

HONORING THE PAST



EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Message from the President

The fall semester is rapidly coming to a close as we prepare for the Christmas holidays and approach the start of 2023. I recognize that the first half of Fontbonne's centennial year is concluding. The activities and events that have occurred to mark this special anniversary have highlighted our history and Catholic identity emphasized our relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and showcased the excellence of our students, faculty, and staff.

I'm pleased to invite the campus community to an equally rich lineup of celebrations in the new year, beginning with the faculty panel on Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m. Four emeriti faculty members will reminisce about their time at Fontbonne. Please join Mary Abkemeier, Sister Mary Carol Anth, Donald Burgo, and Susan Lenihan as they share stories about their combined more than 150 years of academic experiences at 6800 Wydown! I know this will be an evening in the Lewis Room we won't want to miss.

I hope you'll also plan now to join the many supporters of Fontbonne University at the gala, which will be held at the Ritz on May 13. This evening will feature an opening reception, a delicious meal, a surprise student presentation, the announcement of the university's comprehensive campaign, and dancing with a band that plays everyone's favorite hits. Faculty and staff may purchase two half-price tickets for \$150 each through payroll deduction; Lucy Marty in payroll can assist you with this purchase.

As we break from our regular campus routine to celebrate the holidays and the start of another year, I wish each of you the joys of the season. May 2023 be

filled with peace, health, and happiness for each of you and your loved ones.

- Dr. Nancy H. Blattner

Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER

10: Commencement

11: Lyon Society

For a full list of events, click on the below buttons:

[Student Activities & Events](#)

[Centennial Info & Events](#)

[Athletics Schedule](#)

From the Archives



Dreaming of summer vacation already? Fontbonne's original gymnasium included a pool! It was used for both physical education courses and for swimming lessons to neighborhood children. This is an experimental program in 1972. Fontbonne students worked with preschoolers from the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater St. Louis. See more of Fontbonne's history at GriffinShare's photo collection: <https://griffinshare.fontbonne.edu/uasc-photos/>

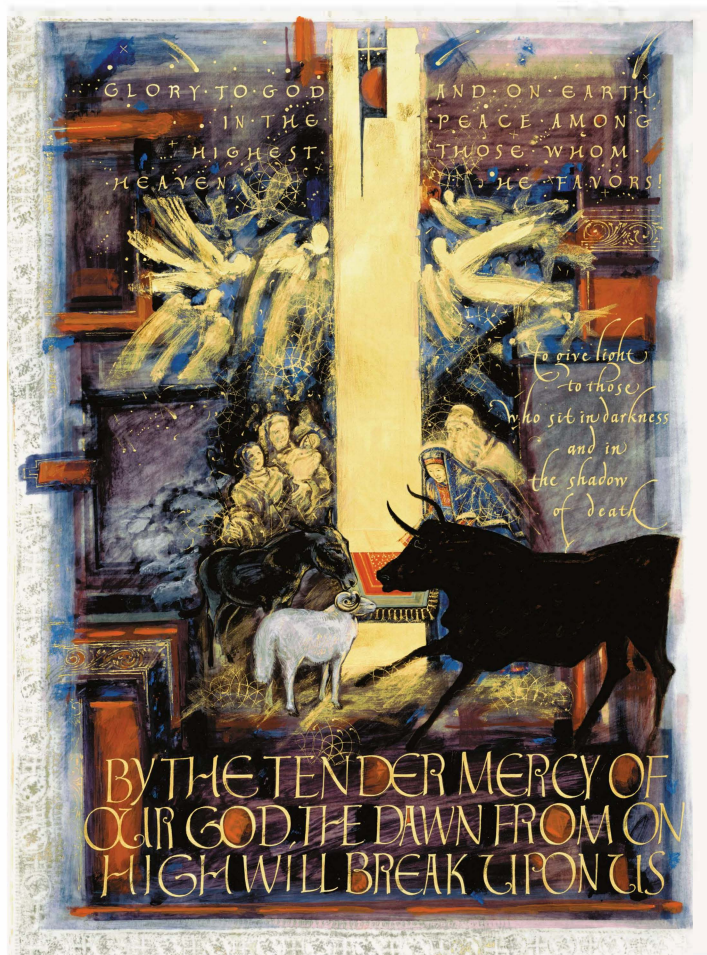
Centennial Collections

[Share your Memories with Archives](#)

The Saint John's Bible: Understanding the Illustrations

Birth of Christ

LUKE 2:1 - 20



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

How is this image traditional? How is it unusual?

"This frontispiece for Luke draws us into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, where Luke's account of the nativity is the focus. The revelation of the divine is seen in the shaft of the gold coming from the manger, into which peer Mary, shepherds, and one of the kings. Notice their expressions of awe and wonder and Mary's intimate leaning in and wise smile. The shepherds are women and children, one holding a small child. This was probably the reality in the time of Jesus's birth. Remember that David was a young shepherd, and Rachel met Jacob when she was watering her father's sheep at the well. Shepherds and sheep, like the ram in front, play an important role not just in this story but in the Old and New Testaments. A similar horned sacrificial ram is seen in the Prophets illumination *Suffering Servant*.

Again the illumination has many sections that you can 'read,' finding echoes to other illuminations: the angels from *Jacob's Ladder*, the filigree that has appeared in many illuminations, the stars from *Abraham and Sarah and Creation*. All that has been promised is being fulfilled; God is revealed to humanity; the two worlds are bridged.

At the forefront of the scene are the animals. All the figures circling the manger draw our attention to the coexistence of the early and the spiritual in this event.

The donkey and the ram are easy to relate to a biblical context. In addition to the parables of the sheep and the metaphor of Jesus as the sacrifice back in Genesis, Jesus will also be our sacrificial lamb. Jesus will enter Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, another connection between the birth and passion.

The vertical shaft of light from the manger, together with the horizontal lines of angels, makes the figure of the cross. This image also reminds us that the crucifixion is tied to the birth, the reason Christ came. Additionally, it connects to the ancient legend that the wood of Christ's crib was used to make his cross."

Extracted from "The Art of the Saint John's Bible" by Susan Sink

Reserve the Saint John's Bible

Please use [this form](#) to reserve the Heritage edition of Gospels & Acts for your class or event. For questions, email rvankniest@fontbonne.edu or call 314-719-8046.



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