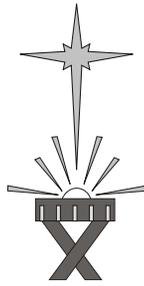


Take Back Christmas

Have you ever asked your children, spouse, parents or friend what they wanted for Christmas? And in turn, did they ask you the same thing?



Do we then start trying to think of something we want and don't have? We get caught up in what we don't have and sort of imagine what things that we might need or want.

The Christmas season actually seems to make it worse. When we are asked to come up with things we don't need so that people will know what to get us seems counter-productive to the meaning of Christmas. We forget that most people we know have many things, but we buy them more because it's Christmas.

Why not bring back the real reason for the season? At Christmas we celebrate a gift of immeasurable worth. In giving us Jesus, God has given us everything: life and hope, salvation and deliverance, joy and peace. Our response can only be to give in return — to God, to one another, to the furtherance of justice, to the cause of peace, to the betterment of the world.

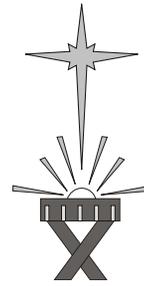
Instead of wracking our brains to think of something that we don't need, let's find out what others *really do* need.

This season can be a time of great spiritual openness as people get in touch with their hunger for something substantial. Often it takes very little to make a big difference in the world.

Resist the tide of commercialism and take back Christmas.

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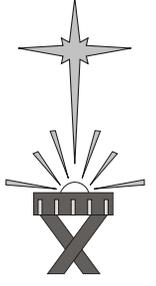
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