

Word & Spirit

The Newsletter of the
Archbishop O'Brien Library

Winter/Spring 2010



A New Year — 2010

In This Issue

<i>A New Year—2010 World of Rare Books</i>	1-2
<i>New Books; New Media</i>	3
<i>Solanus Casey</i>	4
<i>Pope Benedict XVI—Resources; Lenten Resources</i>	5
<i>Museums; Calendar</i>	6

A new year has arrived and we are looking at new ways to reach out, enjoy our surroundings, and help make a difference for others in varieties of new ways.

In the wake of the tragic devastation from an earthquake in Haiti, we don't have far to look. Here we see the human spirit in all its heroic forms in the broad spectrum of relief efforts and people helping people. We also see the need to assist the poorest of the poor, those without food and shelter, alone and frightened about the future. Jesus tells us in Luke 6: 20-21, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the

Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping for you will laugh."

As the warmer weather begins to find us and the color palette changes we continue the journey along the path that God has chosen for us. In doing so we set aside that which has gotten in the way of accomplishing our goals. Now we can continue to nurture the positive forces that will draw us in and bring us together.

The O'Brien Library has some new and exciting ventures. Through a grant from the Con-

necticut State Library in association with *Library Connection, Inc.* we have been selected to participate in the *Treasures in Connecticut Libraries* digitization program. This will allow us to have photos and other historical items put on the digital website along with thousands of other historical items across the state.

Researchers will be able to search directly from the Connecticut State Library website or do a Google search for a particular item. In addition, there will

Continued on page 2

"I know of no rights or race superior to the rights of humanity."

Frederick Douglass
Abolitionist, Author,
Statesman
1818- 1895

The World of Rare Books

On Saturday February 20, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., the Archbishop O'Brien Library will co-sponsor a program entitled, "The World of Rare Books" with Michael C. Dooling. Michael will present an overview of the rare book world and will have books and manuscripts as examples from various periods, bind-

ings, and illustrators.

Much use of illustrations will be made in the presentation to show a wide variety of manuscripts and books from the *Vulgate Bible* written in the 13th century to a selection of 20th century *Hardy Boys* dust jackets.

Audience members are asked

to bring books they would like to discuss. Some or all of these will be selected for discussion and features will be identified as to what makes the books collectible and considered to be rare.

Topics discussed will include medieval manuscripts,

Continued on page 2

A New Year — 2010

continued from pg 1

be a link from the O'Brien Library website at <http://www.stseminary.org/obrienlibrary.htm>

To access the site directly you can go to <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/ctlibs/home.php>

The O'Brien Library was also selected to participate in an *Archival Assistance Program* funded through a grant generously provided by the *National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)*.

This program will provide the O'Brien Library with a free assessment of our archival collection by a trained .

preservation professional. After the assessment a written report outlining the assessors findings and recommendations will be given to the library.

The information collected by the assessor and included in our report will be shared with the *Office of the State Archivist and Conservation Connection*.

The Archival Assessment program was initiated in order to develop opportunities to assist museums, historical societies and libraries in improving how they care for their archival collections.

A similar grant-funded study

was done on the O'Brien Library rare book and archival collection in 1994 by the *Northeast Document Conservation Center*. Though this survey was done previously, archival guidelines call for reassessment of collections that haven't been evaluated in over five years.

It is hoped that this new assessment will give us insight into furthering our goal to preserve and make more accessible our rare and archival books and manuscripts.

Happiest of New Years!

*Karen Lesiak,
Library Director*

"In the Old Testament the New lies hidden, in the New Testament the Old is laid open."

*Augustine of Hippo
354-430*

The World of Rare Books

continued from pg 1

vellum & paper, history of printing, first editions, bindings, book terminology, color plates and maps, illustration, and dust jackets.

Michael Dooling has been a collector and dealer of rare books and manuscripts for thirty-five years. His areas of interest include Americana, early printing, fine bindings, local history and original handwritten diaries and manuscripts. Michael has turned his avocation for rare books into historical writing, often using his book collection for much of his source material. He is an author

of two books, *An Historical Account of Charles Island* and *Milford Lost & Found* – and is nearly finished with a third book on several unsolved crimes in New England. He also has written historical articles for *The Log of Mystic Seaport*, *Writer's Digest*, *The Sinclair Lewis Society*, and *Naval History*.

In addition, on February 18 the O'Brien Library will have an exhibit of special items from its rare books and manuscript collection. This collection includes, among many other treasures, a 15th century Monastic choir book, a 15th

century Monastic Constitution, and a "cradle-book," or incubulum which refers to a book printed prior to the year 1500 and has end papers even older than the book itself.

The O'Brien Library exhibit and program are part of an initiative called *Snapshot in Libraries* designated for February 18 which was spearheaded by *The Connecticut Library Association*, *the Connecticut State Library* and *The Connecticut Library Consortium*. It is based on a project of the same name created by the *New Jersey State Library* and the *New Jersey Library Association*. Its goal is to capture a slice of life in all



types of Connecticut's libraries through library activities where people come together to visit, learn and share resources and ideas.

The World of Rare Books program on Saturday February 20 is an extension of the archival exhibit on display at the library on February 18.

Registration is recommended. The program is open to the public. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested.

New Books

America's Prophet: Moses and the American Society. Bruce Feiler, 2009 [973 FEI]

Being Catholic Now: prominent Americans talk about change in the church and the quest for meaning. Three Rivers Press, 2008 [282.09 KEN]

Children of the Dust: a memoir of Pakistan. Ali Eteraz. HarperOne, 2010 [297.092 ETE]

The Five Ways We Grieve: finding your personal path to healing after the loss of a loved one. Susan Berger. Trumpeter, 2009 [155.937 BER]

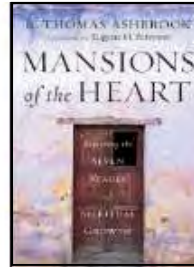
Genesis Enigma: why the Bible is scientifically accurate. Andrew Parker. Dutton, 2009. [212.1 PAR]

Have a Little Faith: a true story. Mitch Albom. Hyperion, 2009 (158.1 ALB)

The Heavens proclaim: astronomy and the Vatican. Prepared by the members of the Vatican Observatory on the occasion of the International Year of Astronomy. Our Sunday Visitor, 2009 [522.1 HEA]

Jesus of History as the Christ of Faith. Daniel Liderbach 2009, c1989 [232.9 LID]

Mansions of the Heart: exploring the seven stages of spiritual growth. R. Thomas Ashbrook. Jossey Bass, 2009 [249.1 ASH]



The Saint and the Sultan: the crusades, Islam, and Francis of Assisi's

mission of peace. Paul Moses. Doubleday, 2009. [261.27 MOS]

Seven Pillars of Servant Leadership: practicing the wisdom of leading by serving. James Sipe and Don Frick. Paulist Press, 2009 [658.4 SIP]

Thank God Ahead of Time: the life and spirituality of Solanus Casey. St. Anthony Messenger, 2009 [92 C338c]

Samuel Johnson: a Life. David Nokes. Henry Holt, 2010 [92 J69n]

New Media

Henry Poole is Here. (99 mins.) ; Eng/Sp/Sr. Lakeshore Ent. Group, 2008. A disillusioned man attempts to hide from life only to discover he can't escape the forces of hope. [DVD HEN] [cc]

Pope Benedict XVI: a profile on the life of Joseph Ratzinger (37 min.) ; Eng/Ger/Russ. Blogovest Media, 2009. Revealing insight into the life of Pope Benedict XVI [DVD 92 BENXVI]

Lost and Found Family (91 min.) Sony Pictures Home Ent., 2009 [cc] When her husband dies Mrs. Ester Hobbes finds herself

making unexpected connections. [DVD LOS]

Gifted Hands (90 min) Sony Home Ent., 2009. A true story about a renowned brain surgeon who's faith helps him overcome obstacles towards his dream of becoming the world's leading neurosurgeon. [DVD GIF]

Florence Nightingale (140 min.) Sony Ent., 2009. Based on the life of an aristocratic woman who was scorned by her community and faced great opposition for her new way of thinking. [DVD FLO]

Taking Chance (78 min.); Eng/Fr/Sp/Por. HBO,

2009. A true story of one soldier's death in battle, another soldier's journey of discovery and the nation's reverence towards its war dead. [DVD TAK]

Theater of the Word. The Honor of Israel Gow: a Father Brown Mystery. (60 min.) EWTN, 2009. One of Chesterton's classic Fr. Brown mysteries. Fr. Brown reveals his uncanny ability to penetrate beyond appearances into the inner mechanisms that drive human behavior.

Darwin's Dilemma: the mystery of the Cambrian Fossil Record. Illustra Media, 2009 [DVD 575 DAR]

GK Chesterton: the Apostle of common sense hosted by Dale Ahlquist. (14 programs—25 min. each.) Ignatious. [DVD 92 CHE]

Sanctity within Reach: Pier Giorgio Frassati (90 min.) EWTN, 2009. Blessed Pier, an avid mountain climber and fun-loving Italian youth, died at the young age of 24 and left behind an astounding legacy of good works. [DVD 92 SAN]



The Year for Priests June 19, 2009-June 19, 2010

Father Solanus Casey, the “People’s Priest”

Father Solanus Casey was born Bernard Francis Casey on November 25, 1870 on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He was the sixth child in a family of ten boys and six girls born to Irish immigrant parents. He left home to work throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota in a variety of jobs including logger and hospital orderly. He was one of the first street car operators in the Midwest. He worked in a stone quarry and in a state prison where he crossed paths with notorious criminals, among them, members of the Jesse James gang.

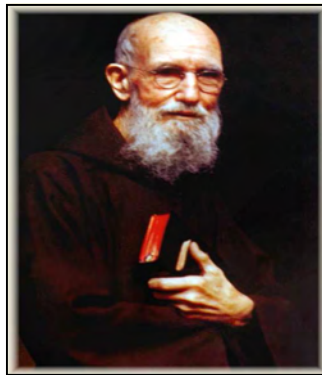
As a young man, he fell in love and proposed, yet never married. He quit school in 8th grade to work and help support his family. Religious education was a challenge.

Eventually, at the age of 21 Bernard entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. He did poorly in several subjects and five years later he contemplated a religious order. Invested in the Capuchin Order at St. Bonaventure in Detroit he joined on Christmas Eve, 1896. He received the habit and took the name Francis Solanus, by which he would be known for the rest of his life.

After his ordination in 1904, Fr. Solanus spent 20 years in New York, Harlem and Yonkers. In

1924 he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he worked for 20 years. There he earned the nick name, “People’s Priest.”

During the Great Depression, his concerns for the poor led to the first soup kitchen established by the Detroit Capuchins.



Father Solanus Casey
1870-1957

He was assigned a rather lowly position as a porter that brought him in frequent contact with people from humble walks of life—the poor, the desperate, the hungry and sick.

Fr. Solanus spent his life in the service of people. At the monastery door as porter he met thousands of people from every age and walk of life and was given another recognition as, “The Doorkeeper.” He was always ready to listen to anyone at any time, day or night. His gentle nature put people at ease and encouraged even the despairing to hope.

During his final illness, he remarked, “I’m offering my suffering that all might be one. If only I could see the conversion of the whole world.” His last conscious act was sitting up in bed and saying, “I give my soul to Jesus Christ.” He died at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957 at the same day and hour of his first Holy Mass 53 years earlier.

An estimated 20,000 people passed by his coffin prior to his burial in the cemetery at St. Bonaventure’s

On July 8, 1987, Father Casey’s incorrupt body was exhumed and subsequently reinterred inside the Father Solanus Casey Center at St. Bonaventure Monastery.

His cause for sainthood was opened in 1982. In 1995, Pope John Paul II declared Father Casey to be venerable, the first step in the path to sainthood. Many miraculous cures have been associated with Father Solanus’s intercession, both when he was alive and after his death. Pilgrims from around the world continue to make pilgrimages to the tomb of Father Solanus.

Sources:

<http://www.solanuscarsey.org/>;
<http://www.onenewsnow.com/>;
<http://irishcatholichumanist.blogspot.com>

The O’Brien Library has additional books and media about Fr. Solanus Casey.

For a list of available library resources on the priesthood visit:
<http://www.stseminary.org/obrienlibrary.htm>

Resources by Pope Benedict XVI



In this past year, Pope Benedict XVI has written a series of books as part of his *Spiritual Thoughts Series*. This series was published by *The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)*

Each book comes with a note's section and an index and range from about 88 pages to 150 pages.

Titles in the series include the following with a statement by Pope Benedict XVI:

The Eucharist. "How great is humanity's need today to rediscover the source of

it's hope in the Sacrament of the Eucharist!"

The Word of God. "The Word of God...indicates the path of life to man and reveals the secrets of holiness to him."

St. Paul. "In fact, the Lord's call to Paul on the road to Damascus brought him to this: to making Christ the center of his life...of knowing him and the mystery of his love,...striving to proclaim him to all...'that we may spread his name' (Rom 1:5)."

The Saints. "The saint is the person who is so fascinated by the beauty of God and by his perfect truth as to be progressively transformed by it."

The Priesthood. "My dear priests, may Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn 14:6), be the object of our thought, the topic of our words, the reason for our life."

Following Christ. "To believe is not only a way of thinking or an idea...it is a way of acting, a manner of living."

"He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away."

Luke 1:43

Lenten Resources

Ashes to Easter: Lenten meditations. Robert F. Morneau. Crossroad, 1996 [248 M866a]

Essential Lenten Handbook: a daily companion with a glossary of key terms. Liguori, 2000 [263.92 SAN]

Journey to the Center: a Lenten passage. Thomas Keating. Crossroad, 1999 [242.34 K385]

Lent: an uncommon love story. Antoinette Boscoe. Pauline Books, 2005 [242.36 BOS]

Lent and Easter: prayer at

home. Mark G. Boyer. Ave Maria Press, 2002 [242.34 BOY]

Lent and Easter Wisdom from St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Liguori, 2008 [242.34 LENT]

The Lenten Labyrinth: daily reflections for the journey of lent. Edward Hays. Notre Dame, 1994. [242.34 HAYS]

Living the Beatitudes: daily reflections for lent. L'Arche Daybreak Community. St. Anthony Messenger, 1995 [242.34 LIV]

Quantam Grace: Lenten reflections on creation and



connectedness. Judy Canato. Ave Maria Press, 2003 [242.36 CAN]

Seven Words of Jesus and Mary : lessons on Cana and Calvary. Fulton Sheen. Reprinted. Liguori, 2001 [252.5 S541]

Show Me the Way: readings for each day of Lent. Crossroad, 1992 [242.34 N925]

What He Did for Love: a companion for the forty days of lent. Frances Gaeta. Resurrection Press, 1998 (242.36 LENT)

Looking for a unique conference experience?

The Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary provides a cost-effective meeting and learning environment for religious, ecumenical, educational, human services and non-profit organizations. For information on how you can book an event contact Customer Services Manager, Elena O'Halloran at 860-242-5573, ext. 101

Archbishop O'Brien Library

*Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary
467 Bloomfield Ave.
Bloomfield, CT 06002*



*Hrs.: M, W, Th, F—9:30 a.m.—5 p.m.;
Tu 9:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Phone: 860-242-5573, ext. 115/114
Fax: 860-242-4886*

www.stseminary.org/obrienlibrary.htm

*Karen Lesiak, MLS, Library Director
Rody Bazzano, BA, Assistant Director*

Digging Deeper — through April 4, 2010 — A new collaborative exhibition featuring the works of Willie Cole and Hank Willis Thomas, is currently on exhibit at the **Amistad Center for Art & Culture** at the **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**. Both Cole and Thomas were invited to explore The Amistad Center's extensive collection of art, artifacts, and archives which document the African American experience and respond with new works inspired by this rich source material. The show will also include additional objects from The Amistad Center's collection to highlight the common threads between historical characterizations of race and present-day conceptions of African American culture.

The New Britain Museum of American Art has an exciting year planned that includes special events, travel programs, and numerous adult, family and school programs. To access their site go to NBMAA.org

Passes for free admission to the Wadsworth Atheneum and The New Britain Museum of American Art are available to check out in the library.

Winter/Spring Calendar

February 14—St. Valentine's Day

February 15—Presidents' Day—Library closed

February 17—Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

February 18—Archival Exhibit in Library

*February 20—The World of Rare Books Library
program—10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon.*

*February 17, 1888—Birthday, Monsignor Ronald Knox,
British Catholic convert and author*

*March 3 (d. 1955)—Feast Day, Mother Katherine
Drexel, Saint*

March 17—St. Patrick's Day

*March 25, 1925—Birthday, Flannery O'Connor,
American Catholic and noted author*

March 28—Palm Sunday

*March 29, 1882—The Knights of Columbus, a fraternal order
founded by Father Michael McGivney and with origins
in New Haven was chartered by the Connecticut
General Assembly,*

April 2—Good Friday—Library closed

April 4—Easter Sunday

April 5—Easter Monday—Library closed