

The latest events that took place in the library of our seminary could serve as a litmus test for the over all attitude in our community. We have a rich heritage, poor resources, many talents and a stubborn will to see better days.

The library holds more than 7000 volumes. This is a very impressive collection for an educational institution of our size. Moreover, thanks to the generous gift of the archbishop Georg Kretschmar the number will be almost doubled. In order to make the use of our rapidly increasing collection easier, we decided to reclassify the books adopting the Library of Congress system. In one year we have processed 3400 books, and are almost done with the German section of our library. Currently we are working on the books in English and should be able to give all of them new inventory and call numbers by the end of this school year. Only in the last two months we have classified 600 books. It would not be possible if it was not for the volunteer help of the students, who come to the library and demand work!

In addition to the work with the existing collection we have been adding new volumes from the library of the archbishop Kretschmar – which until now was boxed up and stored in a place not suitable for those purposes. The students and the professors of the seminary moved more than 250 boxes weighing more than 60lb each to a new location. There the books were unpacked and put onto some temporary bookcases. That way we could look through the entire collection and pick out the books most urgently needed for the educational process even today. In the last two months we have added more than 100 new books from the archbishop's library.

Naturally, relocation of the books and new additions made us realize that we had no space to fit any more books. Since we had no additional funds we decided to move most of the bookcases which we already had in order to use our resources most efficiently. And again, thanks to the students and the wonders crafted by Prof. Reuter's screwdriver we have reached results that went even beyond our optimistic expectations. It gave us six additional bookcases.

Of course, this is not enough to fit 5000 books that are still in the storage, but it will give us an opportunity to place at least a 1000 more volumes. Besides, the new arrangement of the bookcases in our library will stimulate our professors and students to stay in shape. For, the spaces between the bookcases would make the passage of excessively large scholars impossible.

Our library is taking a new form and order because we believe in the great need of theological education in Russia and a special role of the Theological Seminary of ELCROS in that mission. As a librarian I would like to thank the students and the professors who do not waste their time and energy on making speeches about bright future but are ready to work for it.