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Library Recognition

University of Dayton

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NEWS

Monday April 18, 2016

Library Recognition

The University of Dayton's Marian Library, which holds the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of printed materials on the Virgin Mary, is the winner of the Catholic Library Association's 2016 Aggiornamento Award.



Sarah Cahalan, the library's new director, accepted the award — given for “an outstanding contribution made by an individual or an organization for the renewal of parish and community life” in the spirit of Saint John XXIII — at the association’s annual meeting in San Diego.

“This award means so much because it recognizes the work of our wonderful team of librarians, archivists, student workers and volunteers,” she said. “It also recognizes the work of our sister unit, the International Marian Research Institute, with which we share a mission.”

Cahalan said the library's presence on campus is a significant expression of the University's Catholic and Marianist identity. Founded in 1943, its mission is to make Mary “better known, loved and served.”

It has more than 100,000 books and pamphlets in about 50 languages, including some of the earliest items printed in the Americas and publications documenting the appearance of Mary to Saint Juan Diego at Guadalupe, Mexico.

The archival collections include thousands of holy cards, postcards, Christmas cards, as well as stamps, medals, rosaries, papers associated with Marian movements, and a significant number of photographs.

SELECT LANGUAGE

With the International Marian Research Institute, the Marian Library displays Nativities from around the world every Christmas season. The library and institute, located on the seventh floor of Roesch Library, also maintain the website, “[All About Mary](#),” to put centuries of information on the Virgin Mary at anyone’s fingertips.

“Caring for the collections is important, and we are mindful of best practices for special collections, but we believe strongly in the importance of service to patrons and outreach to the broader community,” Cahalan said. “Everyone is welcome to visit our library.”

The Marian Library is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. [More information is available online.](#)

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