Christmas cheer comes early to RML

Seems like Christmas comes earlier every year—and that’s no exception at RML where the annual crèche display has been set up in the Lower Level of the library.

The Crèche display (or “nativity scene” for those that don’t know the alternate term) is a collection of pieces dedicated to Jesus’ birth. These fantastic sets have been gathered together by Msgr. Louis D’Addezio and Ms. Dorothy Ann Gleason over years of collecting, and they are generous enough to allow us to show them off every year. Msgr. D’Addezio is responsible for the many ceramic, porcelain and glass nativities, while Ms. Gleason owns the international nativities from across the globe.

We at RML know that you are hard at work, preparing for your final assignments of the year—but we urge you to take a moment and reflect on these beautiful crèches. In the rush of the final month, it is all too easy to forget what this time of year really means… and these crèches are just the things to remind you.

Continue on to Page 2 to see a full-page photo collage of the various crèches available to see in the display!

The Wanamaker Nativity, a focal point of the crèche display placed at RML every year.

If you have been in the lower level of the library in the last few weeks, you’ll have noticed the arrangement of crèches from around the world on display once again. We are very blessed that the owners of these inspiring collections have continued to allow us to turn their display into an annual event. I hope that you will make an effort to stop by if you have not already. We like to think of it as our contribution to the Christmas mood at the Seminary.

During your visit, you will also see that most of the other shelves have been emptied of their normal occupants—books—and now serve as the framework from which a good percentage of the Seminary’s art collection hangs. This is a golden opportunity for those curious about the Seminary’s total holdings, for works which have not seen the light of day on these walls for many years are now out of storage and available for all to see. You may even be able to add some of these pieces to your own walls; check with the library staff for more information.
Crèches (cont.)

Come see the Crèches in the lower level of the library, just in time for Christmas!
Staff Picks for December 2015

“Although Truman Capote’s A Christmas Memory is not quite as much a part of the national consciousness as is O. Henry’s Gift of the Magi, over the years it has proven a durable source for film, television, stage and even operatic adaptations. Both stories hinge on the excitement of the gift-giving season, although Capote’s protagonists—a young boy and his elderly “friend,” a distant cousin—are the backwoods counterparts to O. Henry’s destitute New Yorkers. Drawing on memories of his Alabama childhood, Capote warmly brings to life the painstaking efforts of his two protagonists to cheer up their impoverished household in the days leading up to Christmas. Like O. Henry’s couple, they have no money with which to buy the presents they wish the other to have; but the outcome here, although less surprising, testifies just as movingly to the total selflessness that results when we embrace the Christmas spirit.” -JH

“As of this writing, Thanksgiving is still a couple of days away. Still, Christmas, the commercial kind, is all over the radio, stores, net, movies, etc., with the usual Jingle tangles for your hard-earned dollar and the irreverent films for your precious mind, the sanctity of the celebration almost gone like the dodo. And as always, the never ending debate over the Christmas date and its origin of celebration becomes a hot topic of discussion and debate over the now 24/7 digital world. So, what’s a Christian in total confusion to do? Fear not. The answer for many a big issue lies in the most inconspicuous of places…the library. Luckily, for your reading pleasure, the book Christmas in Ritual and Tradition could help even the most ardent Catholic or intransient pagan to at least have a clearer background for intellectual debate on this issue. Just don’t expect a miraculous answer for this hot topic.” -JDJ

Perhaps I just have crèches on the mind—or the memory of having just finished decorating my home for Christmas is fresh in my mind—but my pick for this month is Art of the Crèche: Nativities from Around the World. James L. Govan and his late wife Emilia had been collecting crèches since the 1970s, so when this book was published in 2007, they had more than three decades’ worth of nativities from all corners of the globe to photograph and display. The attention to detail is obvious as each crèche is lovingly pictured, including the reasoning for collecting it and story of its creation. Take the time to look at this stunning book before you leave for break; you won’t regret it.” -CP

Stumped by Studying? Try these tips! (compiled by Chelsea Post)

The Bookish Blues. The Study Slump. Whatever you call it, there comes a time when a funk falls over the semester—and it’s called “finals.” But don’t worry, for the staff at RML not only have your back in finding resources for those last-minute papers, but we also want to help you succeed in studying for those exams. Here are a few tips of the trade to get you started:

- **Plan your time:** You don’t want to study all day, every day, right? We don’t want you to either. Go by the “20-10-20-10-30-30” technique, i.e. study for 20 minutes, break for 10, repeat, then study for 30 minutes and take a half-hour break. Do this, and you won’t feel overwhelmed by all the information you just read.

- **Work in groups:** It takes a village to raise a child—and it takes a seminary to raise a priest. Thus, it stands to reason that studying with your fellow seminarians would prove beneficial to both your psyche and your grades. Organize a study session, then reserve one of the study rooms at RML. (insert shameless plug here).

- **Get organized:** Whether you work better with highlighters, colored sticky notes or even crayons, find a way to organize your notes in a pattern that makes sense to you. And get creative with it!

- **No cramming:** Resist the urge to procrastinate until the night before the test. Space out your studying over several days, better yet, a week; that way, you don’t suffer from “information overload.”

- **Self-testing:** Practice makes perfect! Test the knowledge you think you know by any means necessary. A particular favorite of mine is to make flashcards, but even something as simple as covering up the answer with your hand and reciting from memory will suffice.

- **Take care of yourself:** This may seem like a silly tip, but seriously, make sure you get a good night’s sleep before the exam. You’d be surprised by how much memory can be retained in our dreams.
Meet the RML Staff: Chelsea Post

One of the newest faces of RML, Miss Post is often spotted at the front desk, furiously typing away on the computer, as the Digital Services librarian ought to do. Read below to learn more about the youngest librarian on RML’s staff:

When did you decide to become a librarian?

“Well, I’ve loved reading since I was a kid. I have many fond memories of sitting in my living room with a well-worn copy of *Green Eggs and Ham* on my lap, and when the last *Harry Potter* book came out, I went to the midnight premiere and read it in three days. So books have always been a large part of my life, and after graduating with a B.A. in English, I figured, ‘I might as well go for a degree in library science.’ One MLIS later, and here I am.”

What do you like most about working at RML?

“Easy: the people. I still remember driving past the seminary on Lancaster Ave. and going, ‘This place is huge!’ But you know, it still feels small, like a tight-knit community where everyone cares about everyone else. That’s a nice feeling.”

What is a normal day like for you at RML?

“Let’s see, my day usually starts with setting up whatever contest is going on, then checking my email and answering phone messages. After that, it’s a mix of checking in latest periodical issues, ordering new books, completing reference questions, editing the LibGuides and RML website… I wear a lot of hats [laughs].”

What is the most memorable thing you have participated in during your time here?

“That would have to be the ‘weeding’ of the collection last year. When we first learned that the lower level of the library was to become a cafeteria, we were rightly disappointed—but I’ve taken a more positive outlook on the situation. Yes, we had to let go of some amazing materials; however, I believe we’re stronger for it, and what we have is the cream of the crop.”

What can students look forward to in RML’s future?

“Lots more activities! I have plans for contests to be held all next year. And for those of you in First College… get ready for an Info Literacy course like you’ve never taken before!”

Collection Corner

Spread throughout RML is the St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press Popular Patristic series, a standing order of small, often colorfully-covered books about the sayings of the Church Fathers. From letters by Ignatius of Antioch to poems on Scripture by St. Gregory of Nazianzus, the Popular Patristics series are excellent translations of early Christian literature. They may be small, but they pack a big punch of information.

According to the SVS’ website, “the purpose of the series is to mine the riches of the early church and to make these invaluable writings available to all.” This is made clear by the academic introductions at the beginning of each book, written by scholars on that particular subject or early Christian author. With more than forty volumes available—and many more being written—the Popular Patristics series is sure to be helpful in your studies at the seminary.

To find a full list of what volumes of the series RML owns, do a keyword search “popular patristics” in the library catalog, or follow this link.

Last 3 days to find the Knick-Knack in the Stacks!

Go to scs.libguides.com/contest for more information!