



## **ADVENT PILGRIMAGE**

International Marian research Institute – University of Dayton

Lead by

**Rev. Gerald (Jerry) Kirkhoff**

Director, Archdiocesan Mission Office and Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Vicar for Advocacy for Priests

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

## **THE TRADITION OF NATIVITY SETS**

Recreating the scene of Christ's birth is one of the most tender and enduring Christmas traditions. It has its origin in the middle ages, but came to bloom as popular culture only in the 17/18th centuries and nativity sets have spread all over the world.

In his company there is the whole world: his mother and first disciple, Mary, the faithful but struggling Joseph, ox and ass as representatives of the animal reign, and the shepherds and magi, meaning the rich and poor of this world. The star in heaven and the angels hovering over the Child are a constant reminder that the world is one with God, and the Child himself one of the Trinity.

A nativity set is not just a nativity set, but part of the story of how Christianity has shaped the culture of people whose faith was captured by the good news of Christ's birth and presence among them. But not to forget: the nativity sets are also signs of the many ways in which human culture has helped the message of God to be better understood and more gratefully cherished.

In late summer of 1994, The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton began an earnest effort to collect various contemporary cultural expressions of the nativity scene. Presently there are more than 1300 crèches from many parts of the world in the collection.

The pilgrimage will leave at 8 a.m. from the Catholic Center at 1400 N Meridian Street, Indianapolis with the first stop at St. Mary Church in Richmond for Mass. Return will be at approximately 6 p.m. Cost will be \$69 per person and will include motor coach transportation, bag breakfast, lunch and admission.

Please register at [www.archindy.org/pilgrimage](http://www.archindy.org/pilgrimage). For more information call Carolyn Noone at 317-236-1428 or 800-382-9836 or email: [cnoone@archindy.org](mailto:cnoone@archindy.org).

**ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS - ADVENT PILGRIMAGE  
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON - INTERNATIONAL MARIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015**



7:45 A.M.

CATHOLIC CENTER - PICK UP NAME TAG AND BAG BREAKFAST

8 A.M.

DEPART CATHOLIC CENTER

9:45 A.M.

MASS - ST. MARY CHURCH, RICHMOND

10:45 A.M.

DEPART FOR DAYTON

11:45 P.M.

LUNCH - GOLDEN CORRAL DAYTON

12:30 P.M.

DEPART

1:00 P.M.

ARRIVE - TOUR OF MARIAN LIBRARY AND CRÉCHE COLLECTION

3:45 P.M.

DEPART FOR INDIANAPOLIS

5:45 P.M.

ARRIVE CATHOLIC CENTER