To Touch a Saint: Archives opens in new location
(written by Cait Kokolus)

Where in this world could you find the scraped and worn boots of St. Katharine Drexel or the gold trimmed cope of St. John Neumann? Both items are under the same roof in the new Catholic Historical Research Center (CHRC), a renovated facility that was dedicated by Archbishop Chaput and Bishop Fitzgerald recently.

The CHRC is the newly named and expanded archives for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Blessed Sacrament Sisters and the American Catholic Historical Society (ACHS). The archdiocesan collection goes back to its founding, incorporating all of Delaware and half of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The ACHS and Drexel collections span the entire U.S.

For the last 20 years, the core collection was housed in the crypt of St. Martin’s Chapel, a location that was cramped, damp and dark. A recent report said that, although material now housed in CHRC forms arguably one of the best historical ecclesiastical collections in the United States, it had been one of the most poorly maintained.

Two years ago, a special committee headed by Bishop Fitzgerald was named to find a new home for the collection. With dedicated funds from Catholic Life 2000, the Archdiocese bought and renovated the closed grade school at Our Lady of Ransom Parish. The building was remodeled into a state-of-the-art facility, and last spring, 20 moving vans of material were transported from St. Martin’s to the newly renovated building.

Not only is there an amazing storage system of compact shelving in the basement, the first floor has prime exhibit space. Come and see how the Church responded to the flu epidemic of 1918, when, for three weeks, no Mass was held in a Parish Church and 200 Seminarians dug graves. Or see the chasuble made from the profession gown of Katherine Drexel. The CHRC is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9AM to 4:30PM.
It’s Theological Library Month!

Every October, the American Theological Library Association, or ATLA, sponsors a Theological Library Month which seeks to “increase awareness of the importance and value of libraries serving theology and religious studies programs through communications and activities for faculty, administrators, staff, and students.” Here at RML, we take this opportunity not only to promote ourselves and the library profession, but also to give everyone a chance to interact with the library in new ways.

The first way to do this is through ATLA’s contest, advertised on the various posters throughout campus. To enter, all you need to do is show how your library has impacted you in a positive way, either through a picture, Tweet, video or poem—creativity is encouraged! More instructions for the contest and how to enter can be found at their website.

However, the largest activity RML is holding is our own library contest: the Research Trivia Contest. To participate, come to the library and try to answer each day’s trivia question throughout October. With each right answer, you earn another chance to win a prize at the end of the week. Each question is relatively easy, but you may need to do some research to find the answer. The contest is open to all students, faculty and staff of the seminary.

The slogan for this year’s Theological Library Month is “creative collaboration,” celebrating the cooperative spirit of libraries with their patrons in their institution and beyond. And with your help, RML hopes to continue this ideal long after October is over.

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!

Wed. Oct. 25

Note-Taking when Reading

Come to this workshop to learn how to keep an outline of your reading assignments and rewrite the main argument of the assignment in your own words.

Level: Beginner to Advanced

Tues. Oct. 31

Choosing Web Sources Wisely

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

Level: Beginner to Advanced

Mon. Nov. 6

Search Strategies for the Catalog & Databases

Designed for students familiar to research at the Seminary, this workshop will give them advanced instruction on how to search the library’s catalog and databases.

Level: Advanced

Wed. Nov. 8

Using LibGuides for Research

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

Level: Beginner to Advanced

Research Trivia Contest

Stop by the library to answer a different trivia question every day each week of October. At the end of each week, we will pull a name to win a prize—the more right answers you give, the more chances you have of winning a prize! Head to our Contest Page to learn more.

Contest ends Friday, October 27
The school year is well under way, and everyone has settled into the routine of classwork and apostolate service, but there are still plenty of changes happening on campus. Quite a few of these changes are happening in and around the library, and this article will help you navigate these changes for the rest of the year.

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**Bound Journals on the Move**

Those of you who often study on the lower level of the library have likely heard the noises of leather-bound books moving from one side of the room to the other over the past two weeks. Our student workers have been diligently shifting the bound academic journals of years past, separating the collection into two sections. However, the special purpose for which this movement was done resulted in certain runs of journals splitting apart. The new arrangement is not marked by any location markers, which means that finding older journal articles will be tougher than usual.

If you are in need of an article from the downstairs periodical collection (i.e. from 2016 or earlier), please ask a librarian to retrieve it for you. Include the title of the journal, the volume number and year. As the librarians are familiar with the new arrangement, they will be able to locate the article for you. We don’t want anyone getting lost!

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**New Security Measures in Place**

Speaking of getting lost, there is a new security measure in place to keep people who are not a part of the seminary community out of Vianney Hall and beyond. The library is open to the public, which means anyone, from our neighbors to students from St. Joseph’s, can come and use our library—but the rest of the seminary is not open to them unless it is an open campus weekend.

Thus, there is a new card scanner on the double glass doors leading into Vianney Hall from the library’s entrance. In order to enter Vianney Hall from the library, you will need to swipe your seminary ID card; you will hear the magnetic lock unlock, the light on the scanner will turn green, and you will be able to enter the hall.

This also applies to the other side of the door. While you don’t need to swipe to get to the library, you will see a motion sensor above the doorway flash green, and you will again hear the door unlock. Do not pull on the door before you see the sensor flash green, as that may damage the lock mechanism.

Please be aware of these card readers, and remember to bring your ID whenever you come to the library (which, in many cases, also doubles as your library card!).

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**Note from the Librarian’s Desk** (written by Chelsea Post)

Eagle-eyed readers of the RMLetter will notice something new on the front page—a colorful banner displaying our library’s name at the top of the page.

What is this new image? It’s our new logo! In fact, it is the library’s *first* logo, as we have never had one before.

The decision to design a logo was made over the summer. In our effort to create more varied services for our patrons, including updated video tutorials and retooling the front page of the website, the RML staff realized that having a dedicated logo for the library would allow us to “brand” our materials for future use. Our resident artist, Mr. Juan de Jesus, took the task of designing the logo from scratch.

“I studied a variety of logos in order to get a sense for the design and to avoid modern clichés,” said Mr. de Jesus.

After coming up with several different designs, the RML staff chose this particular design for its simplicity and color scheme.

“The cross inside the circle symbolizes the host,” said Mr. de Jesus, “establishing the Catholic identity of the library.”

You can expect to see this logo in many of the library’s advertisements, including at the beginning of video tutorials and on the library’s home page in the upcoming months.
Need Help with Your Writing?

Come to a Writing Tutorial session with Fr. Callaghan!

On Tuesdays, 7-9pm in the library—Please email mcallaghan@scs.edu!

Collection Corner

For a little over a year now, the Seminary has had a subscription to FORMED, an online platform with streaming videos, audio and study programs geared towards Catholic teaching. All you need to create an account on FORMED is the Parish Code, which you can get from an RML librarian. Here are just a few of the things you can watch or read on either your computer or your mobile device:

- "The Ultimate Goal: Why I Left Pro Soccer to Answer God’s Call"
  Published by the Augustinian Institute, this conversion story is told by Sr. Raffaella Cavallin, once a professional soccer player and now a consecrated lay person with the Apostles of the Interior Life.

- Chance or the Dance? A Critique of Modern Secularism by Thomas Howard
  This ebook published by Ignatius Press contrasts the Christian and secular worldviews and makes the case why we must choose the Christian viewpoint if we are to live fulfilling lives.

- "Symbolon, The Catholic Faith Explained: Living the Faith"
  A series that includes leader and participant materials for small group study, this latest installment of "Symbolon" covers the ways Catholic teaching can be displayed in everyday life—also available in Spanish!

- Saint Francis, directed by Michele Soavi
  St. Francis of Assisi's feast day was Wednesday, October 4, but you can continue the celebration by watching this critically-acclaimed film about the saint’s life.

Considering the immense amount of information being created today, both digitally and in print, the balance between truth and fiction on topics such as religion can get blurred by the many biases and misconceptions that are interwoven into the original factual events.

Diane Moczar’s Seven Lies about Catholic History (BX945.3 .M638 2010) aims to correct the many myths that have plagued the Catholic historical record and mislead the public for centuries.

From questioning whether the Inquisition annihilated millions of innocent people under the suspicion of witchcraft to asking if the Crusades were fought for the acquisition of land, Diane Moczar sets the record straight for anyone who seeks to separate rumor from reality and truth from error.

A good read for anyone regardless of religious conviction, Seven Lies about Catholic History promises to be a light in a very dark tunnel.

I am not a fan of the horror genre, so it might come as a surprise that I am a fan of Edgar Allan Poe, a master in the art of scaring people. In my defense, reading horror is different from watching it, as the imagination can be as terrifying as you want it to be, and thus the pictures that form in my head are perhaps tamer than Poe wanted them to be: but nonetheless, I will take any chance I get to recommend his works to readers.

The Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe (PS2600 .F66) is just one anthology we have at RML that contains many of Poe’s most famous works, including “The Raven,” “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Divided into sections with his poetry and different types of stories, this collection will entertain both experts and newcomers to the suspense, terror and mystery of Poe’s writing.

If you are anything like me, though, I wouldn’t suggest reading these tales at night…

-JDF