A Theological Library’s Efforts to Complement Faith Formation

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A theological library’s efforts to complement faith formation

Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM

Two Catholic parish schools in 2017 asked to have items from our art collections shown to them. I brought icons to an art class, and the students drew in that style, using images of their Confirmation saints’ names. To the other, I brought samples of our crèche collection to enrich studies of the Americas.

The Marian Library was founded in 1943 so it would be built in time to celebrate the centenary of the University of Dayton. The Marian Library and the International Marian Research Institute, which developed from its outreach, strives to make the Blessed Virgin Mary known, loved, and served. Its focus is on materials about the Mother of God. Recently, the library has assisted nearby parish faith formation programs for children and adults.

The Episcopal Church of Saint George asked if we could display the Saint John’s Bible volume of the Gospels and Acts as its members commenced a four-month study of the Gospel of John. I developed a presentation called “Illuminating John’s Gospel,” focusing on how this text was illustrated through time. I brought print materials with me so the parishioners could examine them closely.