

11-16-2010

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Recommended Citation

"Gifts of the Manger" (2010). *News Releases*. 1066.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/1066

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Gifts of the Manger

11.16.2010 | Campus and Community, Catholic

The University of Dayton's libraries aren't just displaying Nativity scenes this year, they are selling them.

The Stable Store, the new gift shop for the Marian Library's annual exhibit of Nativity scenes, also called crèches, will offer Nativities from around the world.

The gift shop will be open during the Thanksgiving open house for "At the Manger: World Nativity Traditions" 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at Roesch Library.

While the University libraries have offered Nativity exhibits to the community for 16 years, this is the first year for a gift shop.

"A lot of people were asking if they could buy these pieces or if we had any for sale," said Kathleen Webb, dean of University libraries. "I think it really ignited interest in families, who maybe said, 'Gosh, we haven't had one of these in our house. Let's start this tradition.'"

Sale proceeds will benefit the Marian Library's crèche collection and will pay for acquisitions, displays and repairs, Webb said.

The gift shop has 40 different kinds of ornaments, Advent calendars and Nativity scenes for sale, including handcrafted glass and ceramic pieces from Peru, Venezuela and parts of Africa. Merchandise ranges in price from \$5.70 for a cherubic Peruvian angel ornament to \$70 for a large multi-piece resin Nativity set.

"We wanted to have a mix of items from the developing world as well as items that people may remember as something more traditional that their grandmother or mother would have owned," said Webb. "We tried to pick a selection that everybody who visited would find something that spoke to them."

The gift shop will be open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 31 or until supplies last. For information on At the Manger, visit the related link.

Items may also be purchased online through the University of Dayton bookstore. Visit the At the Manger website and click on The Stable Store for online shopping.

Contact Jane Dunwoodie at Jane.Dunwoodie@notes.udayton.edu.