



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY

from  
**Americans for Freedom of Religion**

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## **Manger Scenes on Display in Most State Capitols And Many Town Squares and Public Spaces**

During the Christmas season in at least 43 of our state capitols, thousands of Americans encounter a nativity scene with the traditional figures of the Infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and the Christmas angel. Thanks to the St. Thomas More Society and the American Nativity Scene, volunteers across America are bringing the Creche to prominent public spaces.

The American Nativity Scene Committee was formed with the goal of keeping Christ at the center of our Christmas celebration. Nativity scenes in front of our homes, churches and Catholic schools are outward reminders of God's love for us and the wonder of His gift to mankind...the gift of His Son. In addition, a creche displayed in a public space often brings about public discussion and debate which is helpful to increase understanding of the rights of free speech and religious freedom.

Too much of our culture now rejects God, faith and religion and insists they be kept out of the public square of ideas and opinions. This reminder and affirmation of Christ's coming, being born in a stable, sends the message of constancy, renewal of the world and salvation to many souls searching for deeper meaning and hope in their lives.

The American Nativity Scene also helps groups who want to place a crèche in other public, highly visible locations. To find the details go to [AmericanNativityScene.com](http://AmericanNativityScene.com)

American Nativity Scene works with attorneys at the Thomas More Society to make sure that groups wanting to sponsor a nativity scene are able to do so, as allowed by law. "Many erroneously assume that government entities are prohibited from allowing a religious display," explained Thomas More Society Executive Vice President Thomas Olp.

He continued, "The law is clear. Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations of the Christmas holiday—or allow citizens to do so on government property, including Nativity scenes, as long as a crèche's sole purpose is not to promote its religious content, and it is placed in context with other symbols of the season as part of an effort to celebrate the public Christmas holiday through traditional symbols."

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/26pm529s> <https://tinyurl.com/22phyjva>