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'A Bouquet for Mary' Exhibit of Flower Images on Display at UD's Marian Library Gallery

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NEWS RELEASE

'A BOUQUET FOR MARY' EXHIBIT OF FLOWER IMAGES ON DISPLAY AT UD'S MARIAN LIBRARY GALLERY

DAYTON, Ohio — The legend of the Columbine flower is that the tiny blossom sprung up wherever the Virgin Mary's foot touched the earth when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

The images and stories of flowers such as the Columbine or Lily of the Valley — often associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus — are the focus of the exhibit currently on display at the University of Dayton's Marian Library gallery.

Brother A. Joseph Barrish, S.M., a Dayton artist, produced the 30 images of the "A Bouquet for Mary" exhibit creating a woodcut image with a silkscreen printing process. "I wanted to get the images exact and the colors accurate. And while a horticultural expert may question some detail, I plan to use poetic license as my out," he said.

The exhibit will be on display in the Marian Library gallery, located on the seventh floor of UD's Roesch Library, through Friday, Nov. 12. Admission is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The images were created for a new book, *Mary's Flowers: Gardens, Legends and Meditations*, by Vincenzina Krymow. In the book, Krymow retells the ancient legends about Mary that inspired the flowers' names.

"In this book we offer yet another way to honor Mary, through reflecting on flowers named after her and immortalized in legends that tell us about her attributes and significant moments in her life and that of her child, Jesus," she said.

For example, the legend of the Madonna Lily is that the archangel Gabriel held a lily

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when he appeared to Mary to tell her that she would bear a son. After Mary touched the scentless flower, an exquisite fragrance arose from it.

The images and other legends of the flowers such as the Yellow Lady Slipper, Christmas Rose or Star of Bethlehem can be found on the Marian Library's virtual gallery web site at <http://www.udayton.edu/mary/gallery/cexhibit/exhibit.html>.

Barrish said like Mary, flowers are both fragile and hearty. "Flowers are accessible; one need not be wealthy to have a stand of day lilies or a rose bush or two. So like devotees to Mary, flowers have a broad appeal and can be found in the cultivated formal landscaping of the rich or in the geranium pot on the fire escape of a city flat," he said.

Barrish, a former assistant professor of visual arts at the University of Dayton, is currently the gallery supervisor of Gallery St. John at Mount St. John and director of the Sun and Stars Artworks Design Studio.

Krymow's book is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press and is available for \$29.95. To order the book, call 1-800-488-0488.

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For more information, call **Jean Frisk**, coordinator of the Marian Library gallery, at (937) 229-4254. Call **Joseph Barrish** at the studio at (937) 320-5405 or at home at (937) 426-7852. Call **Vincenzina Krymow** at (937) 434-1518. To request a review copy of the book, call **John Koize** at 1-800-488-0488 ext. 130.