



Text by Margaret Connolly  
Photos by Susan McKinney



# Mass, Dedication Highlight Merton Celebration

In a sunny, stained-glass-lit reading room, on a cold, brilliant Sunday, Thomas Merton was "ushered into the teaching faculty" of Nazareth College in the form of his literary legacy. The quote is from Dr. Robert A.

Kidera, president of the college, who is shown at the lower right accepting a copy of the new Merton Collection catalogue from the librarian, Richard Matzek. In the lower left photo, the librarian delivers the dedication

address. Seated with the president are Msgr. William H. Shannon and Father Irenaeus Herscher, OFM. The group photo above, also taken in the Lorette Wilmot Library, shows some of the other listeners at the Dec. 10

ceremony. They heard from Father Irenaeus, who is librarian emeritus at St. Bonaventure University, about his friendship with Thomas Merton. Dec. 10 was the 10th anniversary of the Trappist monk's death

and the 37th of his entry into Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky. Msgr. Shannon celebrated a memorial Mass (upper right) and in his homily related Advent themes to the spiritual journey of Thomas

Merton. "We do not propose a Merton 'cult,'" he said at the outset. "We merely want to encourage attention to his writings, for what they can do for all of us — what they can tell us about ourselves."

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