Who We Are

The largest repository of Thomas Merton’s life and legacy in the world through Merton’s gifts to Bellarmine beginning in November 1963

- Over 50,000 items, including the literary estate
- 20,000 pieces of correspondence to over 2,100 correspondents
- 900 drawings, 1100 photographs and 600 hours of audio taped conferences given by Merton to his community at Gethsemani
- Several hundred volumes from Merton’s own library
- Items translated into 30 languages, nearly 500 masters and doctoral theses, audiovisual materials, and a collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, and fabric art depicting Merton.
- A special room in the Center dedicated to Merton’s parents contains a collection of watercolors by Merton’s father, Owen.

What We Do

- Archive, protect, and promote the Merton literary, theological and artistic legacy.
- Share Merton’s vision of how to live a contemplative, spiritual, ecumenical, inter-faith, socially just, and peaceful life.
- Sponsor courses, lectures, retreats, seminars, Road Scholar, and exhibits for scholars, students, and the general public.
- Publish the *The Merton Seasonal* (quarterly) and *The Merton Annual* (annually) in conjunction with the International Thomas Merton Society and serve as its central office.

What We Need & What It Costs

- A Thomas Merton Endowed Chair focusing on research into Merton’s life and thought and the integration of Merton into the Bellarmine experience: $2M
- Endowed Directorship: $2M
- Facilities Upgrade for Preservation Purposes: $1M est.
- Visiting Fellows Endowment: $1M
- Staff Position Endowment in Digitization and Web Development: $1M
- Endowed Annual Merton Lecture: $250K
- Current Use Priorities: Ongoing

How You Can Help

Scan the QR code to donate now or contact Merton Center Director and Archivist, Paul Pearson, at 502-272-8177 or ppearson@bellarmine.edu, or Aili Whalen, Bellarmine Development Officer, at 502-272-8353 or awhalen2@bellarmine.edu for a consultation on giving options.