

12-2017

# The Gifts of Membership

Andrew Kosmowski

*University of Dayton*, kosmowskia1@udayton.edu

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## eCommons Citation

Andrew Kosmowski (2017). The Gifts of Membership. *Catholic Library World.* , 84  
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# CLA NEWS NOTES

## The Gifts of Membership

At the Marian Library, we are preparing our annual "At the Manger" exhibit in which we display a small number of our more than 3,500 nativity scenes from around the world. As I start to look closely, I am attracted to the Magi because they bear gifts. I think this is so because we as librarians bring our gifts to Jesus in the ways we serve the Church, whether we are at a Catholic library or not.

With the Catholic Library Association, though, we must ask two questions: What gifts does CLA bring to me, and what gifts do I bring to CLA? For me, CLA fills a niche in my professional life that other library associations have not done. I have a forum to explore how my faith informs and is informed by the service I offer the Church universal. We are all librarians, so we have the mission of helping our patrons find the information they seek, and we are Catholics, so we have an opportunity to evangelize "by every word, every gesture, and every look."<sup>1</sup>

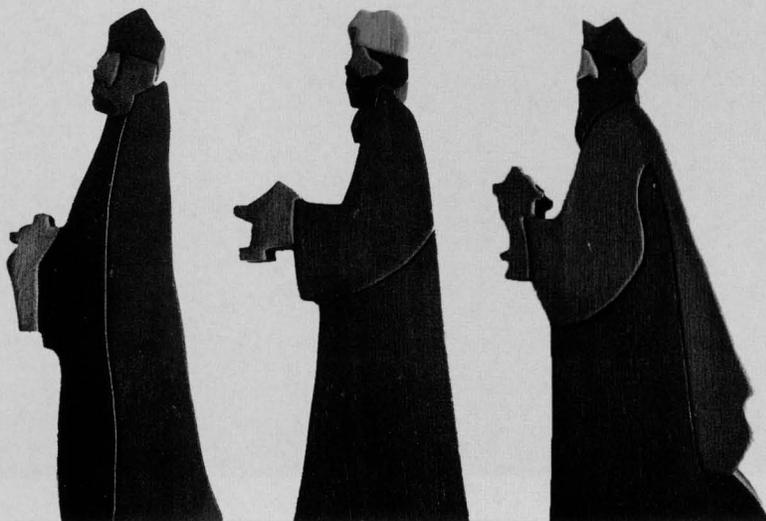
So, these are some gifts CLA gives to me. What about those that I can give to CLA? *Catholic Library World* is one outlet that many of us use to share research into how librarianship and Catholic life intersect. There are other ways. We can encourage other Catholic librarians to join CLA, we can support and create local chapters, and we can join the various sections to stay informed.

We as Catholic librarians are like the Magi in that we share our gifts with others. Let us do likewise with CLA, which in turn will serve us by giving us ongoing professional development and faith formation so we can become better librarians and better Catholics.

Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM  
Librarian, Marian Library, RL 710  
University of Dayton

**Become a sponsor** — If you would like to sign up to sponsor someone's CLA membership, contact the office at [cla2@cathla.org](mailto:cla2@cathla.org). You may choose to offer a membership to a student at a library school or a colleague, or leave your gift unrestricted.

<sup>1</sup> Society of Mary. *Constitutions of the Society of Mary* (Dayton, OH, 1937), p. 70 sec. 273.



## CLA Highlights

### Talley Earns Certified Association Executive Credential

In June 2017, Melanie Talley, Senior Association Coordinator for the CLA, earned her Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential from the CAE Commission of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), joining more than 4,200 industry leaders worldwide. Talley has been with CLA for three years. As one of several staff at P&N Association Management who run the association, she manages membership, heads the communication for the association, and supports the volunteer leadership.

The CAE program serves to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance, and designate those who have acquired and have demonstrated knowledge essential to the practice of association management. The CAE program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

ASAE is a membership organization of more than 28,000 association executives and industry partners representing more than 7,500 organizations. Its members manage leading trade associations, individual membership societies, and voluntary organizations across the United States and in nearly fifty countries around the world. With support of the ASAE Foundation, a separate nonprofit entity, ASAE is the premier source of learning, knowledge, and future-oriented research for the association and nonprofit profession, and provides resources, education, ideas, and advocacy to enhance the power and performance of the association and nonprofit community.