the [Hours of the] Holy Spirit" with the Pentecost miniature of Mary and John at prayer, front and center.

The images accompanying these morning prayers were a reminder for the laypeople who owned the Book of Hours to imitate vowed religious who followed Paul's exhortation to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The portraits and religious scenes invite the reader to reflect on family, status and connections to the holy in their daily lives. The manuscript's beauty and history in our own time make it a treasured gift — a highlight of the Marian Library's collection for years to come.

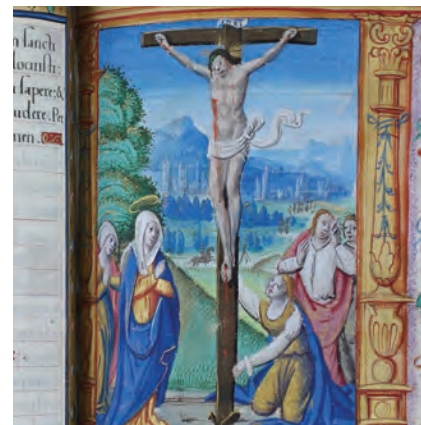
The Visitation, fol. 36v.  
The two women standing next to St. Elizabeth in Renaissance garb may be female relatives of the owner.



In this miniature painting of the Pentecost (fol. 47v), the figure in a white chemise kneeling next to the Virgin Mary is John, representing not only his status as "the beloved disciple" before the others, but as a model for devotion to Mary, invoked with her in the Book of Hours prayer *O intemerata*.



The Crucifixion, fol. 44.  
The rugged landscape behind the cross is characteristic of the Anglo Master's work. The tiny silhouette of a horse and rider also in the background is faintly illuminated with gold.



— Henry Handley is a collections librarian in the Marian Library, stewarding the circulating collections as well as pamphlets, periodicals and rare books.

Further reading/sources:

<sup>1</sup> Plummer, J. and G. Clark, *The Last Flowering: French Painting in Manuscripts, 1420-1530* (New York: Pierpont Morgan Library, 1982), 94.

<sup>2</sup> See John Harthan, *The Book of Hours* (New York: Crowell, 1977) for more on portraits and provenance in Books of Hours.

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to Louis Weinstein and Sotheby's for their descriptions of this book.



# Ink and Paper



## MEXICAN BROADSIDES

The Marian Library recently purchased a collection of illustrated publications known as “broad-sides” produced in Mexico around the beginning of the 20th century. These

ojas volantes, or “flying pages,” are considered a precursor to tabloid newspapers and contain a variety of sensational stories on current events of the day. A valuable portal into the lives of those living in Mexico City in the early 1900s, these broadsides reveal a strong religious and cultural devotion to Mary — particularly under the titles of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of San Juan de Los Lagos, and the Virgin of Los Remedios.



## DIY DEVOTIONAL

A recent prayer book acquired from bookseller Justin Croft is a fresh, floral addition to the Marian Library's rare book collection. Dating from the turn of the 20th century, this prayer

book's lithographed text and wide margins were printed as a canvas for an anonymous artist to paint watercolor flowers, doodle pen-and-ink elephants, and even illuminate images of the Holy Family and a crowned Madonna and Child in gold in a manner that reflects medieval inspiration.



Allaire assessing the statue.



# OLD PAINT, OLD WOOD, NEW HOPE

## *A Giving Day Success Story*

BY SARAH BURKE CAHALAN

Conservation has begun on a deteriorating statue of the Madonna and Child that will be an asset for display and instruction

Thanks to the generosity of donors during the 2020 One Day, One Dayton campaign, the University Libraries had funding for professional conservation work on an important statue in the Marian Library's art collection. The statue was donated to the Marian Library by a member of the Society of Mary approximately six years ago. Even at the time, it was clear that the piece needed professional attention, and in the intervening years, more paint has flaked away into dusty piles at Our Lady's feet.

Of course, 2020 brought COVID-19 and the related budget crisis, so conservation work was delayed until it was deemed safe and prudent. That work is currently underway. Art conservator Betsy Allaire is working on campus due to the fragility of the piece. Allaire has done previous work for the Marian Library and for the University of Dayton, including the grant-funded conservation of a wax Nativity in 2018. This statue, which stands at 39.5 inches tall, is wood — possibly walnut or mahogany — with metal underpinnings and multiple layers of gilded paint.

## CONSERVATION PROVIDES CLUES

Why work so hard to save this particular sculpture? The truth is we still do not know much about its origins. The Blessed Virgin stands on a pedestal — so was she made for a church? She can also be viewed in the round — so was she used in processions? The process of conservation should provide evidence of how it was constructed and with what materials — information that can help determine its history and inform best practice for how we can keep it in good condition for the future.

## SYMBOLISM HINTS AT HISTORY, INSPIRATION

The statue's iconography, with Mary depicted on a crescent moon, carried by small angels, references depictions of the Immaculate Conception, the Catholic dogma that Mary has been free from original sin since she was conceived in her mother's womb. It also alludes to imagery of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. The moon refers to Mary's association with the apocalyptic woman in Revelation 12:1. And, in European art going back to the Middle Ages, the depiction of the Madonna and Child atop a crescent moon has precedent, notably in the work of the German sculptor Tilman Riemenschneider. Mary with the crescent moon also echoes the image on the *tilma* of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The statue certainly resembles much older styles of sculpture. But we haven't eliminated the possibility that this statue was made much more recently, in the style of an older artwork.

## FIT FOR A FUTURE WITH A PURPOSE

Regardless of the statue's age, its conservation will make it possible for Marian Library personnel to display it and use it in instruction sessions. It will be one of the larger artworks we have available for such purposes.

— Sarah Burke Cahalan is the director of the Marian Library.

# RESCUED

Playback is the leading cause of damage for audiovisual materials, meaning that the equipment used to listen to a cassette tape can inadvertently damage it, causing the content to be lost.

# RECORDINGS



## *Charismatic Conference Cassettes Get a Second Life through Digital Conversion*

BY KAYLA HARRIS

The National Marian Charismatic Conference hosted at the University of Dayton in both 1979 and 1980 featured several influential and well-known Catholic speakers, such as Catherine de Hueck Doherty, a social justice pioneer whose cause for canonization is under consideration by the Catholic Church. The Marian Library holds a collection of cassettes from these events, as well as a few brief planning materials. Until recently, much of the collection has been inaccessible due to the preservation concerns of allowing researchers to play the cassette tapes. Playback is the leading cause of damage for audiovisual materials, meaning that the equipment used to listen to a cassette tape can inadvertently damage it, causing the content to be lost.

During the Marian Library's 75th anniversary celebration, the Library received many donations for conservation. In the spring of 2020, the tapes from the National Marian Charismatic Conference and a smaller collection of tapes containing Mariology lectures by Father Bertrand E. Clemens, S.M., were sent to Scenesavers in Kentucky to be digitized. Scenesavers works with archives, museums, corporations and broadcasters to preserve and provide access to their motion picture film, video and audio content. With leading-edge equipment and extensive training, its technicians can digitize audio material with less risk of compromising the original material.

Both collections appeal to researchers worldwide, and both have local connections to the University of Dayton. Clemens (1917-1989) graduated from the University of Dayton in 1938, and after serving as the director of the Institute of Marianist Studies in Glencoe, Missouri, he also spent time at Junipero Serra High School and Maria Regina Catholic Church in Gardena, California. The col-



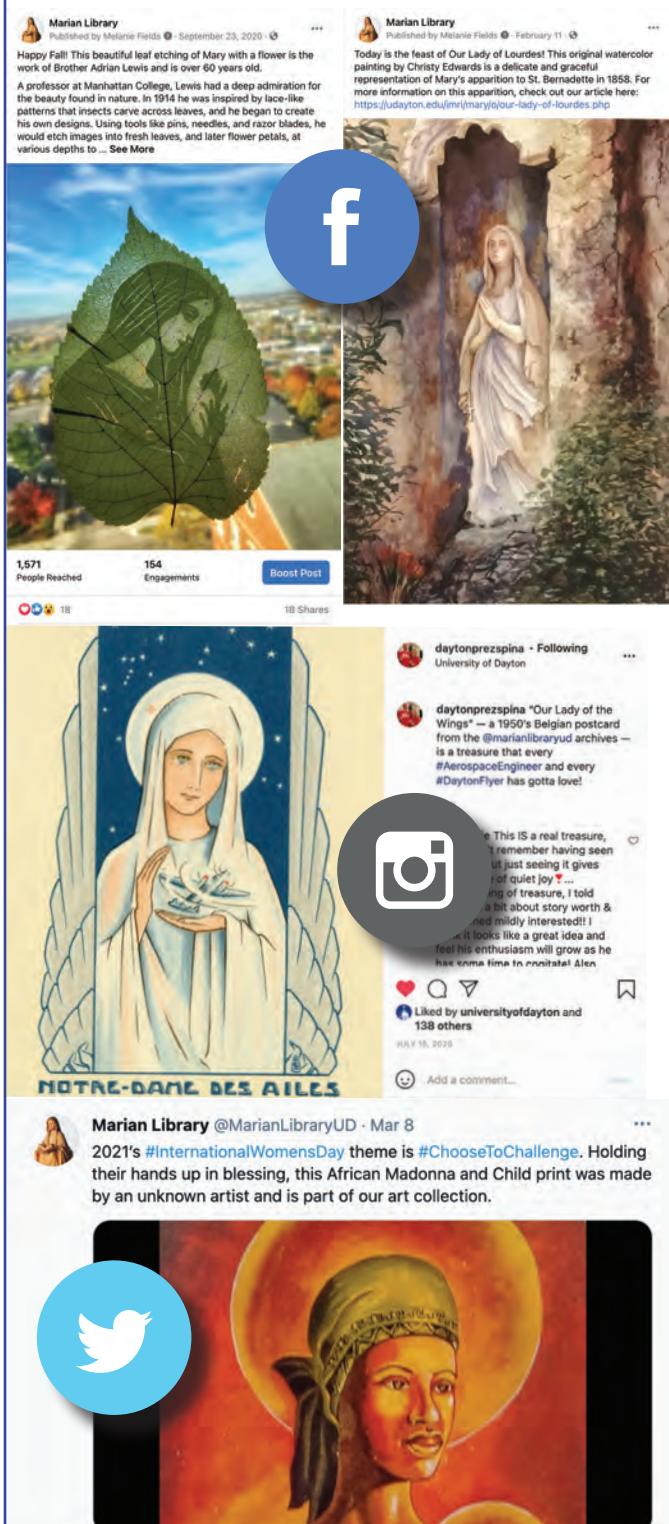
lection of lectures given by Clemens in 1982 covers topics such as Mary's virginity, discipleship, Mary's humanness and the Magnificat, among others. The talks given for the National Marian Charismatic Conference July 13-15, 1979, centered on the theme of "The Church, the Charismatics, and Mary," while the 1980 theme was "Mary, the Woman in the Church." In addition to Doherty, notable Catholic speakers at the conference included Father René Laurentin, known especially for his work with Marian apparitions; Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M., who received a master's in theology from the University of Dayton and founded the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and keynote speaker Father Harold Cohen, S.J., known as "the father of the Charismatic Renewal" throughout the southern United States.

Near the end of the spring 2020 semester, the original cassette tapes were returned to the Marian Library with digitized audio recording files. Both collections contained duplicate recordings, but since not all of the tapes had physical labels, and because the ones that were labeled did not identify which version was the master, we elected to digitize every tape. When the digital files were returned, former Marian Library student employee Kristin Shelley listened to each recording to identify duplicates; when necessary, she selected the most complete recordings with the highest-quality audio. Shelley also noted keywords, which will be used to fully catalog the recordings when they are made available in the University of Dayton's institutional repository, eCommons. In the meantime, researchers can receive access to the digitized files by contacting the Marian Library. We are grateful for the donations that have helped ensure these valuable lectures will be available for years to come.

— Kayla Harris manages the arrangement and preservation of the Marian Library's archival materials including photographs, personal papers and other artifacts.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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REMEMBER TO READ OUR BLOG!  
[udayton.edu/blogs/marianlibrary](https://udayton.edu/blogs/marianlibrary)

# ONLINE Innovation

Closed to the public, library launches virtual scavenger hunt, interactive exhibits, web activities

BY MELANIE FIELDS

*“In the Marian Library, there is so much more to do than read books or just study. There are statues, fun games, and exhibits to explore there. Also, there is more information than you can imagine about Mary.”*

Visitors to the Marian Library are always astounded by its array of books, artwork, statues and artifacts on the seventh floor of Roesch Library. Yet this physical space is merely an introduction — a jumping-off point. After closing the Marian Library to the public at the start of the pandemic, staff and faculty found new and engaging ways to share Marian resources with a virtual world.

## ONLINE EXHIBITS

In March 2020, the anticipated exhibit *Mary in Miniature: Books of Hours in the Marian Library Collection* closed its doors not long after opening. As it became clear that the pandemic would last well beyond the exhibit’s scheduled close in July, Marian Library staff and faculty worked to share these treasures in virtual form — crafted with the same care and devotion as any Marian Library exhibit but with a silver lining: no end date. Since then, visitors to the Marian Library website have been able to experience the Books of Hours exhibit anytime, from anywhere in the world.

It worked so well that staff took a similar approach with the exhibit *Refuge: Borderlands and the Blessed Virgin*, originally planned for fall 2020. Students at the University of Dayton and St. Mary’s University in San Antonio collaborated to create a joint exhibit called *Mary and Borders* that explores the controversies surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border through social, spiritual, historical and artistic lenses using



narratives, videos, images, games, interactive prayers and multimedia works. *Mary and Borders* will be online through May 2025, after which components of it will be archived in eCommons, UD’s open-access institutional repository.



## FUN AND GAMES WITH MARY

Though the Marian Library is one of the world’s top research centers on the study of the Blessed Mother, not all visitors’ motives are scholarly or academic. Fun and Games with Mary is an interactive resource created just for the sake of leisure and reflection. With so much collective suffering brought on by the pandemic, the Marian Library

developed a fun distraction in the form of coloring pages featuring artwork in its collection; puzzles; digital backgrounds; and a matching game with Mary’s flowers. Activities are appropriate for all ages.

## Scavenger Hunt:

### ‘DISCOVER THE MARIAN LIBRARY’

Oftentimes, students graduate from UD without ever visiting the Marian Library or even knowing it exists. Hoping to change that, Marian Library staff created a virtual scavenger hunt titled “Discover the Marian Library” that allowed over 1,500 students to earn housing credits while learning about the his-



tory, resources and special collections in the Marian Library. The interactive event showed students how to navigate the website; modeled searches of the catalog; explored digitized collections of statues and holy cards; and sent them to the Fun and Games with Mary resource page. In the event's feedback, many students were thrilled to learn about the Marian Library and the resources it has to help them succeed in their studies. Many stated they plan on visiting in person once the Marian Library reopens. A sampling of testimonies:

*"This program has deeply increased my understanding of the Marian Library's resources by showing me vast amounts of information as well as visuals about what the library has to offer. ... They even hold comic books! There's a whole community surrounding this beautiful and historic library. I can't wait to go and check it out!"*

*"I also learned how rich the Marianist heritage is at the library, and how much history there is in the building. It is important to our University that we hold this sacred place of information that researchers travel to visit. I am glad I now know of this place and know I need to cherish having it so close to me."*

*"I had always thought that the library was somewhat ancient, but I now see how easy it is to interact with the library online and in more modern ways. It has many services I was unaware of and vast knowledge of many topics I did not expect it to cover."*

## LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Faculty and staff in the Marian Library are eager to welcome students and visitors in person again without appointments. The virtual offerings were both challenging and fun to work on and are here to stay—but they can't replace the relationships with patrons and visitors. We're looking forward to brighter (and maskless!) days ahead.

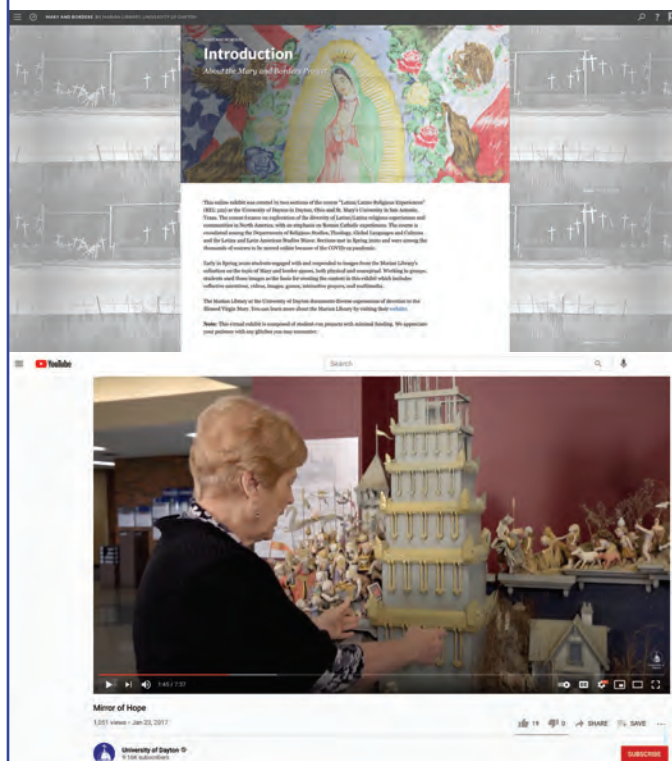
— *Melanie Fields is a library specialist in the Marian Library, working with artwork and special collections, writing informative articles and communicating about the Marian Library through a variety of media.*

## VIRTUAL EXHIBITS & VIDEOS

# Online and On-demand

[udayton.edu/marianlibrary/art-exhibits/virtual-exhibits-and-videos.php](http://udayton.edu/marianlibrary/art-exhibits/virtual-exhibits-and-videos.php)

The Marian Library has a gallery space in the Roesch Library building where we exhibit art and other materials from our own holdings as well as those from outside our walls. Due to the pandemic, we had to close our gallery space along with an exhibit featuring several Books of Hours from our collection. Instead of simply putting everything away and calling it a day, we shifted to a virtual format. We now have a section of our website dedicated to our online exhibits and videos. Visit anytime you choose. It's always open!



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Look for an exhibit featuring items collected from Marian shrines and pilgrimages across the globe.

# Thinking OUTSIDE the Manger

BY ANN ZLOTNIK

## THE HIGHS

One of the most impactful ways the Marian Library is able to share the wonder of the Incarnation is through the creative displays of Nativity sets in the annual *At the Manger* exhibit. When *CBS Sunday Morning* featured the exhibit and the crèche collection on Dec. 22, 2019, giving the Marian Library's efforts national exposure, our staff was elated. We already had a wonderful plan in the works for the 2020 exhibit.

## THE LOWS

By June 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had not let up. Furloughs and layoffs had reduced the staff, and virus transmission prevention protocols forced the suspension of the volunteer program. Gallery spaces could not properly accommodate safe distancing, and though faculty, staff and students were able to return to campus in August 2020, the Libraries were closed to the public for the entire academic year. The Libraries made the difficult decision to suspend the Nativity loan program and the *At the Manger* exhibit.

## THE SHIFT TO FOUR GIFTS

An important part of the Marian Libraries' mission is outreach, and we were determined to continue engaging with our campus community and the public in spite of the pandemic. To do this, we went completely virtual for the 2020 Advent and Christmas seasons. This provided the opportunity to look further than the crèche collection and showcase items that can

be difficult to display in a physical exhibit. Our small staff eagerly took on tasks to pull together our new plan — a virtual Advent wreath.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, we gave a gift to the community every week — four gifts total. The first week's gift was a selection of downloadable and shareable electronic Christmas cards that featured images from our collections. Week two was a newly curated virtual exhibit, *On Paper: Nativity Imagery from the Marian Library's Collections*, highlighting pop-up-books, holy cards, postage stamps and more. Paired with the exhibit was a curator talk that provided more detail about selections from the exhibit. The third week offered coloring pages based on art from our collections as well as a build-your-own Nativity activity. For the fourth week of Advent, the gift was a reading by Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president emeritus of the University of Dayton, of the Nativity narrative from the Gospel of Luke, illustrated with a montage of Nativities from the Marian Library's collection.

## THE TAKEAWAY

When we are able to move back to our public events and exhibits, we will happily do so, keeping in mind that learning to shift was the gift that we received for Christmas in 2020.



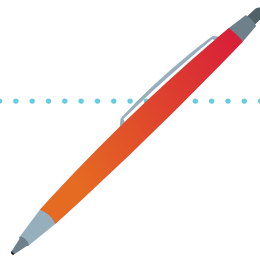
### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE!

It may be springtime, but celebrating the Nativity of the Lord is a good idea in any season. View *On Paper: Nativity Imagery from the Marian Library's Collections*, the curator talk and Brother Ray's Nativity narrative at [udayton.edu/marianlibrary/art-exhibits/virtual-exhibits-and-videos](http://udayton.edu/marianlibrary/art-exhibits/virtual-exhibits-and-videos). Find the coloring pages and build-your-own Nativity activity at [ecommons.udayton.edu/ml\\_rptspromo/](http://ecommons.udayton.edu/ml_rptspromo/).

— Ann Zlotnik designs print, digital and exhibit materials across University Libraries while managing marketing, communication and websites specific to the Marian Library.



# Unscramble



Can you unscramble the following titles of Mary? Created in 1999, these screened images on press-board from the “Names of Mary” series by Sarah Hall may serve as a clue. They are part of the Marian Library Art and Artifacts Collection.



RAST FO HET RMNINOG

\_\_\_\_\_



EHT NLOCDSEE RGEADN

\_\_\_\_\_



ERET FO SEEJS

\_\_\_\_\_



TEGA FO NVAEEH

\_\_\_\_\_



OHSEU FO DLGO

\_\_\_\_\_



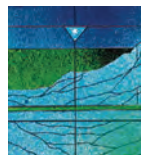
HET YLLI

\_\_\_\_\_



STALMCYI ORES

\_\_\_\_\_



TRAS FO ETH ASE

\_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers at [udayton.edu/marianlibrary/puzzle-answer](http://udayton.edu/marianlibrary/puzzle-answer)



University of Dayton  
**Marian Library**

300 COLLEGE PARK  
DAYTON, OHIO 45469-1390

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EDITOR EMERITUS: *Father Thomas Thompson, S.M.*

EDITOR: *Sarah Burke Cahalan*

ASSISTANT EDITOR & GRAPHIC DESIGN: *Ann Zlotnik*

EDITORIAL SUPPORT: *Maureen Schlangen*

PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITIZATION: *Ryan O'Grady*

CONTRIBUTORS: *Melanie Fields, Henry Handley,  
Kayla Harris and Shari Neilson*

**Marian Library:**

937-229-4214

[marianlibrary@udayton.edu](mailto:marianlibrary@udayton.edu)

[udayton.edu/marianlibrary](http://udayton.edu/marianlibrary)

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