

Ill: sister of Sr. Petron-
illa, CSC; son of Geo. Meade;
father of Jim Coyne.

University of Notre Dame
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Merry Christmas and a special
remembrance in our Christmas
Masses for all of you.

Keeping Christ In Christmas.

It is fundamentally stated in the charter of our American Republic, the Declaration of Independence, that the foundation of our human rights lies in God Himself, because these rights are God-given--therefore, inalienable.

The United Nations, which includes the American delegation, in drawing up the so-called Covenant on Human Rights has studiously omitted any direct reference to Almighty God as the source of human rights.

If such a "covenant" be adopted and foisted upon this country the traditional phrase "In God We Trust" will have no more significance than the spirit of Christmas without the spirit of Christ.

To counter secularistic trends to make of our democracy a religion without God we must be vigilant and prepared to act with a purpose. There is a determined and overt effort being made to exile God beyond the frontiers of "our way of life."

A note of encouragement comes from the action of the New York State Board of Regents suggesting that boys and girls in our public schools should, after the pledge of allegiance at the opening of the school day, say a prayer to Almighty God.

But at the same time, Joseph Lewis, president of the Freethinkers of America announced that organized atheism would begin legal action against the prayer in order "to prevent the contamination of the public schools."

Mrs. Ruth Farbman, president of the United Parents Associations, is also against this prayer on the basis that it is a violation of "the spirit and the fact of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution concerning the separation of Church and State."

In a nutshell the secularist aim is the absolute separation of Religion and State. Keep God out of public life, out of public schools, out of government, out of this world. . . which in reality means out of our thinking, out of our willing, out of our living.

The spirit of Christmas is as yet too deeply entrenched to attack openly. But the commercialism of the Christmas season is gradually snuffing out, one by one, the Christmas candles that symbolize for us Christ, the Light of the World. Fortunately there are organized movements throughout the country to counteract this expanding secularistic influence.

The Spirit Of Christmas.

The Christmas spirit is a religious belief based upon an historical fact: the Mystery of the Incarnation and the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. . . The Christmas carol of the angels is also part of the true Christmas spirit: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will." . . The third element is the gift: "God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting."

The Christmas spirit, if you have it, means Mary. . . Christ. . . Mass. You are going back home for two weeks, into the world where you will find investigations, Congressional committees uncovering wholesale corruption, too much drinking, too much sex. In the midst of plenty you will also find want, miserable want, and suffering. Take a second look at that suffering. Think twice before you plan your "good" time. Observe what's going on. You will find goodness, much of it, if you look for it. It will be this goodness that will keep you sober in your outlook, and your Christmas merry Prayers: (deceased) father of Matthew Aamstoos; uncle of Bro. Cosmos, CSC. 4951 sp. ints.