Crèche Exhibit returns to RML—this time on the main level!

On November 29, the annual crèche display returned to the library for some early Christmas cheer, changing locations from the lower to the main level.

These wonderful sets were collected over many years by Msgr. Louis D’Addezio and Ms. Dorothy Ann Gleason, who are generous enough to allow us to display them each year. Msgr. D’Addezio is the owner of the many ceramic, porcelain and glass crèches, while Ms. Gleason gathered the international nativity sets from a myriad of locations across the globe.

From the porcelain of the Boehm and Cybis sets to the recycled newspaper of the crèche from the Philippines, all of these pieces are materially unique and beautiful, sure to remind you of the true meaning of the holiday season.

We at RML urge you to take a moment and reflect on these beautiful crèches. Please be sure to visit the display, which will remain up until late January 2018.
Some practical advice for your final papers and tests

You know the feeling: that slow, heart-gripping panic that takes over when December rolls around. No, it’s not anxiety over what gift to get your parents for Christmas—it’s the stress of your final assignments and wondering whether you have what it takes to pass. But fret not, as RML is ready with a few tips and tricks to make researching a bit easier and less painful:

- **Use the Journal Databases:** For those of you who don’t know, RML subscribes to a number of online databases that hold thousands of academic articles. These can be great, untapped sources for your final papers—all you need to do is log in to EBSCO or JSTOR and search for them! To do that, go to the “Journal Databases” page on the library website, and use your library barcode and account password to log in. Be sure to ask a librarian if you have any questions.

- **Advanced Searching:** Once you are in the databases, or the catalog in general, expanding your search from the generic single search bar would be a wise decision. Look for the “Advanced Search” link on the catalog and type in keywords, subject headings, etc., to narrow down the focus of a general search. By doing this, you will find sources that are better tailored towards your specific research query.

- **LibGuides for your convenience:** On the website is a link to our “LibGuides,” a series of online research guides on a variety of subjects. From specific areas of Scripture and particular authors, to general subjects like liturgy and philosophy, these guides include reference, books, journal articles and websites on the subjects, giving you many examples on where to start your research.

- **Consult your Turabian guide:** As you start writing your paper, do not neglect the use of proper Turabian style. *A Manual for Writers* (pictured here) is the authoritative source on Turabian citation, and there are several copies of this book at RML for you to use. Before you click “Save,” make sure that all of your footnotes are correct, your margins properly spaced and your sources correctly cited in the bibliography.

- **Plan your time:** Generally speaking, make sure you stay organized and plan out what you will accomplish for your assignment each day. Stay focused, avoid distractions and don’t wait until the last minute to gather your sources. You will have a much easier time if you follow these steps!

There’s still time to find me!

Rules for finding the Knick-Knack in the Stacks are on at scs.libguides.com/contest

** Contest ends Saturday, December 9!!! **
Archbishop Chaput talk available on FORMED

In January 2017, FOCUS held its biennial conference in San Antonio, drawing thousands of people, both young and old. One of the keynote sessions was given by Archbishop Chaput—and you can listen to his talk on FORMED.org.

In his session, entitled “How to Be a Bridge, Not an Obstacle,” the Archbishop discussed how Catholic can reach people with different viewpoints by building a bridge to meet them. Warning against obstacles such as pride and fear, he gives practical advice on how to best evangelize to all people.

“The people you encounter on campus today are far too easily pleased, but even if they don’t know it, the human heart yearns for much more,” he said. “How then can we build bridges to people who at first glance struggle like this or seem different from ourselves?”

The Archbishop spoke specifically about two aspects of this challenge. He first suggested that the terrain must be studied before building a bridge. In layman’s terms, we must first know what our audience is like before we try to reach them; otherwise, a stable relationship cannot be achieved.

The second aspect is the truth that God is the real bridge builder, and we are simply the helpers to God’s plan.

“We need to be ready to be instruments of God’s will and let Him use us in the world, even if it doesn’t seem like we are going to be successful,” the Archbishop said.

Other keynote sessions from the SEEK2017 conference can be found on FORMED.org, which all members of the SCBS community can access. If you haven’t created a membership yet, please ask a librarian for the registration code.

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

This place is beautiful.

I’ve been thinking quite a bit about the seminary and its beauty—and not just because the crèche display is visible from the front desk. This is the time of year when reflection is best accomplished, as we look back on a year that is filled with ups and downs. With a cold nip in the air, we retreat to the warmth of the indoors, though time spent there can seem stifling if the surroundings are dull.

So again I say: this place is beautiful.

You could say I am just being sappy, that I’m letting my emotions sway my logic. And that may be true: the reality of my departure from the seminary, and how soon I will start work at a new location, hits me anew every day. However, the fact still stands that once you pass the gates on Wynnewood Avenue, you enter a place where beauty can be glimpsed everywhere, from the art on the walls to the trees forming a canopy over the path.

I still remember my first day on campus. I drove in for my interview on Lancaster Avenue; I was driving long enough that I thought I’d missed it. And then, like some grand pulling back of the curtain, the seminary appeared with all its rolling hills, stately buildings and grand entryways. And I had no idea that it was there! That feeling of awe didn’t go away once I started working here—and I don’t believe it ever will.

The people I have met here also contribute to that feeling of wonder. I cannot express how thankful I am to have worked alongside such amazing people, and I have made some real friends among my colleagues. Thank you, all of you, faculty, staff and seminarians alike, for allowing me to experience this beautiful place, and may it continue to inspire all of us, no matter where it goes or what happens in the future.
During the Golden Age of illustration, some of the most beautiful artwork was created to grace the covers of children’s books, magazines and many literary gems for the public. Names like Pyle, Schoonover and Gibson became well known for their illustrative skills and colorful palettes to many Americans and audiences worldwide.

It was during this artistic period that Newell Convers Wyeth came to the scene and illustrated wonderful stories by the likes of Robert Louis Stevenson and Mark Twain, while also painting colorful depictions of life in the west and rural scenes with an enthusiasm and fluidity very palpable to his growing audience.

N.C. Wyeth: the Collected Paintings, Illustrations, and Murals (ND237.W94 A79 1972) is a testament of this Massachusetts native’s artistic genius and work process, containing insights on the life of the painter, his thoughts and ideas, and many illustration examples of an era long time gone but with visual staying power. A good read for these quiet evenings. -JDJ

The day after Thanksgiving, I caved: I turned my radio station onto 101.1, Philadelphia’s Christmas station, and listened to “Frosty the Snowman.” Christmas always seems to come earlier and earlier each year, and it isn’t just the music stations that do it. All forms of entertainment pitch in, including movies like The Man Who Invented Christmas (now in theaters) which details the way Charles Dickens wrote that most famous story of the holiday.

However, Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim aren’t the only Christmas-themed characters in Dickens’ arsenal. From 1850 to 1867, Dickens began publishing Household Words, a two-penny weekly magazine, and every year would end with a Christmas-themed story. Hot off the heels of David Copperfield, Dickens used this opportunity to connect with his authors—and reading the string of stories reveals the changes the author went through during that time, his tone growing more serious and radical but never preachy.

For those who love a good Christmas bedtime story, especially one that is in context with the author’s life, this collection is a great place to start! -CP

Just in time for Christmas break, our latest shipment from the bindery has returned to the library. Here is a small sample of what is now available to check out:

- The Old Testament is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment, by Brent A. Strawn (BS1171.3.S77 2017)

Despite its concern-inducing title, this book by Brent A. Strawn has a happy conclusion. After realizing the neglect of the Old Testament in daily teaching, Strawn suggests concrete ways to use the Old Testament correctly in Christian faith.

- Rebel in the Ranks: Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the Conflicts That Continue to Shape Our World, by Brad S. Gregory (BR305.3.G74 2017)

Five hundred years later, and the Reformation continues to shape the religious fabric of our society. Gregory outlines the circumstances that drove Luther to publish his 95 Theses, all while providing a unique insight to Luther’s character.


Bioethics is a multifaceted field which has grown only more complicated as time goes by. This new volume on how Catholics can navigate specific issues that arise in health care is especially timely in today’s society. Editors Travалine and Mitchell have gathered a number of essays on varying topics—including one written by Dr. Peter Colosi, an alumnus professor of the seminary—of how medicine and religion can not only collide but coexist.