



Illuminating
a Treasure

The Marian Library

at the University
of Dayton

An international destination
for the study and appreciation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
for *75 years*

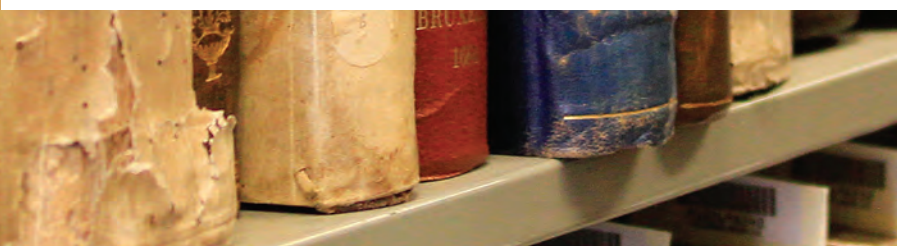


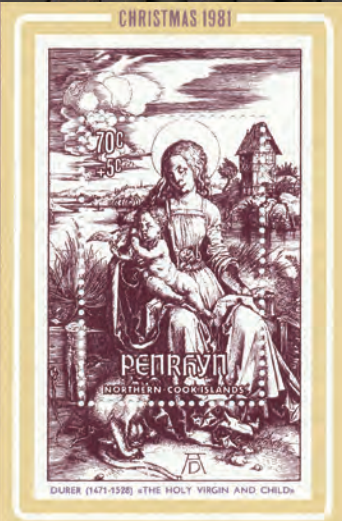
In 1943, when the Marianists at UD started a new library devoted to the study of Mary, they were planning ahead for the commemoration of back-to-back centennials in 1949 and 1950 — the Society of Mary's arrival in the United States and the founding of the school that would become the University of Dayton.

Within six years, the Marian Library became more than an anniversary gift; it was a tribute to the Blessed Mother, a monument to the order's educational mission and an important asset for the Catholic Church.

In 2018, as we mark the library's 75th anniversary, we honor the foresight of the founders, the ambition of their vision and the dedication of all those who have served it. Including materials from the Middle Ages to today, the collection attracts University of Dayton faculty and students from many disciplines as well as scholars and theologians from around the world.

ie vous salue M A R I E





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To Honor and Commemorate

The Marian Library was founded to honor Mary, perpetuate her message and commemorate the contributions of the Society of Mary in the United States. It is now the world's largest dedicated collection 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 has engaged in many forms of outreach to 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

The Marian Library serves high-level researchers in the field of religion, including the University of Dayton's graduate programs in theology, and in particular the students and faculty of the International Marian Research Institute (IMRI). Sister M. Danielle Peters, I.S.S.M., earned the Doctorate of Sacred Theology from IMRI 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 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."

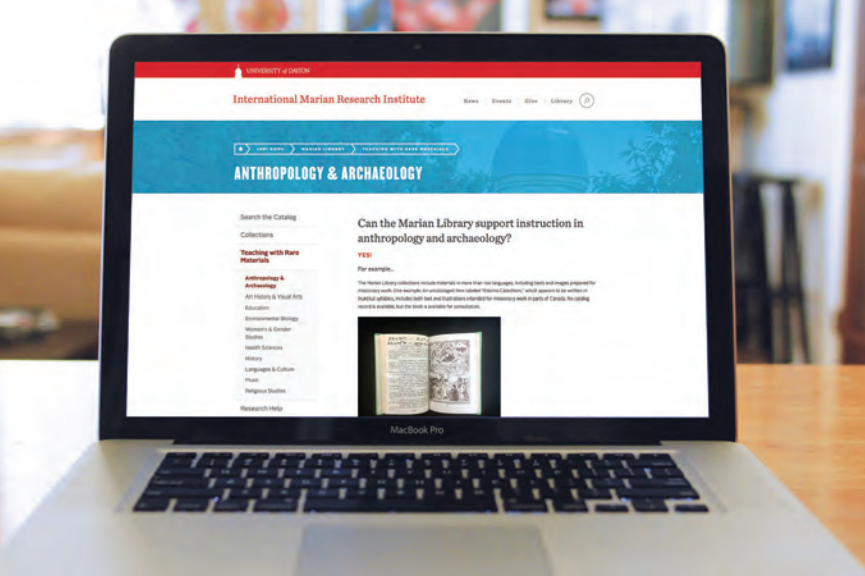
Sharing the Gifts

Making a Difference at Many Levels

The Marian Library has influenced the understanding and the teaching of Mary at a personal level, 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. Digital collections housed in the University's repository, eCommons, as well as on the website have been accessed around the world. Faculty and staff expertly assist patrons and field questions from the media, other institutions and the Vatican. And, Marian Library personnel regularly collaborate with local parishes on catechetical outreach.





Noteworthy Numbers

- Materials in more than 100 languages
- Nearly 100,000 circulating books
- More than 12,000 rare books
- 2,500 audiovisual items
- 197 archival collections, including 30,000 Marian postcards and a nearly complete set of Marian postage stamps
- 3,500+ Nativity sets from around the world
- A growing list of digitized collections made available for research
- More than 100 art exhibitions since 1988
- An active presence on social media as well as a regularly maintained blog





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 temperature.

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."



The collection is stored in multiple locations, some of which are off site and not immediately accessible.

“So much of it is relegated to storage,” said philosophy professor John Inglis, whose students use the Marian Library in their coursework. “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 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.

300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-1390

Learn more about us.

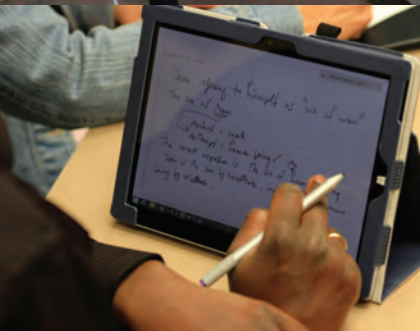
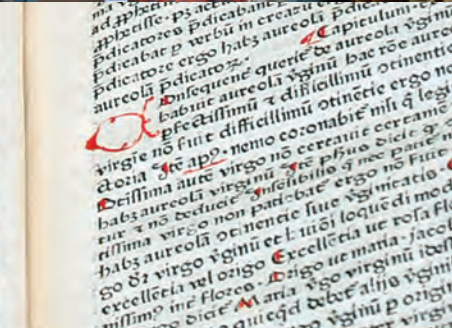
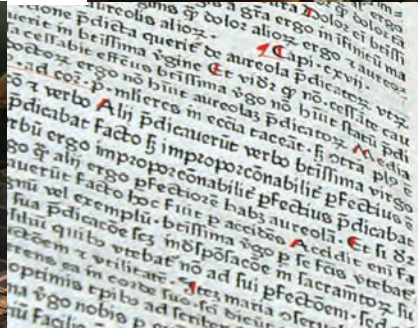
go.udayton.edu/marianlibrary75

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