A Gift to Believers

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In a story about the first officially validated apparition of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, in the United States, The New York Times talked to the Rev. Johann Roten, S.M., director of research and special projects for the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute. The story was carried by about 30 media outlets.

“This is a gift to the believers,” Father Roten said in the Dec. 23 article. “This will have a beneficial impact on the people, showing them that there are ways of living with faith that are very pure.”

Roten, an internationally recognized expert on Mary, has served as investigator in a number of sightings around the world. The Religion News Service also talked to Roten about the process of validation for The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help near Green Bay, Wis.

During the Christmas season, he also spoke with a number of media outlets about the history and tradition of Nativity scenes as well as the Marian Library's extensive collection from around the world.