

RMLetter

Your news about the Library

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015

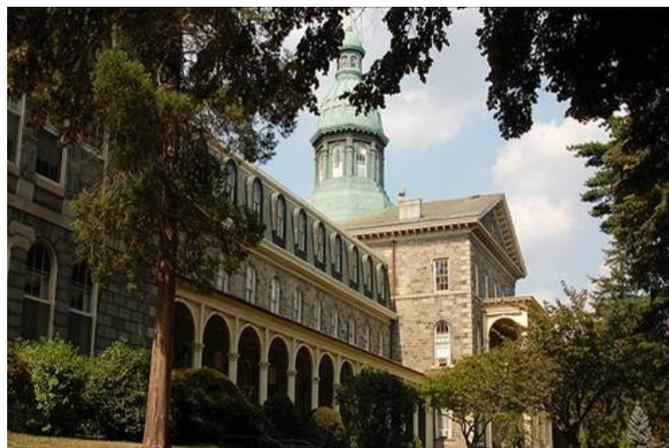
Introducing the RMLetter!

The library is going through some changes.

You may have noticed the influx of research workshops—dubbed “One-Shot Workshops”—that we plan on continuing throughout the school year. You also may have seen the Ryan Memorial Library YouTube channel; it may not have a lot of videos (or hits) yet, but you will certainly see more videos in the future, including tours of the library and instructional content.

And now it is time to introduce another change to the library: the RMLetter, a bi-weekly newsletter that we will be issuing through email as well as in print form across campus.

But what will the RMLetter do for you as a seminarian?



The Ryan Memorial Library, attached to Vianney Hall in the Theology Building, is ready to help with all your research needs.

Well, for starters, it will contain up-to-date hours for the library, as well as advertisements on our latest events and workshops. It will also show off various books in the collection in a section aptly titled “Collection Corner.”

Best of all: the RMLetter is going to help you keep tabs on all the latest trends of academia, making your research skills sharper and your minds keener. We hope you will find the RMLetter better than advertised—happy reading!

Note from the Director’s Desk

Autumn, like spring, is a changing of the guard, a grand transition from the twin poles of winter and summer. The colors of the leaves, like the first shoots of flowers, lend a sense of regality to the occasion.

At RML, you may have noticed that we are undergoing a

transition of our own. It may not be as colorful, but its effects are just as manifest. Simply stroll through the upper and lower levels at your convenience.

But these changes should not be taken as evidence of loss, any more than the fall of the leaves during October should

be considered the final statement on the condition of the trees around us. Rebirth, renovation of the spirit, can only come after a clearing of the ground. We trust that the changes you will see as we attempt to fit the library into a new footprint will result in a better, more useful library.

Hours:

Monday: 8:30a-10p

Tuesday: 8:30a-10p

Wednesday: 8:30a-10p

Thursday: 8:30a-10p

Friday: 8:30a-4:30p

Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

Sunday: 1p-10p

Important Links:

[Library Homepage](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[LibGuides](#)

[Course Reserves](#)

Calendar of Events:

One-Shot Workshop— The Bible, Fathers, & St. Thomas Aquinas - Turabian	Oct. 30, 3p
Forty Hours (No Class)	Nov. 2-3
Book Spine Poetry Contest Due	Nov. 6
One Shot Workshop— Bad Luck Research	Nov. 13, 3p

Meet the RML Staff: James Humble

Officially, Mr. Humble has only been the Library Director for less than a year—but his impact has been felt for far longer than that. Read on to learn more about the man behind the counter and how he feels about the library he is now directing:

What made you want to be a librarian?

“Being a librarian wasn’t something I necessarily aspired to when I was a child, but I did grow up in a home where bookshelves lined nearly every room. So a building devoted entirely to collections of books felt like a natural fit for my place of work. But of course, once I started working in one, I discovered that a library’s *raison d’être* cannot be limited to its storage capacity, just as a librarian’s role goes beyond tending the items on the shelves. Information is created and gathered on every front; indeed, every second of the world’s existence becomes potential fodder for information-seekers, from newshounds to statisticians, as soon as it’s passed. This incessantly generated information needs to be recorded, gathered, sorted, organized, indexed, stored and made accessible to whomever needs a piece of it. I ultimately realized that the librarian’s role in that process attracted me regardless of the format of the materials I handled.”

What do you like most about working at RML?

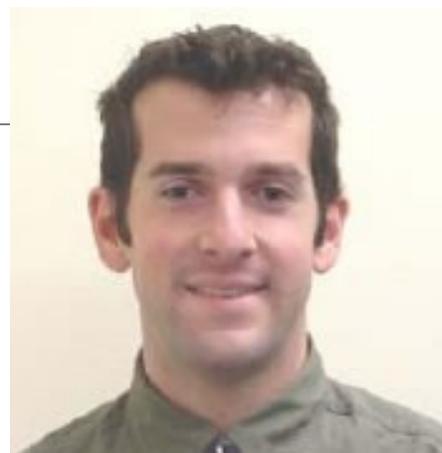
“The interactions with the students—helping them with their research, directing them to new sources, answering any odd questions they may bring in. More largely, I am still amazed that I am able to serve, in some small way, an institution with the exceptional mission of preparing men for the priesthood.”

You’ve been working here for over ten years. What’s the most memorable change that’s taken place in RML during that time?

“The most memorable change, for me, involved the renovation of this building during the years 2005-2006. The downstairs went through an extraordinary transformation from a gymnasium to its present state as the lower level of the library. Expanding from one floor to two gave the library some much-needed breathing room. Before-and-after photos don’t fully capture the striking difference, so I count myself fortunate to have witnessed the entire makeover.”

There’s a lot of speculation as to how the increased production of digital books will make the old model of the library as a repository for print obsolete. How do you foresee RML changing in the wake of these developments?

“E-books and other digital resources are certainly going to make up a larger share of the collection. It’s important to remember that not everything has



been made available digitally and that it will be quite a few years before every book has a digital counterpart. RML will certainly investigate the opportunities for increased collection size and decreased collection space that the e-book revolution offers. But RML is also committed to maintaining the print culture that has been for so long a key part of Christian education.”

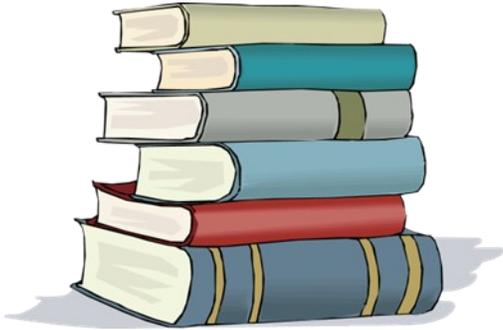
What can students look forward to in RML’s future (besides this newsletter)?

“Students will see changes in the library’s layout as we transition back to being housed on a single floor. We have consolidated our physical collection, but we anticipate that, with Catholic publishers embracing electronic books, our digital collection will exceed the number of titles we have shed. They can also expect more instructional helps, from video tutorials to online research guides, which take advantage of the opportunities afforded by digital media.”

Check out our Channel!

Search "Ryan Memorial Library" in YouTube to find us!

Contest at the Library!



In celebration of National Theological Library Month, Ryan Memorial Library is hosting a Book Spine Poetry contest!

Contest Rules

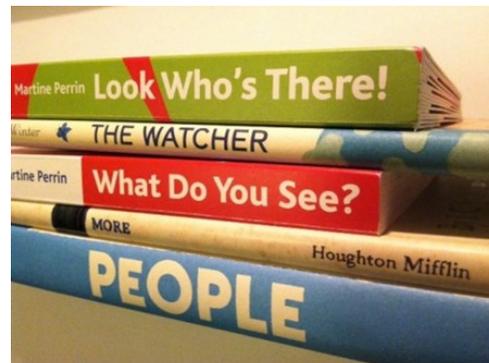
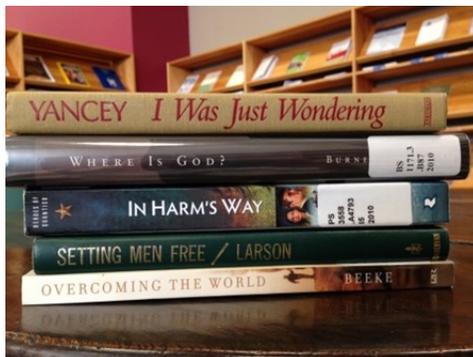
1. **Stack several books on top of one another.** It could be any number of books, from 2 to 20!
2. **Arrange them so the titles on the spines can be read, top to bottom, in a poem.** Rhyming is not necessary but will get you extra brownie points with the judges :)
3. **Take a picture of the "poem" and send it to rmlibrary@scs.edu.** Don't forget to include your name!

**** All entries are due by November 6!!! Winners will be announced by the following week ****

Prizes!

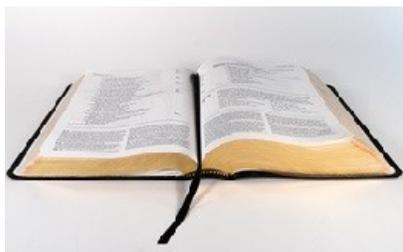
The entries will be judged by the Library staff. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place.

Examples:



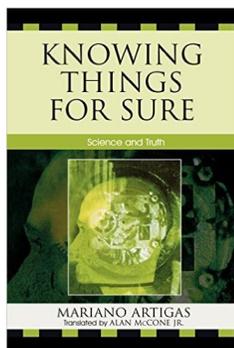
RML One-Shot Workshop

The Bible, the Fathers & St. Thomas Aquinas- TURABIANIZED!



When? Oct. 30
Time? 3-4 PM
Where? Library
Classroom

Staff Picks for November 2015



Contemporary culture often grants scientific claims the beyond-doubt status formerly reserved for religious beliefs. But philosophers are never afraid to question things,

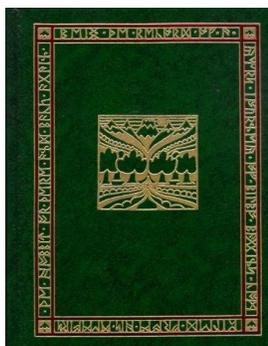
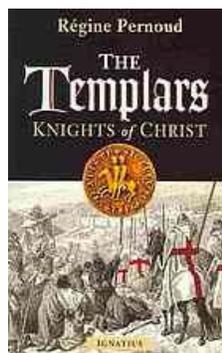
and the “facts” that science proffers can be subjected to withering epistemological critiques. Mariano Artigas, in *Knowing Things for Sure*, conducts a comprehensive inquiry into the nature of scientific knowledge, ultimately making a strong case that experimental science can indeed result in knowledge about reality. —JH

A great short and concise work, *The Templars: Knights of Christ* presents a sober history of the men who protected pilgrims through the Christian lands, fought at the Crusades, became bankers, sparked the rage of kings and became legends. Regine Pernoud dispels the myths associated with the

militant order for a very educational and highly entertaining read. —JDJ

I would suggest reading *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Years after its publication, the *Lord of the Rings* series still stands as one of the best fantasy stories today, and as the prequel, *The Hobbit* welcomes us to Middle-Earth in dwarvish bass tones and battles against dragons while also hinting at the greater struggle to come. Grab our nicely-bound copy of *The Hobbit* and prepare to be whisked away to a land of elves and hobbits. —CP



Collection Corner

This month, RML welcomes into the fold several titles of interest to our students:

- *Life Everlasting: the Mystery and the Promise*. By J. Brian Bransfield, Pauline Books, 2015. Call Number: BT821.3 .B73 2015

Beginning with a personal account of how his mother’s death when he was young rocked his life, Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield goes on to offer hope and peace for those who grieve in the wake of death. Archbishop Chaput praised Msgr. Bransfield’s work as “a book about morality and eternal life that’s rich in clarity, reason, faith and hope, suffused by the warmth of personal witness.”

- *The Pedagogic Mission: an Engagement with Ancient Greek Philosophical Practices*. By Elly Pirocacos, Lexington Books, 2015. Call Number: B177 .P57 2015

Elly Pirocacos takes four philosophers—Heraclitus, Parmenides, Plato and Socrates—and examines how they engaged with their audiences in highly unique, yet strangely similar fashions. Offering in-depth looks at each philosopher’s *modus operandi*, Pirocacos juxtaposes these thinkers in ways that haven’t been imagined before.

- *Reading Romans in Context: Paul and Second Temple Judaism*. Edited by Ben Blackwell, John Goodrich, and Jason Matson, Zondervan, 2015. Call Number: BS2665.52 .R377 2015

Composed of a collection of essays, *Reading Romans* compares each major unit of the letter with one or more related Jewish text, exploring how the comparative texts help form our understanding of the book of Romans. Topics range from salvation and grace to women in ministry.