



Illuminating
a Treasure

The Marian Library

at the University
of Dayton

An international destination
for the study and appreciation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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Die vous salue M A R I E

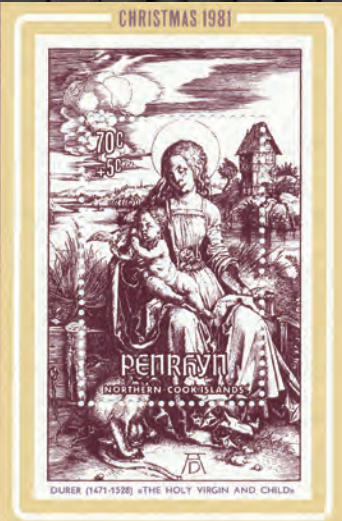
Die vous salue M A R I E

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To Honor and Commemorate

The Marian Library was founded in 1943 to honor Mary, perpetuate her message and commemorate the contributions of the Society of Mary in the United States. It's now the largest collection in the world of books and artifacts about the Mother of Christ and has attracted the top Marian scholars for study, research, collaboration, publishing and dialogue.

We invite all to connect to our vision and fulfill the call of our Marianist founders to share the knowledge of Mary.

The relief sculpture "Our Lady of the Marian Library" on the south façade of Albert Emanuel Hall, the Marian Library's first home, provides a motherly welcome to more than 8,000 prospective students and their families each year at the University of Dayton admission office.

In 1943, Father John A. Elbert, S.M., University president, appointed Father Lawrence Monheim, S.M., as the first director of the Marian Library. Here Father Elbert is shown presenting the first volume of the collection, a copy of his book, *Devotion to Mary in the 20th Century*.





Mary for All

Sharing the Gifts Beyond Religious and Cultural Boundaries

The Blessed Mother appeals to people of many different denominations and interests. Ever since its opening, the Marian Library's outreach has taken many forms in order to reach all who wish to know, love and serve Mary.





“The Marian Library has a remarkably broad, ‘catholic’ approach to collecting Catholic materials. We are fortunate as an institution that we have never seen a contraction of this ambitious and unrestricted collecting sensibility. ... Our Marian Library is a library of the first order, not unlike the Frick Art Reference Library or the Hertziana in Rome.”

— Roger Crum, professor of art history



The Study of Mary

In the 1970s, heeding the call of Blessed Pope Paul VI, the Marian Library expanded its seminars into a full academic program under the new banner of the International Marian Research Institute (IMRI). Among its graduates is Sister M. Danielle Peters, ISSM, who earned the Doctorate of Sacred Theology in 2008.

“I did not fully appreciate the privilege of having access to the world’s largest holding of all things related to the Blessed Virgin Mary,” said Peters, whose thesis explored teachings by Pope John Paul II and Father Joseph Kentenich on Mary as mother and educator. “I simply took it for granted to be able to dive daily into the volumes about Our Lady in many languages, reaching as far back as the printing press. ... The paintings, sculptures, crèches, audiovisuals, stamps, coins and rare data bridge the gap between scholarship and life, between the study of Mariology and Mary as a person.”

The University of Dayton is one of only two places in the world that offer a Doctorate of Sacred Theology with specialization in Mariology.





The Marian Library also offers distinct opportunities for undergraduates.

Religious studies professor Anthony Smith uses the Marian Library's stamps, postcards, brochures and artwork to support his students' cultural study of 19th century Catholicism.

"It's not just high theology," Smith said. "It's also a wealth of commonplace objects and materials that represent everyday Catholic and religious culture and experience. These are utterly central and important to what we call the practice of religion."



Madeline McDermott, a graduate of the honors program who spent two years as an archives intern, lamented that the Marian Library's nondescript location keeps it under the radar for most undergraduates.

"The Marian Library would be a great resource for undergraduate students doing work for religion classes, art history classes, even sociology and history classes," McDermott said. "The librarians and archivists up there know their collections so well and can offer tons of great resources or research ideas."

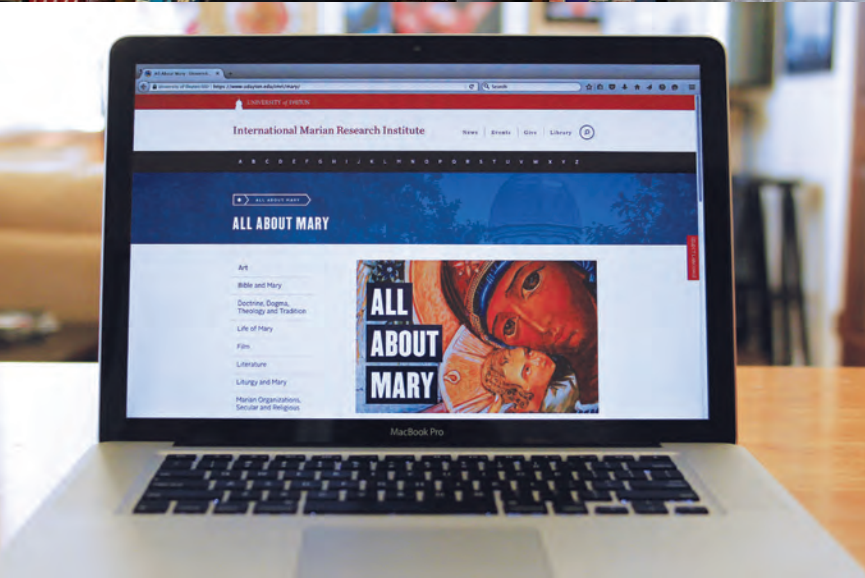
Sharing the Gifts

Making a Difference at Many Levels

The Marian Library and International Marian Research Institute have influenced the understanding and the teaching of Mary at a personal level as well as at the pulpit, in the classroom and across the world. Because the collections range from medieval manuscripts to DVDs, from sheet music to holy cards, and from statues to rosaries, the library is able to present a full, vibrant representation of Mary's unique holiness and role in salvation history.

Exhibits of religious art in the Marian Library's gallery have attracted thousands of visitors, and art collections on loan to museums and libraries across the United States reach still more. The online encyclopedic tool All About Mary, maintained and updated regularly, has been accessed around the world. Faculty and staff expertly assist patrons and field questions from the media, other institutions and the Vatican. And, in weekly Radio Maria broadcasts (go.udayton.edu/radiomaria), staff and faculty share the message of Mary with all who seek it.





Noteworthy Numbers

- Materials in more than 100 languages
- More than 100,000 circulating books
- More than 12,000 rare books
- 2,500 audiovisual items
- 175 archival collections, including 30,000 Marian postcards and a nearly complete set of Marian postage stamps
- 3,000 Nativity sets from around the world
- A comprehensive encyclopedic online tool with more than 1,300 entries
- IMRI students from 13 different countries
- More than 100 art exhibitions since 1988
- A blog with weekly entries by Marian Library/IMRI faculty and staff





The value of the Marian Library goes beyond research.

Several years ago, Catholic theologian Neomi DeAnda traveled to Dayton to spend the summer exploring the Marian Library's extensive art collection for her research on images of Mary with Jesus. There was so much to see that she planned to return every summer. After accepting a faculty position at the University of Dayton, she now has the Marian Library's art, books and scholarly expertise at her disposal all year long.

DeAnda, who specializes in Hispanic and Latino theology, said staff contact her when they receive new information relating to her topics, and the rare books are a special benefit.

Family and friends who visit Dayton have been impressed with the gallery exhibits and the annual display of crèches from around the world. "The hidden gem of the Marian Library should be a central Dayton tourist attraction," she said.

High Purpose, Low Profile

The Marian Library's humble estate belies its international reputation. The library's collections have outgrown the current space. Researchers and visitors do not always have ready access to materials. Space for collaboration, dialogue and private reading are in short supply, and collections are at times vulnerable to the space's moisture and light.

Roger Crum, professor of art history, contends that the collections' importance, value and rarity call for a space that is not just structurally and environmentally compatible for archives, but also accessible and visible.

"We do have a need for a more ample facility with adequate climate control and suitable space for reading and dialogue, not to mention permanent and changing display of some of the library's key treasures," he said. "Like any great library, the Marian Library could, without proper attention, experience a kind of frightening fragility. We must be attentive and very prescient to preserve the historic importance of what we have and jealously protect and unabashedly promote its continued relevance."



A shortage of space has forced staff to place much of the library's contents in off-site locations, accessible only by request.

“So much of it is relegated to storage,” said philosophy professor John Inglis, whose students use the Marian Library in their course work. “It would be wonderful if it were in a more public building with visual elements and architecture that mirror the beauty and the importance of its contents and at the same time exude the Marianist contributions to the community. People don’t know what all we have.”



A Vision for Tomorrow

We believe the time has come to illuminate this important educational, devotional and artistic asset and to give it a space befitting its noble purpose.

Our vision is to provide the Marian Library and International Marian Research Institute with a fitting space that will not just preserve fragile and rare texts and objects, but also facilitate browsing, research, dialogue, exhibition, instruction and reflection.

Such a space would celebrate the Blessed Mother's place in our cultural and religious history ... and future.

We invite you to share your ideas for how we can bring this vision to fulfillment.

Visit us.

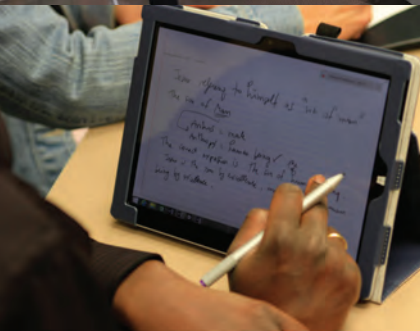
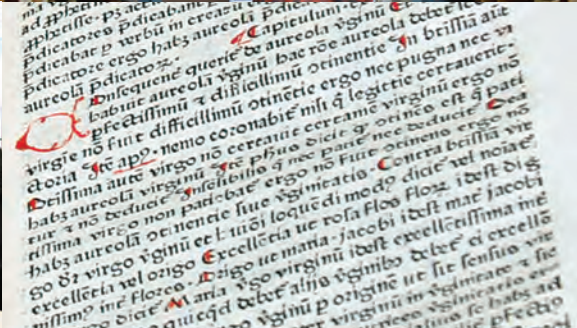
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Learn more about us.
go.udayton.edu/marianlibrary

Connect with us.

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The Marian Library

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