



Message from the President

In mid-February, Adam and I took the celebration of the centennial to the Sunshine State for a few days when we met with alums and donors to talk about the many exciting events of the past few months and those still to come. Those with whom we visited were appreciative of the centennial lapel pins and Saint John's Bible bookmarks as commemorative keepsakes of a milestone year in the history of Fontbonne.

Support for the gala continues with more than 300 tickets sold before the official invitations have been mailed. We hope to have 500 in attendance at the Ritz-Carlton on May 13 and hope you will join us for an evening of dinner and dancing, tributes, and surprise reveals. It's not too late to sign up for payroll deduction and reserve a ticket or two for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Also, there is still time to RSVP for one of the two remaining Motherhouse tours at 10:30 a.m. on April 20 or 4:00 p.m. on April 26; each tour is followed by a meal with the CSJs. Please [email me](#) and let me know which tour you'd prefer to join. The Sisters have asked that we give them the list of attendees by March 20.

Finally, if you have an item that should be included in our centennial time capsule, please contact [Rebecca van Kniest](#) or [Jack Luzkow](#). We're going to bury the time capsule at the end of the spring semester and want its contents to represent our students, faculty, and staff.

- Dr. Nancy H. Blattner, President

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

20: RSVP due for April 20 & 26 tours of Motherhouse

30: Fontbonne faculty lecture with Dr. Kelly Lane de-Graaf

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

[Student Activities & Events](#)

[Centennial Info & Events](#)

[Athletics Schedule](#)

From the Archives



Throughout the early decades, Fontbonne students celebrated “College Day.” In October, they would decorate their cars, get dressed up, and parade to the Motherhouse to celebrate our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJs). This photo, from 1941, shows two students ready to set off on their visit to the Sisters. See more of Fontbonne’s history at [GriffinShare’s photo collection](#).

Centennial Collections

[Share your Memories with Archives](#)

The Saint John's Bible: Understanding the Illustrations



The Word Made Flesh

JOHN 1:1 - 14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Which verses of these fourteen can you tie directly to the illumination?

"The Committee of Illumination and Text saw in the prologue to the Gospel of John the biggest challenge of the four frontispiece illuminations. John's writings are more abstract than the other gospels and contain some of the core ideas of Christian theology. Jesus is here "the Word" that was God and with God at the time of creation. He is also in this passage the Light of the World. John the Baptist is mentioned as the one who testified to him, but the focus is clearly on Jesus who had the power to bring people into the truth, in other words to reveal the nature of things through his words and his life.

The image here incorporates some of these key ideas. You will recognize the stenciled crosses from the transfiguration illumination. The filigree we've seen before has also demonstrated the presence of the divine. How does this particular passage relate to Genesis and creation? The image of Christ seems to be stepping from the darkness that recalls the chaos and nothingness of the creation story and moving toward light and order. In fact, the texture behind Christ's head is inspired by an image taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and reflects the cosmic character of the event. To the left, a keyhole recalls the tradition of locked and hinged manuscripts securing, protecting, and hiding the

“key” to the Word of God. It might also make you think of standing at the door and knocking, of locked diaries, and of secret prayers of the heart.

The text in cursive script over the left side of the illuminations is from Colossians 1:15-20. It expands on the announcement in John’s gospel that “The Word became flesh and lived among us” (v. 14). It connects the theology of reconciliation through the crucifixion and resurrection to the original creation and the final judgement, the alpha and omega:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of 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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