

University of Notre Dame

These days: Late Communion  
and Confession facilities  
available in Alumni hall.

Religious Bulletin  
January 4, 1956

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Christmas Aftermath  
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Coming up: This Friday is the  
First Friday of the month --  
and it is also Epiphany.

One of the most heartening, and satisfying, reflections on the recent Holiday Season was the universal effort to bring Christ back into the Christmas celebration. In a swift glance about the country we note that:

In Santa Monica, California, a Christmas "flag" was unfurled over city hall in an effort to put increased religious emphasis into the holy day.

In Akron, Ohio, billboards bearing the message: "Remember December 25, Christ's Birthday," were erected in the area by the Akron Deanery of the Holy Name Society. The letters were in black and red against a silhouette of the Nativity scene.

In Omaha, a specially designed Nativity scene, measuring 40 ft. by 16 ft. by 13 ft., with 15 full-sized figures, was erected on the lawn of the courthouse.

In Merced, Calif., a huge tableau in the downtown area was changed every few days in a community-wide effort to "Put Christ back into Christmas."

In Dayton, O., the Chamber of Commerce urged businessmen to "keep the spiritual force of the Christmas season before your employees," by putting a religious theme into all their decorations.

In Miami, a revolving Nativity scene floated between the two bridges which links the communities, while choirs from churches sang carols from illuminated craft in the canal.

In Washington, D.C., a "Pageant of Peace" was held on the grounds of the Ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument. The pageant was laid out in the shape of a cross, while access to the grounds was along a "path of peace," decorated with Christmas trees. At the top of the cross was a life-size Nativity scene. Each evening, Christmas songs and customs of a different foreign land was presented by choirs and folk-dancing groups.

In Pittsburgh, for the first time in history, the city sponsored a Nativity scene in the center of its new shopping district -- Mellon Park. Department store groups sang carols daily at noon, with industrial choral groups taking over in the evenings. On Dec. 21, the Christmas scene was presented to television viewers on the U.S. Steel Hour program.

In Milwaukee, the Christian Mothers group contacted large and small business firms to dress up their windows with Nativity scenes. The idea caught on, and became widespread.

And so it went across the face of the nation -- a constant and Christian campaign on the part of good, Christian people against the pure materialism which has pervaded the pre-holiday season, and caused many to forget the religious significance of the Holy Season. Their effort to put Christ back into Christmas was rewarding.

If you used Christmas greeting cards with a religious theme, you belong in this group.

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PLEASE NOTE - While Dillon Hall Chapel is being painted, go to Alumni hall for late Communion and Confession facilities. The 8:00 and 8:30 Daily Masses (with Confessions and Communion until noon) will be available in Alumni hall chapel.