

RMLetter

Your news about the Library

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

Notre Dame announces Convocate

Spring 2017 Hours (until May 12)

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

Friday: 8:30a-4:30p

Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

Sunday: 1p-10p

Important Links:

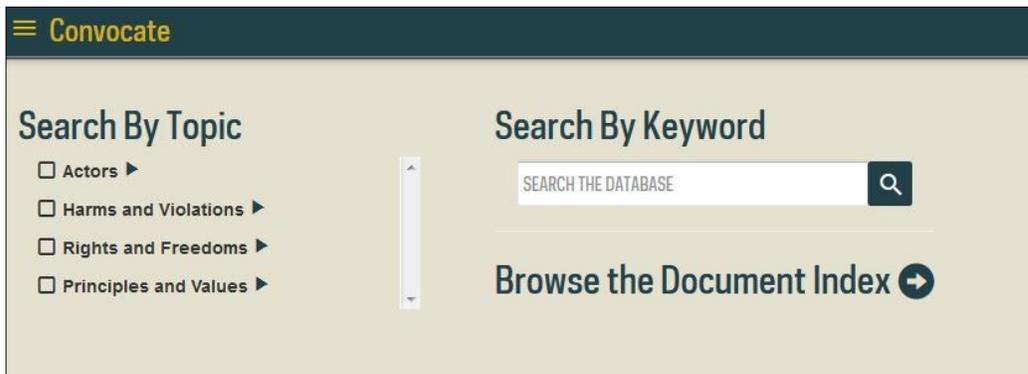
[Library Homepage](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[LibGuides](#)

[RML YouTube](#)

[Course Reserves](#)



In April 2017, the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame introduced researchers to [Convocate](#), a unique online database that compares international human rights with Catholic social teaching. With one search, researchers can place theological and legal documents side by side and compare the two simultane-

ously. According to their website, “while the main focus is comparative research, the database also serves as an unparalleled resource for those interested more generally in documents from one or the other domain.”

Search results are displayed at the paragraph level, allowing the researcher to perform complicated analysis on par-

ticular passages within entire documents. Subjects of study range from animal rights to family life, and the database can be searched either by topic or by keyword (as shown by the screenshot above).

The link to Convocate can be found under RML’s “Journal Databases” page. Happy searching!

Calendar of Events:

Final Exams	May 8-12
Diaconate Ordination—RML opens at noon	May 13, 10am
Concursus	May 17, 10am
Philadelphia Priest Ordination	May 20, 10am
Ascension Day—RML Closed	May 25
Memorial Day—RML Closed	May 29

Note from the Librarian’s Desk

With another school year coming to an end, I find myself looking ahead to the summer—and I am excited. Though who wouldn’t be? Summer is a time of fun in the sun, going to the shore, reconnecting with friends, perhaps even getting a temporary job.

In fact, there are times when summer turns into the busiest time of year. Vacation time ebbs away as weekend trip

follows concert follows closing shift, and before you know it, you’re back at school, ready (or not) for a new year.

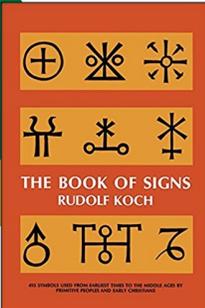
Do not fall into this trap. Having a good time is not a crime, but take a moment this summer just to *be*. Read a book. Garden. Start a journal. Go for a walk in the park. Any solitary activity will do, if done for the right reason.

And what is that reason? Not

to be a stick in the mud, I assure you. Summer is a time of fun in the sun, yes, but also a time to recharge, to nurture that part of yourself that you let go as you hastily prepared for finals.

So. Take a *deep* breath... and dive into summer the way it is meant to be celebrated. We shall see you next year, recharged and ready to serve.

Staff Picks for May 2017



Man's fascination with antiquity rarely neglects the symbolic representation of the world and culture that surrounds him. Deities, spells, animals, language, etc. are some of

the everyday aspects of life that preoccupied the people from past centuries, prompting them to create pictorial forms to describe them. These images would go on to be recognized by all of those who learned to read them.

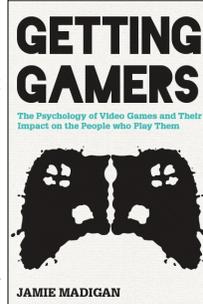
Christianity is no stranger to these methods of communication and has made good use of many symbols to represent its beliefs and customs, whether inscribed on paper or carved in obscure cave walls during its perilous beginnings. Collected from carvings, inscriptions and manuscripts, Rudolf Koch brings almost five hundred symbols from ancient times to the early Christianity period to light in *The Book of Signs* (AZ108 .K62). Among them are the signs of the cross, holy initials and astrological signs. Some of the book's stylized ink symbols will be familiar to readers, and their informational captions provide interesting bits of information that explain the origins and other data of the symbols.

A very educational read, *The Book of Signs* will interest students of biblical studies and history buffs alike. —JDJ

For better or for worse, video games are a massive part of today's culture. Millions of people play games on consoles, computers, even cell phones, and the gaming industry has swiftly

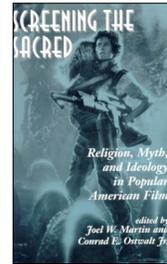
turned into a billion-dollar investment, netting skyrocketing profits with each passing year. But what is it that drives ordinary people to lose themselves in a virtual reality? Author Jamie Madigan aims to find out in *Getting Gamers: The Psychology of Video Games and Their Impact on the People who Play Them* (GV1469.34.P79 M33 2016). Madigan argues the positives and negatives of gaming, highlighting the experiences of players, creators and sellers of video games and how the basic principles of psychology interplay with the gaming business. Topics of study include nostalgia over old games; competition and completionist tendencies; and video games' influence on intelligence and violence. Every chapter uses statistics and examples from current video gaming trends.

By not completely dismissing games' potential good, Madigan offers a unique view on video games that both praises and cautions their impact on peoples' minds. So before you load up your latest *Super Smash Bros.* file, give this book a read. —CP



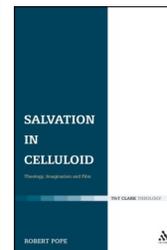
Collection Corner

The free time we are given during the summer often turns into catching up on the entertainment we've missed during the school year. However, before you begin your binge-watching, take a moment to read one of these books to steel yourself against mindless viewing:



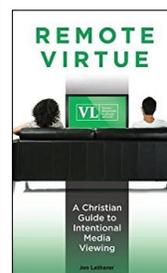
- *Screening the Sacred: Religion, Myth, and Ideology in Popular American Film*, edited by Joel W. Martin and Conrad E. Ostwalt (PN1995.5 .S36 1995)

Editors Martin and Ostwalt gather analytical essays on various movies and arranges them by theological, mythological and ideological critiques. Films covered range from *Psycho* and *Aliens* to *Star Wars* and *Rocky*, each with their own way of comparing religion and film and how the two intersect.



- *Salvation in Celluloid: Theology, Imagination and Film*, by Robert Pope (PN1995.5 .P66 2007)

Pope's argument derives from one principle: that imagination, grounded in Scripture and theology, is fundamental in understanding film. Once established, the author then looks at redemption-themed "Christ figure films" through the imagination to see if they provide true theological insight.



- *Remote Virtue: A Christian Guide to Intentional Media Viewing*, by Jen Letherer (PN1995.5 .L48 2015)

In order to avoid falling prey to the "idiot box," viewers of television and movies must be aware of the explicit and implicit messages being broadcasted to them. Letherer walks through a number of techniques useful for analyzing media, particularly in a Christian mindset, through examples including *Top Chef* and *Hunger Games*.

Need Help with Your Writing?

Come to a Writing Tutorial session with Fr. Callaghan!

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7-9pm, in the library

