

LUMA and the CROSSINGS & DWELLINGS Special Exhibit August 6, 2014

On a beautiful and temperate Wednesday afternoon, 20 CTPA members and friends, visited the **Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA)**, located at 820 N. Michigan Avenue in a 1926 Gothic Revival building across from the historic Water Tower (and the newly named Jane Byrne Park). The visit was arranged with the cooperation of **Mary Arhondonis, the LUMA special events coordinator**, with thanks to **Marsha Goldstein, previous owner of My Kind of Town Tours**, and CTPA education co-director, Sharon Sylvester.

LUMA is a visual arts museum whose mission is dedicated to exploring, promoting and understanding art and artistic expression that illuminates the enduring spiritual quests of all cultures and societies. The museum reflects Loyola University's Jesuit founding and identity and has been dedicated since its opening in 2005 to assist people of all religions and creeds to explore their faith and spiritual quests.

LUMA displays and interprets Loyola's medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque collection known as the Martin D'Arcy Collection and temporary exhibitions. LUMA has an annual exhibition of historical, modern, and contemporary exhibitions of art, architecture, and decorative arts. LUMA's website in FY10 was visited by almost 87,000 visitors and onsite attendance is approximately 25,000 per year.

The exhibit **CROSSINGS AND DWELLINGS: RESTORED JESUITS, WOMEN RELIGIOUS, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, 1814-2014** celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Restoration of the Jesuits and will be **open July 19-October 19, 2014**. In addition to the Jesuits, the exhibition recounts the significant contributions of the women religious who worked side by side with the Jesuits. Both groups were instrumental in providing both education and healthcare. (Several of our CTPA members, such as Joseph Cunniff CTG, can attest to the educational rigors and wonders of a Jesuit education!) Through countless visual objects, maps, books, document, objects, and textiles, the exhibition tells the story of the Midwest's indigenous and immigrant populations and of the European Jesuits and women religious who came to serve urban-immigrants and Native American populations.

Our group was led by **LUMA's senior curator, Jonathan Canning**. The special exhibition consists of five galleries that include a pair of celestial and terrestrial globes by Willem Jansz Blaeu (1571-1638), approximately one hundred amazing pencil drawings by Nicolas Point, S.J. (1799-1868); maps drawn by Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J. (1801-1873), and vestments and clothing gifted to DeSmet by Native Americans.

A careful examination of chalices, reliquaries, and a golden, jeweled-inlaid monstrance demonstrate the importance and inspiration of beauty and ritual in the Catholic Church. Perhaps the most interesting and compelling part of **CROSSINGS AND DWELLINGS** is the examinations of the pioneering role of the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) in Chicago educational institutions, including several schools of Holy Family parish, Immaculata High School (located at Irving Park Road and Marine Drive, NW corner and currently serving as a Islamic University and a French School), and Mundelein College, established in 1929.

Mundelein was the last Catholic college for women in Illinois until it affiliated with Loyola University in 1991. Mundelein undergrads were often referred to by those males at Loyola University as "mundle bundles"--sexist but a part of history. The college was located where Devon Avenue turns south onto Sheridan Road. The BVMs did not wish the school's architecture to mimic Gothic Revival, which was popular in the early 20th century. Instead, the sisters wanted the Mundelein skyscraper to

be more modern and reflective of the 1930s, and it was built in the Art Deco style. For this old codger of a reporter, it was comforting to see photographs of priests in their habits and nuns in their wimples (obviously pre-Vatican II).

Holy Family Church, located on West Roosevelt Road is a favorite of mine and a religious institution that I visit with groups several times annually. In 1857, Father Arnold Damen, S.J., began construction of what would become the second oldest church and one of our city's most beautiful. Holy Family was the original Jesuit church in Chicago and became the home to generations of immigrants in Chicago; the Jesuits established a school (today it is St. Ignatius College Prep with tuition about \$18,000 per year) which later split into two. The second school after the split became Loyola University of Chicago (incidentally the 1963 NCAA basketball champions).

The exhibition includes the Oscar won by Mundelein alumna, Mercedes McCambridge (class of 1937), who in her autobiography credited the BVMs for encouraging her dream, and a ledger of student tuition payments that notes three Comisky brothers!

CROSSINGS AND DWELLINGS begins as a history-themed exhibition that becomes one of fine art, popular culture, exploration, and cultural anthropology.

CTPA attendees received an additional treat following the guided tour by Senior Curator Jonathan Canning's skillful and superb tour. We were treated to a glass or two of fine wine, aged cheeses, crackers, fruits of the season and pastries.

This exhibition is worthy of your attention. CROSSINGS AND DWELLINGS will appeal to children, teens, University and College students, adults, and more. It will only be at LUMA through October 19 so get to see it while you can do so.

Edward Mazur, CTG; CTPA Tri-Secretary

Donna Primas CTG wrote:

The artifacts on display that caught my eye in the special exhibit were the many hand drawn maps as well as (1) a hand carved flint cross dated between 1666-75 given by the Illini tribes to Father Marquette, and (2) a stunning deer skin shirt with leaf pattern and layered (reverse quilted) red and green decorative elements given to Father Pierre-Jean DeSmet (1801-1873) by the Potawatomi tribes.

CTPA GOES TO LUMA

August 6, 2014

On a great summer Wednesday CTPA members were the guest of the Loyola University Museum of Art, LUMA. We got a brief introduction and history of the museum from **Jonathan P. Canning, the Martin D'Arcy Curator of Art** for the museum. Mr. Canning went on to tell us there is art from every continent except Australia in the museum and the mission of the museum is "*dedicated to exploring and promoting and understanding art and artistic expression that illuminates the enduring spiritual questions of all cultures and societies.*"

Mr. Canning also gave us a guided tour of the featured exhibition, ***Crossings and Dwellings: Restored Jesuits, Women Religious, American Experience, 1814-2014***. Using historical maps, books, documents, objects and textiles, the exhibition tells the story of the 19th century European Jesuits and women religious who arrived on the country's expanding western frontier to serve both

Native Americans and urban immigrant populations. The exhibition includes historical treasures such as globes by Willem Janszoon Blaeu depicting The Celestial and The Terrestrial (which were out of date by the time they arrived in the US). There are pencil drawings by Nicolas Point, S.J., maps by Pierre-Jean DeSmet, S.J., and clothing gifted to DeSmet by Native Americans. The exhibition also examines the pioneering roles of the Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) at Chicago grammar and high schools and Mundelein College.

In 1857, Arnold Damen, S.J. Began construction on what would become the second oldest church and one of the most beautiful in Chicago, Holy Family Church is the original Jesuit church in the city. This building feat came only 33 years after the Jesuits were released from Pope Pius VII's 41 year suppression. Holy Family Parish became the home to generations of immigrants in Chicago and the Jesuits established a school, now St. Ignatius College Prep which later split and the second became Loyola University of Chicago. Holy Family is located at 1080 Roosevelt Road in Chicago.

The Jesuits often worked with the pioneering women of the religious of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) in the building of Chicago educational institutions, including several schools in the Holy Family Parish, Immaculata High School and Mundelein College. That part of the exhibition show the impact that women religious had in educating and building character in young women. That was shown in the establishment of Mundelein College in 1929 by the BVMs. Mundelein was the last Catholic college for women in Illinois until it affiliated with Loyola in 1991. The BVMs did not wish the school's architecture to mimic Gothic revival which was popular in the early 20th century. The sisters wanted the Mundelein building skyscraper to be more modern and reflective of the 1930's and it was built in the Art Deco style.

A bit of Hollywood is added to the exhibition with the inclusion of the Oscar won by Mundelein alumna Mercedes McCambridge (class of 1937) for her role in *All the Kings Men* for Best Supporting Actress; who in her autobiography which credited the BVMs for encouraging her dream. Older artifacts (desks, photos and scientific instruments) from the high schools and colleges were also included in the exhibition.

Just before the tour concluded we had a brief visit to the **permanent collection** on the third floor. **The Martin D'Arcy, S.J. Collection** is one of the finest collections of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque art in the Midwest. It is particularly noted for its diverse holdings of three-dimensional objects that epitomize both the religious and secular aspects of European life. There are devotional ivories, painted sculptures and enameled liturgical objects featured among its medieval highlights in covering the Renaissance. The D'Arcy is especially strong in objects commissioned to celebrate familial events such as marriage and childbirth.

We concluded the tour with a light wine and cheese reception where we met some of the staff and interns that are part of the museum.

Another informative and enjoyable outing showcasing another Chicago sight for visitors.

Submitted by
Gina V Driskell, Co-secretary CTPA

LUMA is located at 820 N. Michigan Avenue. The hours are: Tuesday (FREE day!), 11 am to 8 pm, Wednesday through Sunday 11 am to 6pm and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Museum admission is general \$8, seniors (65 and over) \$6, non-Loyola students under 25 with ID is \$2 and free with proper identification to members of Loyola University Chicago faculty and staff. Docent tours are available at noon and 2pm daily included in the price of admission. For group tour reservations call 312.915.7604, to reach the museum call 312.915.7600.

Check out the photos, videos and additional information on line at: <http://luc.edu/crossings/>