



NEWS RELEASE

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K of C Museum debuts annual Christmas exhibit *Crèches from Asia highlight seasonal show*

(NEW HAVEN, CT) — The Knights of Columbus Museum's sixth annual crèche exhibition, *Christmas in Asia*, includes more than 100 crèches (or Nativity Scenes) representing 22 countries across the Asian continent.

The presentation opens Nov. 19 and runs through Feb. 13, 2011.

Many Asian countries, from the Holy Land in the Middle East to Japan on the Pacific Rim, have only a small percentage of Christians, while the Philippines boasts one of the largest Catholic populations in the world. Each Asian crèche offers cultural distinctions that reflect both a universal recognition of the historical event as well as a transcendent appreciation of Christmas.

Also included are original "Holy Family" paintings and prints from Japan, China and Korea. Some styles are uniquely Asian while others follow European techniques and craftsmanship. Several detailed crèches were created by a one-of-a-kind Christian woodworking shop in China. The exhibition's crèches and paintings are on loan from seven collections, including the Maryknoll Missionaries.

Visitors to *Christmas in Asia* will also enjoy the exhibition *Mother Teresa: Life Spirituality and Message*, which continues to April 3, 2011. The museum's 10th annual Christmas Tree Festival, featuring the decorations of school children from across the state, will open Dec. 1 and run concurrently with *Christmas in Asia*.

Also on display, beginning Dec. 8, will be a full-size bronze casting of Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna and Child*.

The Knights of Columbus Museum, located at 1 State Street in New Haven, is open daily from 10-5 during the Christmas exhibition. Admission and parking are free.

Call 203-865-0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org for directions or more information.

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