

RMLetter

Your news about the Library

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

Newspapers on the Web: Digitization project preserves century-old news

(by Mark Pattison)

Spring 2017 Hours

Monday-Thursday:
8:30a-10:00p

Friday: 8:30a-4:30p

Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

Sunday: 1p-10p

Important Links:

[Library Homepage](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[LibGuides](#)

[RML YouTube](#)

[Course Reserves](#)



Calendar of Events:

First Sunday of Lent	Mar. 5
Marian Day	Mar. 11
Rector's Week-end	Mar. 17-19
Philosophy Lecture Series	Mar. 27
Easter Break	Apr. 7-23

Only pack rats would save copies of old newspapers. Or so you would think.

But a consortium of librarians and archivists are preserving the Catholic news from the last century.

As newspapers age, their pages get more brittle and fragile. And outdated technologies such as microfilm and microfiche keep those newspapers from being readily accessible unless you live near a big downtown library or a university that still has the machines needed to read that data.

Many Catholic newspapers, unlike their secular daily brethren, were not kept, maintained and preserved with the same level of passion, save for some diocesan archives.

To correct this situation, the Catholic Research Resources Alliance has undertaken a project to digitize nearly a dozen of the United States' top Catholic newspapers of regional and national importance -- the print runs of which, for some of them, go back for more than a century.

"Creating a Catholic news archive and digital aggregation for Catholic newspapers is



A page from the National Catholic Welfare Conference that is being digitized by the CRRA.

something that scholars are very interested in," said Jennifer Younger, executive director of the alliance, known as CRRA.

"We mark the beginning (of the project) in 2011, when we brought together a newspaper committee: 'If we're going to digitize something, what would be most useful?' Newspapers rose right to the top. Which newspapers? We had to figure out which newspapers existed, which ones were being held (by libraries), which ones weren't being held," she told Catholic News Service.

The committee came up with a list of more than 800 Catho-

lic publications from the United States alone, and another 200-plus in Canada.

Eleven newspapers the digitization project has begun with represent some of the largest dioceses in the nation: Catholic New York of the Archdiocese of New York; the Catholic Standard and Times of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Catholic San Francisco; the Clarion Herald of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; the Florida Catholic of the Archdiocese of Miami; the St. Louis Review; the Pittsburgh Catholic; and the Catholic Transcript of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut.

Continued on page 2

Digitization project (continued from previous page)

A 12th newspaper recently added to the list is the *Catholic Worker*, which since its founding in the 1930s is still a penny a copy, as the front-page banner says.

For a national perspective, the National Catholic Reporter and 65 years' worth of newsfeeds starting in 1920 from what is now called Catholic News Service will be digitized. CNS' predecessor was NCWC, for National Catholic Welfare Council. In addition, an NCWC/CNS feature called "Catholic World in Pictures" will be digitized too. The digitized material will be made freely available through the CRRA-developed [Catholic News Archive](#).

Digitization is the new normal, according to Tim Meagher, an associate professor of history at The Catholic University of America, Washington, and an archivist who runs the Center for American Catholic History.

"Everything is, as much as possible, going into digital format," Meagher said. "In some ways, even if the paper exists in print, its use will be less if it is not digitized."

Some of the largest U.S. dailies, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Chicago Tribune*, have been digitized, he said. "It's a tremendous asset," Meagher added. "Suddenly you're on the radar screen, easy to access, easy to get to." Of Catholic papers, he said, "We would love to be able to digitize every one. We may not be able to digitize all of them, we may not be able to digitize all years. But to begin is an important thing."

"We have set very high standards. When we do our digitization, we never have to do it again," said Patricia Lawton, CRRA's director of digital initiatives. "We're getting the best imaging we possibly can. Microfilm or print, you want a good image. That is the basis of everything that you're going to do," allowing the user to employ more robust search capabilities. "We based all our research on the Library of Congress (standards) and even upped

the standards a bit," Lawton noted.

Archivists also are working with those libraries and diocesan archives holding newspaper collections to preserve them, and to provide multiple backups for the digital information being created.

Amy Cooper Cary, head of special collections and university archives at Marquette University in Milwaukee, described the "heavy lifting" needed to digitize a newspaper. In digitizing a century's worth of Marquette's student newspaper, Marquette opted to do the work itself rather than contract it out -- which could be cheaper but take longer to do, without the kind of quality control one may want. Marquette also chose overhead scanning to gain a better image, and has utilized students to compare the original newspaper with the digitized image to make sure there are no glitches.

A grant from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign has allowed CRRA to digitize the NCWC/CNS archives from 1920 to 1952, but Cary estimated the cost of digitization at more than a dollar per page. Doing roughly a century's worth of 10 weekly newspapers and one monthly comes to a lot of pages. A GoFundMe project was established in December to raise \$25,000 to digitize the NCWC/CNS "Catholic World in Pictures" print run: www.gofundme.com/hb-catholic-world-in-pictures.

For CRRA's Catholic newspapers project, the top priorities are the years prior to 1923, when material is in the public domain, and the years before, during and following the Second Vatican Council, to track the difference in how the church engaged with the world -- and with itself -- that may have manifested itself in the pages of the newspaper.

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Current Schedule for RML Workshops

This is just a handful of the workshops available for registration; check the flyers posted around campus for the full list!



Tues. Mar. 14, 1:30pm

BibleWorks

In this workshop, students will learn how to use the Scripture tool known as BibleWorks through hands-on learning and practical exercises.

Level: Beginner to Advanced



Wed. Mar. 15, 3pm

Using LibGuides

For this session, we will show you how to use the LibGuides—online research guides—prepared by RML staff for your papers and assignments across many subjects.

Level: Beginner to Advanced



Wed. Mar. 22, 1:30pm

Search strategies for the catalog and databases

Designed for students new to research at the Seminary, this workshop will show them basic instruction on how to search the library's main page and databases, including Subject searching and Indexes.

Level: Beginner



Fri. Mar. 24, 1:30pm

Choosing Web sources wisely

The RML staff can help students navigate around unreliable sources while surfing the Web by showing them how to select authoritative sources from an overwhelming results list.

Level: Beginner to Advanced

Did You Know? St. Patrick's Day edition (compiled by Chelsea Post)

It may be a little early to break out the green, but St. Patrick's day is close at hand. But who *was* St. Patrick? Did he really drive the snakes out of Ireland? Why do we wear green on his holiday? Only one way to find out—by doing some research in RML!

- Patrick (or "Patricius") was a Roman nobleman living in Britain before he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland at the age of sixteen. For six years, he tended sheep for his master, learning to lean on God through prayer and fasting during this time. Then, prodded by a vision, he fled his captor and got on a boat back to Britain—only to *return* to Ireland to preach to those who had enslaved him!
- He established his primary see at Armagh where he developed a school and made missionary journeys, most likely thanks to the powerful king who ruled nearby.

- Because of the many legends surrounding St. Patrick, it is thought that his writings are the best sources of information regarding the historicity of his life: his *Confessio* (autobiography) and the Letter to Coroticus (in which he protested against British slave-traders). In fact, his writings are considered to be the first literature identified with the British Church.
- Unfortunately, though he is often depicted with snakes and shamrocks, the myth of St. Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland is unverified, to say the least, along with the story of him explaining the Trinity with a shamrock. Still, they *do* add color to this mysterious saint...
- Speaking of colors, wearing green on St. Patrick's Day has more to do with Ireland's nickname of "the Emerald Isle" and Irish nationalism than an association with Patrick. His official

color is actually blue, and the cross of St. Patrick is red and white, like the Union Jack on the English flag.

- Food is also a large part of the St. Patrick's day festivities. Beyond the gimmicky "green beer," the St. Patrick's day dish in America is corned beef and cabbage, though it is possible to exchange the corned beef for bacon and add vegetables such as carrots (for orange) and peas (for green) to the dish.

Sources:

Cronin, Mike, & Daryl Adair. *The Wearing of the Green: a History of St. Patrick's Day*. New York: Routledge, 2002.

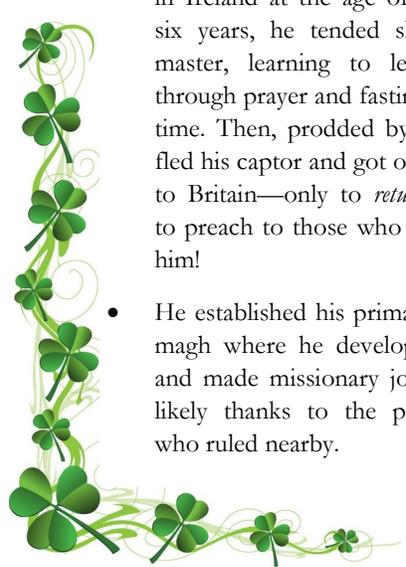
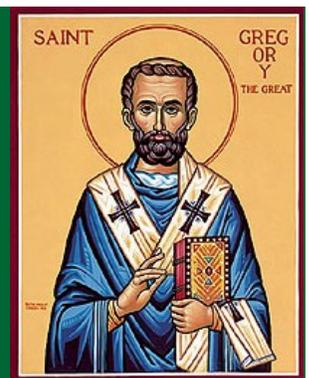
Farmer, David. *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Freeman, Philip. *St. Patrick of Ireland: a Biography*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

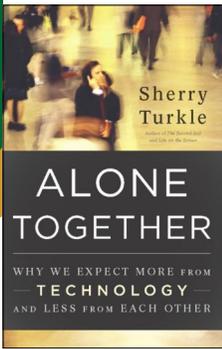


MARCH MADNESS CONTEST:

Which Pope will win?
Vote today in the library!



Staff Picks for March 2017



The advancement of technology into our daily lives has prompted scholars to question its long-term effects in the mind and behavior of its many users.

Cell phones, iPads, game consoles, robotics, etc., have altered the way people communicate with each other, interact with each other or simply amuse themselves, while at the same time, visible social and psychological changes are created parallel to the emerging new digital century that seem to be missed by the digi-philes themselves.

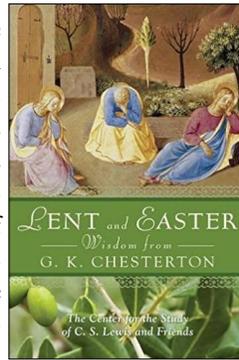
In *Alone Together* (HM851 . T86 2011), Sherry Turkle, founder and director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self and a licensed clinical psychologist, investigates the way robots are replacing our pets for companionship, texting is becoming a new language, social media has become an obsession and other interesting topics.

Alone Together will engage readers interested in the ever-changing world of technology and its consequences on the future generations way of life and psychological development. —JDJ

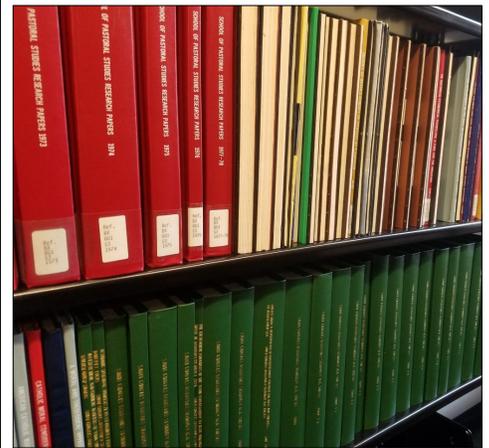
Now is the time for silence and contemplation as Lent and Easter season continues. As you cut free of technology (as per the advice of Mr. De Jesus), you can also choose to read a book that will better your spiritual gain during this time of reflection: thus, my recommendation for the month.

Lent and Easter Wisdom from G.K. Chesterton (BV85 .C473 2007) is a collection of readings related to Lent and Easter, gathered from Chesterton's writings, Scripture, quotations from Chesterton's contemporaries and prayers. Every day of Lent and Easter are covered, each with new readings, and at the end of each day is a Lenten activity, encouraging you to live out the reading of the day. Compiled by The Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends, it is a great tool of spiritual study to focus your time during Lent for the betterment of yourself as a worshipper.

Lent may have already begun, but there's still time to catch up and begin reading through each entry of this wonderful guide book. —CP



Collection Corner



The Special Collections area has a new set of older materials, only much closer to the Seminary's heart than the groupings of constitutions, catechisms or devotionals. These are the theses produced by past students in partial fulfillment of their M.A. degree.

"RML is delighted to hold these important documents for safekeeping," library director James Humble said. "They are a part of the historical record of the Seminary's academic activity."

The theses fall roughly into four concentrations: Scripture, systematic theology, moral theology and pastoral theology. While the oldest theses were bound individually, those from the nineties onward have been bound together by year. In addition to adding a table of contents to each volume, the Library has fashioned a Finding Aid for assistance in searching by topic, author or advisor.

It is important to note that, as these documents were produced for academic purposes, their contents should not be placed on equal footing with published scholarship. Current students may find them most useful as examples of layout, formatting and length for their own thesis-preparation. The bibliography of a particular thesis may also provide a student working in that subject-area with ideas for sources.

"In this case, the library is acting as a repository, storing the theses for the sake of preserving what we can of the Seminary's heritage," Mr. Humble continued. "Alumni of our program can be assured that their work will always be present at St. Charles."

Need Help with Your Writing?

Come to a Writing Tutorial session with Fr. Callaghan!

On Tuesdays and Fridays, 3-5pm, in the library—Set up an appointment by emailing callaghm@gmail.com

