Living Seeds of History: The John Stokes and Mary’s Gardens Exhibit

Stephanie Shreffler and Kayla Harris
University of Dayton
University of Dayton Libraries

• Made up of Roesch Library and the Marian Library
• 3 distinct archives/special collections areas:
  • University Archives and Special Collections (Roesch Library)
  • U.S. Catholic Special Collection (Roesch Library)
  • Marian Library
• Collaboration across University Libraries was crucial in planning process
What is a Mary’s Garden?
Indoor Garden
Archival Displays

American Catholicism

American Catholicism before and after Vatican II differed in many ways. Prior to the Council, American Catholicism tended to focus on individual piety rather than collective identity. Afterwards, movements such as aggiornamento and liberation theologian Catholicism were in the teachings of the Council. This also points to how the Church can change the nature of American Catholicism in the twenty-first century.

Catholic Social Justice

The term "social justice" involves fairness and equality in society—addressing systematic inequity, empowering human rights, and reducing the suffering of those who are at risk of being displaced by societal changes. In the 21st century, the Catholic Church works to promote a common moral and social policy that aligns with the values of a free society, as articulated in the Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" by Pope Benedict XVI.
Art Gallery
John S. Stokes Jr. (1920–2007) was a passionate advocate of Mary Gardens and co-founder of the Mary’s Gardens movement.

Stokes’s legacy covers the second half of the twentieth century and serves as an important example of Marian and Catholic history in the United States. In this exhibit, explore artifacts and photos from the John Stokes and Mary’s Gardens collection, donated to the Mary’s Gardens in May 2013.

There is more to see!

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Our Lady, Stokey Jr.
Challenges and Opportunities

• Committee Composition
  • Library Advisory Council
  • UD employee changes

• Garden Logistics
  • Available flower varieties
  • Last minute changes
  • Mulch
  • Insects
Partnerships and Collaborations
Takeaways

• Look for ways to make archival exhibits interactive
• Friends’ groups can come up with creative ideas that “break the mold”
• Tie your exhibits into programs or events that you are already hosting