Sarah Whitman: Jesuit High School to host an edition of Saint John's Bible

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By Sarah Whitman

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Published Yesterday

Vivid colors and handwritten scriptures make the Saint John's Bible a work of fine art.

Commissioned in 1998, the original Saint John's illuminated Bible resides at Saint John's Abbey and University in Minnesota. Its 1,165 pages feature the work of calligrapher Donald Jackson, scribe to Queen Elizabeth II.

On Jan. 28, Jesuit in Tampa received one of 299 Heritage Editions, craft-made art reproductions of the historical work.

Jeffrey and Susan Turner, parents of a Jesuit freshman, gifted the edition to the school. The Turner's own two of the 299 editions. Other display locations include the Vatican Museum of Art, Library of Congress, the Mayo Clinic and Yale University.

Jesuit will host the Bible through 2022.

"To host a major project like this tied to learning, faith, culture and art, is wonderful," said Father Richard Hermes, Jesuit president.

The Bible is available for viewing inside the Jesuit Administration building. It remains locked in a hand carved wooden case. Students, faculty and other visitors can touch and turn the pages under supervision.

Jim Triggs, executive director of the Heritage Edition Program, attended the January convocation program. Staff from Jesuit's art and theology departments, as well students interested in those subject areas, were also invited.

"Art is valued in the Christian faith," Hermes said. "Whether it's through music, painting, architecture or the illumination found in the Saint John's Bible. All elements of creation can be used to glorify God."

For more information, visit www.saintjohnsbible.org and www.jesuittampa.org. Jesuit High School is located at 4701 N. Himes Ave. To contact the school, call (813) 877-5344.