

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Presents Guided Tours Of Its Historical Scripture Collection, the Craig Scripture Collection

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2007 – De Paul Library

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—You do not have to travel to a museum to see one of the most historic Biblical collections in the Midwest. In fact, the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan. has one of the most distinct collections in Kansas housed in its library.

The Craig Scripture Collection is a 2,000 piece collection with pieces dating back to the 1200s. **At 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27**, professors from USM's theology, philosophy and pastoral ministry departments will lead guided tours of the Craig Collection **inside De Paul Library**. **The tours are free and open to the public**. Those in attendance will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to see Union Station's "Dead Sea Scroll" presentation. Call 913-758-4332 for details.

According to Sister Kathleen Wood, chair of the USM theology and pastoral ministry department, the Craig Collection contains a vast array of Biblical and religious artifacts. From handwritten scriptures to printed Bibles, the Craig Collection is a must see, Wood said.

"The Craig Scripture Collection is a very fine collection with some very rare and unique pieces dating as far back as the 1200s before the printing press," Wood said. "Its depth and breadth of many different types of scripture and gospel writings is outstanding."

Two of the most unique pieces in the collection are the "Craig Codex" and the Saur Bible. The Craig Codex is a collection of handwritten and hand-stitched Gospel manuscripts dating back to circa 1228. The Saur Bible is the first American Bible printed in America, just a few short years before the American Revolution.

The Craig Collection also contains a facsimile of the Guttenberg Bible, 45 single leaf manuscripts dating back to the 12th century, nine books of exegesis and eight completed Bibles printed before 1501.

The Craig Scripture Collection was donated to the University of Saint Mary by Sir John and Mary Craig, and contains more than 2,000 cataloged items.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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