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St. Vincent de Paul Seminary Library

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Florida Library History Project

St. Vincent de Paul Seminary Library

The library opened along with the seminary in 1963, staffed by the Vincentian Fathers and training priests for the Diocese of Miami. The first librarian was Reverend Leslie Sheridan. As the collection grew, the library space expanded into unused classrooms but this was not sufficient for the long term. Construction began in 1994 of a new facility more than double the size of the previous library. The new facility has been occupied since 1996 and is well suited for the development of all types of media and information access now available. The library continues to serve the information needs of the seminary, training priests for all of Florida since 1981. The new library was dedicated in February 1996 by the Most Reverend John C. Favalora, Archbishop of Miami. The collection and furnishings were moved into the new facility in May 1996 and the new library was ready for use upon the commencement of the fall semester, August 1996. Since occupying the new library, more than 16,000 volumes have been added and it is anticipated that there will be sufficient space for approximately 25 years of uninterrupted collection development. The collection currently consists of over 75,000 volumes, including 13,000 bound periodicals, 1,200 audiovisuals and 26 computer databases. The collection is currently housed within 17,500 square feet of the new building, excluding office and storage space. The architect was Spillis, Candela and Associates of Coral Gables and the contractor was Rick Mouw of Delray Beach. The former library has been renovated into office and classroom space. The principal focus of collection development is in the area of graduate level theology and philosophy, in English and in Spanish, in all available media, which supports the primary mission of the Seminary- the training of Roman Catholic priests in a bilingual-multicultural program and environment.