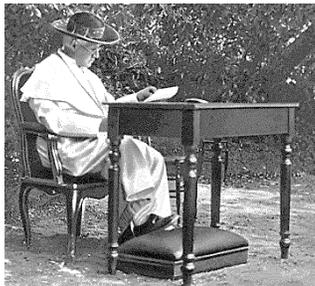


St. Pius X Library Ponderings



Pope Pius X in the Vatican Gardens, 1913.

In the Catholic Church, the month of **November** is dedicated to the poor souls in purgatory. While November 1st & 2nd are days dedicated

to remembering the saints of the Church and commemorating the faithful departed, we also remember and celebrate multiple memorials and feast days such as Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church (Nov 10th), the Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Nov 21st), and the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Nov 25th); not to mention our own Thanksgiving holiday (Nov. 22nd).

Why not enrich your understanding of these holy days in our Church by checking out a few books from our parish library? A few suggested selections include *The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God* by (Venerable) Archbishop Fulton Sheen; *Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI or even

Purgatory Explained by the Lives and Legends of the Saints by Fr. F.X. Shoupe, S.J.; to name but a few. Our wonderful library has many selections to choose from!

Make plans to join us also for our St. Pius X Library **(Re) Open House** on the **First Sunday of Advent, December 2nd** with viewing of the popular Crèche Exhibit! This year, we have a parishioner who will show her collection of 30 crèches of all sizes and from many parts of the world! Continue watching the parish bulletin for details. To display your family's crèche, phone (202) 449-3974 or email: tflippo@blessedsacramentdc.org.

Creche Exhibit

*First Sunday of Advent,
December 2nd*

8:00am - 2:00pm and 4:00 - 5:30pm

Enjoy apple cider, hot chocolate, and holiday cookies while viewing the exhibit

To display your family crèche, ph: 202/449-3974
or email: tflippo@blessedsacramentdc.org

In the World of Libraries

Libraries today are faced with a big decision: to progress forward with the modern digital era or to remain the same to continue with what they've done in the past? Three-quarters of Americans have access to the Internet providing instant information (regardless of whether it is factual). For this reason, the modern library is shifting from one that is "transactional" to one that is "relational."

Traditionally, libraries were defined by transactional procedures such as lending and returning of books and other materials, or helping users find answers to their questions. Thus, a library's main purpose was to meet the need for knowledge and education initially fulfilled through books. In the early modern era, this fulfillment extended to music and periodicals. However, in the present modern age of the worldwide web, multimedia and digital materials accessed by smartphones and portable electronic devices readily provide this same information – and without having to make a trip to the library.

(continued on reverse)

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." ~ Saint Augustine of Hippo

Today, the library is no longer defined by the number of books on its shelves, but rather how it can be a *living space for users*. People desire social interaction and are more focused on learning activities with the possibility of sharing knowledge with others. Therefore, the “relational library” is a relatively new development where libraries become a meeting and interaction place for people of all ages.

To address this need, libraries are clearing away old bookshelves to make room for new “maker spaces.” Maker spaces are designed to allow patrons to develop new skills and share with others the skills they already have. This allows the public to learn new information through social interaction. Our parish’s St. Pius X library likewise desires to serve the parish as a gathering space while also addressing the needs of the modern digital era. For example, the addition of a large, wall-mounted flat computer screen connected to the internet would allow us to Skype a book club discussion with a homebound parishioner. Such would also allow us to live-stream a meeting with our counterparts elsewhere in the Archdiocese, a sister parish in another state, or even in another part of the world.

Creating a reading nook with children’s picture books and child-size table and chairs would allow mothers with toddlers an opportunity to socialize and form a mother’s reading group.

With new digital elements in place, as well as repurposed reading spaces, our parish library can grow alongside technology to provide for the needs of parishioners of all ages and help them come together for not solely education and sharing of knowledge but also for intergenerational activities in ways never before considered. To obtain this vision, however, the parish library needs your help. Why not give a gift designated to the parish library to help us purchase one of our “Wish List” items? Simply complete the form shown at right, cut along perforated line, and mail or drop off to the parish center with your donation. Thank you!

Moms and Tots ~
 mark your calendars for a library celebration of **Saint Nicholas Day on Thursday, Dec. 6th** with story, songs, snacks, special shoes, and special guest! Watch for details!



St. Pius X Library *“Wish List”*

I / We would like to make a monetary donation to the parish library “Wish List.”

Amount: \$ _____
(Check made payable to Blessed Sacrament parish, noted “Library Wish List.”)

- 1. Flat Screen LED Computer Monitor,**
 32” wall-mount.
 Apprx. cost: \$500.00
- 2. Toddler Time Reading Center:**
 child-size table with 4 chairs.
 Apprx. cost: \$100.00
- 3. Children’s large picture books**
 with Catholic/Christian themes.
 Apprx. cost: \$15 - \$25.00 each

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your generosity!

“Nothing would please us more than to see our beloved children form the habit of reading the Gospels – not merely from time to time, but every day.” ~ Pope Pius X