

RMLetter

Your news about the Library

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

Where are they now?:

New homes for the Seminary's fine art

(written by Cait Kokolus)

The weekend of December 4th-6th was a very full one for Ryan Memorial Library. In addition to the annual Christmas Crèche display and the stream of people for Open House, the library also hosted the first Seminary Art Show and Sale.

Held on the library's lower level, paintings and prints from different eras, styles and mediums were exhibited. The show attracted students, alumni, donors, friends and people off the street. Over the three day period, a total of 65 works were sold, and \$71,000 was raised for the Seminary renovation.

Where are those works now? Some paintings from the halls

of St. Charles will now be displayed in the new Cathedral in Raleigh, in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, CO, and in rectories and high schools. Prints were bought by faculty, students, administrators, staff and donors to grace their homes. Several paintings were purchased by one family who hopes to start a Catholic Museum in Philadelphia.

It is fair to say that the Seminary, in selling a portion of its art collection, spread the Gospel to the far corners of the earth.



The Immaculate Conception, painted in the manner of Bartolome Esteban Murillo, was bought by Bishop Burbage.

There is still time to look at the Art Show and Sale!

Most of the works are still for sale, so if you missed seeing them for the first time, please come and visit the lower level of RML.

Spring 2016 Hours

Monday: 8:30a-10:00p

Tuesday: 8:30a-10:00p

Wednesday: 8:30a-10:00p

Thursday: 8:30a-10:00p

Friday: 8:30a-4:30p

Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

Sunday: 1:00p-10:00p

Important Links:

[Library Homepage](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[LibGuides](#)

[Course Reserves](#)

Calendar of Events:

Philadelphia "Come and See" Weekend	Jan. 15-17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Library Closed	Jan. 18
March for Life	Jan. 22
One-Shot Workshop	Jan. 27, 3-4pm
Christmas Carol Story Contest	Ends Feb. 7

Note from the Director's Desk

The cover story above recounts the Seminary's successful art sale in early December. For the last two months the Library has been privileged to double as an art gallery, offering to public view objects that had formerly been locked away in storage. Across the shelves of our lower level hang paintings and prints that vary as much in style and time period as they do in quality

and condition. While no one would argue that all the works are of the same worth, quite a number gain in interest simply by virtue of having been, for a time, deemed worthy to hold onto by the Seminary itself. As with the older volumes of the library's book collection, the odd and surprising pieces in the Seminary's art collection are an index to the alumni, friends, visitors, benefac-

tors and associates whose connections to this place have by now passed into the realm of legend.

The paintings and prints are still on display through this month. We hope that you will come to admire them while they remain here. Intrinsic value or no, each one fills a small place in the mosaic of St. Charles's history.

Thomas Merton, *Early Essays* reveals his literary voice

(written by James Humble)

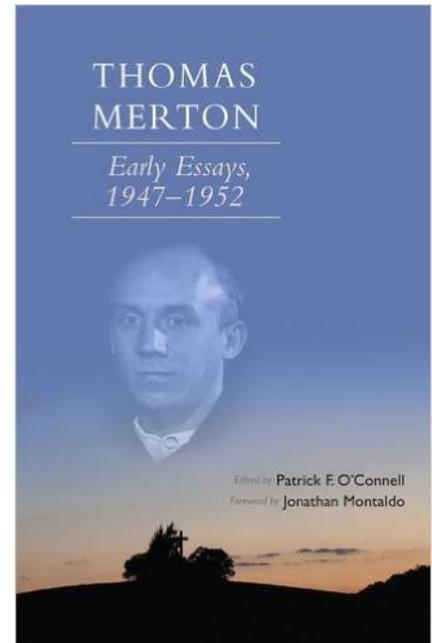
During his first few years as a novice at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, Thomas Merton was never fully at peace with what he felt to be the competing claims of his vocation to the contemplative life of a Trappist and his desire, present from before his conversion, for literary success. Although his superiors encouraged him to continue with his writing, he still had misgivings. In an article entitled “Poetry and the Contemplative Life,” one of six he published in *Commonweal* between 1947 and 1950 (the year after his ordination), one can hear him warning himself not to be swayed by the evident pleasure he took in the hours at his writing-desk: “And the even greater obstacle to union with God by pure and infused love, or wisdom, is love of one’s own satisfactions, attachment to one’s own pleasure, the desire to rest in one’s own achievements and in the work of one’s own powers and will. If God is to do the work of infusing contemplation into our souls, we must not be busy with our own natural activity, which, *ipso facto*, excludes and prevents this complete freedom of action which God demands in us.” For the contemplative, art can be a way toward true mysticism but a hindrance once the realm has been reached. Merton’s conclusion is sternly expressed in unequivocal italics: “There is only one course for the poet to take, for his own individual sanctification: the *ruthless and complete sacrifice of his art.*”

Yet Merton’s unease with his natural literary gifts and the artistic disposition that drove him to devote energies he may have felt would be better at his monastic tasks was not resolved by a complete suppression of the one by the other. The publication of *The Seven Storey Mountain* a little over a year later

would bring him the literary fame he had desired earlier in life, and make him more in demand as a writer than he had been when he wrote “Poetry and the Contemplative Life.” Merton later developed a more generous sense of the relations between art and contemplation when he revised this article in 1958, as editor Patrick O’Connell notes in his introduction to this first version, one of a dozen previously uncollected contributions to popular magazines now brought together under the title *Thomas Merton: Early Essays, 1947-1952* (Liturgical Press, 2015; 168 pages). But

during this time period, he was more often than not using his literary skills to work out his ideas on the nature of the contemplative life (“Active and Contemplative Orders,” “The Contemplative Life: Its Meaning and Necessity”), to correct popular misconceptions of his order (“The Trappists Go to Utah,” “Death of a Trappist”), and to expose his readers’ complacent religious attitudes as stumbling-blocks to true Christian living (“Contemplation in a Rocking Chair,” which despite its title is perhaps the most bracing and forceful essay in the collection).

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Since most of these pieces were written for popular consumption, often at the request of editors, Merton may have been able to allay his artistic scruples with the excuse that he was instructing his public. But each piece is obviously the work of a man for whom style is as important as content, and this “artistry” has ensured that these of-the-moment publications retain their freshness today. Merton’s ideas may have continued to develop over the next twenty years, until his death in 1968, but these early articles show he had already found his voice.

COME SEE THE CRÈCHE EXHIBIT!

This will be the LAST year that RML is hosting this magnificent collection, so stop by the Lower Level of the library to see them.

**Will remain until the end of
January, early February**



Notetaking Effectively:

Some writing tips to get you started

(compiled by Chelsea Post)

Taking notes is a valid and important skill to develop during your time here. Notes taken during class help you concentrate on the subject, create a source for test preparation and even act as a kinesthetic reminder of lectures and readings. No matter the subject, whether you are studying philosophy, theology or history, having great notes from lectures can make the difference between simply “attending” a class and actually “learning” from it.

But there is no right or wrong way to take notes—you must find the strategy that works for you. The key to any great note-taking system is to:

1. Review your notes regularly, as soon as 24 hours after class;
2. Recite key concepts so that they can move from short term memory to long term, and;
3. Reflect on the ideas discussed in class for constant analysis.

Because notes are written in your own words, they contain information that can't be found anywhere else, not even in your textbooks! So keep them brief, specific and concise, organizing them in a way that makes sense to you. Feel free to use symbols and abbreviations—don't be afraid to ask questions—and remember to actively listen during class so you can get the most of your education...

Want to learn more about note-taking?

Attend RML's next One-Stop Workshop on Wed., Jan. 27, 3-4 PM in the Library Classroom!

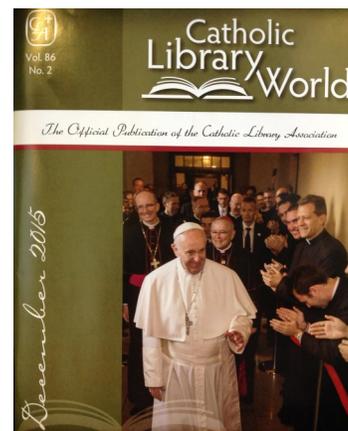
Recent Changes to RML (written by Chelsea Post)

A new year brings new additions to RML—this year, that includes updated technology for students and faculty to use and some location changes for a part of our collection. So no one is confused, here is a list of what to expect from the library now that you are back:

- **Computers** are the name of the game for this semester. Over the Christmas break, we received 55 new Dell laptops, monitors, docking stations and other accessories. While most of these computers went to the faculty members, a few made their way here to the library, and soon you will be able to find them at the study carrels near the Reference section.
- Speaking of studying, we have **doubled the amount of study carrels on the upper level**. Last semester, we began the process of moving a section of the carrels from downstairs to the Reference section—perhaps you remember the hammering and drilling while we had the electricity wired through the floor?—and we shall continue to bring more study carrels up throughout the year.
- Our **Special Collections**, once forgotten in the Rare Book room, has made its way into the light. Now occupying the shelves along the wall next to the new study carrels, these pre-1900 materials include breviaries, rites, catechisms and constitutions of various languages and lengths. We are still working on their final positions, but they are available for browsing.



- Another recent technological addition is the **Mac computer** that sits behind the Circulation desk. This is for the One-Button studio down the hall; whenever you have finished creating a video in the studio, you can edit the video on this computer dedicated to the task. Just ask a librarian for assistance to begin your work.

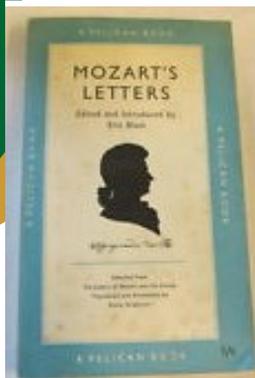


- Most exciting of all—we've been published! In the latest edition of *Catholic Library World*, Cait Kokolus wrote an article titled “Our Special House Guest” describing the experience of having Pope Francis stay at the seminary. Many familiar faces are displayed on the cover of the issue, so come take a look at it in the Periodical section.

These are just a few of the changes at RML—and they will certainly not be the last. Keep reading the RMLetter to stay up-to-date on what's new in the library.



Staff Picks for January 2016

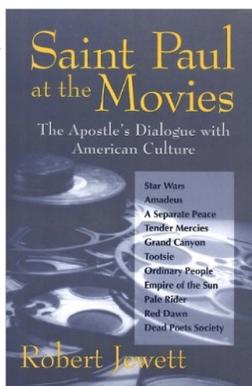


“The 1984 film *Amadeus* introduced the music of Mozart to a welcoming group of admirers and classical music neophytes of a new generation. And, though highly criticized for its fictional life account of the illustrious Austrian composer, it was the magnificent stylized portrayal of the musician by Tom Hulse that won the admiration of the public to the dismay of critics and historians who complained of the antics played by the character. Still, the film went on to win various awards including Best Picture at the Oscars. Such is Hollywood. Luckily, *Mozart's Letters* (ML410 .M9 A1954 1956), a book of letters written by Mozart to his family and other individuals while away touring other countries, will give a glimpse of the mind of the composer, of his character and perfectionism that will play well in the best theatre that exist to this day...your mind. Enjoy.” -JDJ

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“Spoiler alert: I’ve seen *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and I loved it. Not as much as the original trilogy, mind you, but J.J. Abrams’ foray into the galaxy far, far away is not so trite as the prequel series

would have you believe. This is not a staff pick for movies, though; I scoured our catalog, thinking that it would be a lost cause to find a book on Lucas’ famous space saga on our shelves... and then I found it. *Saint Paul at the Movies: The Apostle’s Dialogue with American Culture* (BS2652 .J48 1993) is a book dedicated to looking at some of the silver screen’s biggest movies through the lens of Paul’s writings. Robert Jewett tackled *Star Wars* in the first chapter, and while his argument is somewhat pedantic, his theory is sound, and he goes ahead to analyze films like *Amadeus* and *Dead Poets Society*. Not only this, but we also have his sequel—*Saint Paul Returns to the Movies: Triumph over Shame?* -CP



Collection Corner

This month’s new additions include:

- *Catholic Economics: Alternatives to the Jungle*. By Angus Sibley, Liturgical Press, 2015. Call Number: BR115.E3 S4735 2015

Sibley, a former member of the London Stock Exchange, certainly knows what he’s talking about in *Catholic Economics*. He takes a practical approach to handling the economy, bringing the church’s teachings about money into focus and applying them to the current economic situation. Tracing a Catholic sense of economics, he explains how today’s cycle of unemployment and inequality can be changed through a switch in our financial theories—and perhaps it would behoove us to listen.

- *Jesus the Storyteller*. By Stephen I. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press, 2015. Call Number: BT375.3 .W75 2015

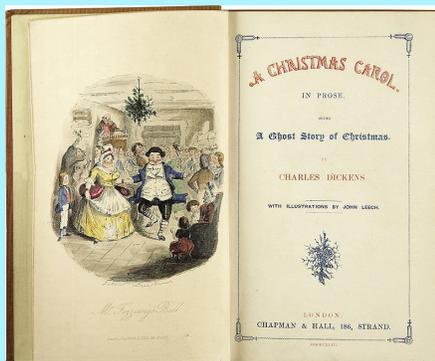
A recent analysis on Jesus’ parables, *Jesus the Storytellers* focuses on the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of Jesus’ story-telling. Wright first recounts past discussions on the parables; next, he looks at the parables through the Synoptic Gospels and the “ears” of the listeners in Jesus’ time. In the end, Wright proves the purpose of parables in Jesus’ ministry and offers an understanding on how this unique style of speech worked in the formation of Christianity.

- *God or Nothing: A Conversation on Faith with Nicolas Diat*. By Robert Cardinal Sarah, Ignatius Press, 2015. Call Number: BX4664.3 .S27 2015.

One year ago, Diat interviewed Cardinal Robert Sarah, the new prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Written in a Q-&-A style, the cardinal’s voice flows through without issue, despite translation. His love for God is easy to see, and the topics range from living through the dictatorial regime of Guinea to his thoughts on Pope Francis and the current state of the Church.

Introducing the **FIRST**
contest of 2016!

**CHARLES
DICKENS
CHRISTMAS
STORY**



**** Contest ends on February 7! ****

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