

## Alumni & Friends Protecting Notre Dame's Catholic Identity

Like the ancient Sycamore tree standing watch over the Grotto, Sycamore Trust, with its broad base of supporters within the Notre Dame Family, seeks to protect the school's formative heritage — its Catholic identity and its sustaining relationship to the Church.

Established in 2005 as an alumni-only membership, Sycamore Trust has expanded steadily and now includes a broad representation of the Notre Dame family and a growing number of committed Christians troubled by the secularization of higher education in general. Our fight is against the forces of secularization that will continue to press on the University. To join us in this fight, please get in touch with us.



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## A Christmas Meditation

*For unto us a child is born  
unto us a Son is given*

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS PROTECTING  
NOTRE DAME'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY



## FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN (IS 9:6)

At Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift given by God to a fallen world, the gift of a Savior. The gift of the Christ Child fills the hearts of all who receive him. So great is the gift of this birth that the Church celebrates it for a season. During these Twelve days of Christmas, let us celebrate the fruits of this Child born for us, of this Son given to us.

### CHARITY DECEMBER 26

May the Love we celebrate on Christmas Day make our hearts overflow with love for God and for our neighbor every day so that everyone we meet will encounter the Christ Child dwelling within us and experience the power of His love.

### JOY DECEMBER 27

May the gift of the Savior's birth fill us with a joy that overwhelms the sorrows of this life and, overflowing to our neighbor, makes each of us tangible signs of the Eternal Joy promised to all who receive Him.

### PEACE DECEMBER 28

May the Peace of Christmas reign in our hearts, in our homes, in our nation and in our world so that the reign of the Prince of Peace may bring justice and solace to all.

### PATIENCE DECEMBER 29

May we have the patience of Mary who awaited the Lord's birth with serenity of heart as we wait on the Lord's triumphant return in Glory.

### KINDNESS DECEMBER 30

May our proclamation of the Savior's birth be accompanied with a kindness that draws even the most hardened hearts from the darkness of sin to the warmth of the Savior's crib.

### GOODNESS DECEMBER 31

May our gratitude for the gift of Christmas move us to acts of goodness each and every day that bring comfort and relief to our brothers and sisters in need.

## A PRAYER FOR NOTRE DAME

Eternal God, Creator and Sustainer of All Life, we beseech You to pour forth Your blessing on our beloved Notre Dame that she may be of special service to Your Church. Lead those entrusted with her mission by Your Divine Light. Help those who have benefited from her mission to be fully committed to supporting and defending it. Inspire the men and women of Sycamore Trust and the entire Notre Dame family with the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to give the "uncompromising witness of Catholic Universities to the Church's moral teaching, and the defense of her freedom...especially in the face of efforts, from whatever quarter, to dilute that indispensable witness." We make our prayer through the intercession of Mary, Notre Dame, Our Mother, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

### GENEROSITY JANUARY 1

May the gift of the Messiah's birth inspire us to a lavish sharing with others—especially those in need—out of the bounty we have received from God, who will never be outdone in generosity.

### GENTLENESS JANUARY 2

May our celebration of the Savior's birth exhibit the same quality of heart as His own—meek and gentle—so that the weak and broken, the wounded and lonely may not be afraid to find in us companions on the journey of faith.

### FAITHFULNESS JANUARY 3

Faithfulness...May Christmas be a time for us to renew our fidelity to the revelation of God's goodness and his grace, and to the One whose birth we celebrate, whose Truth alone can set us free.

### MODESTY JANUARY 4

Modesty...May the poverty and simplicity of Bethlehem's cave move us to clothe ourselves with virtue within and to humbly reflect that virtue in all that we do and say.

### CHARITY JANUARY 5

Self-Control...May the example of the Holy Family and the hardships they endured move us to a disposition of soul that will enable us to respond to all people and circumstances with internal discipline and equanimity of spirit.

### CHARITY JANUARY 6

Chastity...May the chaste love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire each of us during this Christmas Season and throughout the year to seek the Purity of Heart that makes us blessed and that will enable us to see the Face of God.

### EPIPHANY JANUARY 7

As the Wise Men sought Him and brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; may we, too, follow the Star that leads us to the Savior, and offer Him our treasure, our worship and our suffering; so that having been drawn up into the mystery of His Incarnation as we celebrate His birth, we may be united to him in His death and resurrection, and rejoice with Him forever in heaven, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever Amen.

*Merry Christmas from Sycamore Trust!*