



Focus on Religious Freedom

Freedom to Pray, to Serve, to Preach, to Assemble Freedom to Adore Him, Jesus Christ, Our New-Born King

Nativity Displays at State Capitals on the Rise

The American Nativity Scene organization, in its 9th year of partnership with the Thomas More Society, a religious-liberty law firm, are helping groups of private citizens across the nation to display Biblical manger scenes on government property again this Christmas. This year, 40 state capital sites are participating in a 25% increase from last Christmas and nearly double the number from 2018.

Since 2013, with funding from an angel donor, the group has shipped more than 400 Nativity scenes for display at state capitals, city hall buildings and public parks. The group provides two-foot-high figures depicting the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and an angel. Local groups provide a manger and straw, then work with the staff at the government venues to obtain any needed permits.

"The ability to do this is a good response to what has happened in society the last couple of years," said Ed O'Malley, president of the American Nativity Scene in Illinois. "One of the benefits is the people and their enthusiasm with it and their excitement about the opportunity to do something to freely exercise our faith in the public square. That alone, I think, is important for our country and our world that we can do that. Not every place in the world can let you do that, but here, that's the First Amendment, the free exercise of religious speech."⁽¹⁾

Residents and visitors to New York City will once again be inspired by a life-size nativity scene in Central Park, on a piece of public property in front of the Plaza Hotel on 5th Ave. The Catholic League has erected this display for decades. Their president, Bill Donohue, explained that a public forum, a place that is open to all ideas, concerts, artistic exhibitions, etc., cannot stop them from erecting the creche.

(thomasmoresociety.org, 11/20/20; youtube.com, 12/8/21; theepochtimes.com, 12/6/21(1);
yournews.com, 12/6/21; catholicleague.org; alyssum.org, 12/9/21)

***On Christmas morning we thank God for the gift of His only Son to free us from our sins.
As Americans, we thank God for a nation founded on inalienable rights from our Creator
who inspired God-fearing founders to protect freedom of conscience for all faiths.***

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas from Catholics for Freedom of Religion