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Crèches from the University of Dayton's Marian Library Featured at Dayton Art Institute

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CRECHES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON'S MARIAN LIBRARY FEATURED AT DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

DAYTON, Ohio — The Dayton Art Institute will ring in the holiday season with "The Christmas Story: Crèches from Marian Library," an exhibit of nativity scenes from around the world on loan from the University of Dayton.

Thirty crèches from the United States, Egypt, France, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, Switzerland and Taiwan will be on display from Nov. 21, 2000, to Jan. 7, 2001, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The DAI galleries are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and until 9 p.m. Thursdays.

The crèches are but a sampling of the more than 800 nativity scenes owned by UD’s Marian Library, home of the world’s largest collection of printed materials on the Virgin Mary. They represent a wide variety of cultures and traditions, and have been created from media as diverse as bread dough to cork and bamboo.

The Rev. Johann G. Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute, said the library is considered the cradle of the United States crèche association, Friends of the Crèche.

The exhibit of crèches has been coordinated with the Dayton Art Institute in celebration of the University of Dayton’s sesquicentennial anniversary. Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, UD has become a national leader in Catholic higher education, graduating students who are prepared to succeed professionally and who know the value of service and leadership to community. The celebration, which will run through May 2001, will include song and dance, religion and humor, and events that range from film to philosophy.

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For media interviews, contact Sister Jean Frisk of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute at (937) 229-4254.