

Merry Christmas!

I want to share the **Nativity Scene Event** [Thursday, December 5th at the North Dakota State Capitol–Memorial Hall] through my eyes, ears, hands, thoughts – mostly my heart.

It all started with an email that Margaret read,
Many more emails, some from Tom, Lauren – and Ed.

A request from the Thomas More Society along with the American Nativity Scene,
The ND State Board Catholic Daughters of the Americas' *'Yes, we'll be part of the team.'*

Ct. Immaculate Conception #322, Bismarck, family and friends did prepare,

A **Nativity** scene to be proud of for our North Dakota public square.

'O come let us adore Him!' was our invite call,
To the ecumenical **Nativity** scene event, in Memorial Hall.

A cloth of gold under the hay and **His** manger Shirley did lay,
Because **He** is our **King**, is what she did say.

St. Mary's Choir 'of Angels' – how beautifully did they sing,
The star shined so brightly as Fr. Miller blessed the crèche of our **King**.

Al Jaeger not as Secretary of State, but as a **Christian** he was there,
Other officials glad the **Crèche** was in our public square.

Keeping **Christ** in **Christmas** was Fr. Frank Miller's message,
Pastor Kurt Chaffee said a final prayer after to **Christ** he gave homage.



The gathering ended with three verses of *Silent Night*, the second in German by the choir was a delight.

I thought of those present there at the time of Jesus' birth, and how they are still with us here on this earth.

- ☞ Mary = Delores, Rosie, Margaret [members of Ct. Immaculate Conception #322, Bismarck]; Shirley; and ND State CDA Officers
- ☞ Joseph = Vern, providing shelter (the stable) for the Holy Family; DelRay our 'carpenter'; and Assoc. Pastor Sam
- ☞ Choir of Angels = St. Mary's Central High School Concert Choir
 - ☞ directed by Vicky Boechler
- ☞ Shepherds = **Christians** of many denominations [many taking 'selfies' at the **crèche**]
 - ☞ They were thankful for the **Nativity** scene in our state capitol.
 - ☞ The event staff at the Capitol – Tom plus many more
- ☞ Magi = CDA Past National and State Regents [current Local Regents too]
- ☞ The Little Children = children kneeling in awe of the **Infant Jesus**

I am humbled and very blessed to be part of this wonderful Nativity event.

The Nativity scene will be on display in Memorial Hall next to the Christmas tree December 5th through 13th.

Have a very blessed Christmas!

Laurel Ann Dukart

Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) North Dakota State Regent