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University of Dayton to Unveil Significant New Sculpture Depicting the History of Christianity and Salvation

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Oct. 11, 2000
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NEWS TIPS

THURSDAY, OCT. 12: UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON TO UNVEIL SIGNIFICANT NEW SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND SALVATION

"Mirror of Hope," a 12-foot-wide and 5-foot-high wood and clay sculpture commemorating the history of Christianity and salvation, will be unveiled as a new and permanent installation at the University of Dayton Roesch Library Gallery at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12**, in the first-floor gallery.

The sculpture features more than 200 separate clay figures and buildings in scenes depicting significant events in the history of Christianity. Each hand-painted piece is rich in detail both in form and color — from the tattered fringe of a carpet to the tiny laurel wreath in a woman's hair. The piece is replete with symbolism from its overall triangular shape, designed to symbolize a mountain of salvation, to its representative scenes which run along the sides and base of the mountain.

At the top of the mountain is a silhouette of UD's Immaculate Conception Chapel representing celestial Jerusalem — a symbol of eternity. The piece also features depictions of the tower of Babel at the mountain's left base, representing man's rejection of God; the nativity at its direct base, representing the simplicity of a loving God who belongs to all people; and a cathedral at its right base, representing man's attempt to domesticate God, said the Rev. Johann G. Roten, S.M., director of UD's Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute which commissioned the piece.

More than a dozen smaller scenes along the mountaintop-to-mountaintop trail mark the Christian journey from man's creation to his salvation — both at the hands of God. They include Adam and Eve and the snake in the tree of paradise, Abraham's pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the Annunciation, the holy family's flight into Egypt, and Christ's presentation in the temple at age 12, his gathering of disciples, performing miracles and crucifixion, among others. The last scene depicts the people of God walking peacefully back up to the celestial Jerusalem and eternal happiness, Roten said.

The piece was commissioned of artist Kevin Hanna of Norwalk, Conn., in honor of the University's sesquicentennial anniversary.

Public library and gallery viewing hours are 8 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to midnight Sunday. Admission is free.

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For media interviews, call **the Rev. Johann G. Roten, S.M.**, and **Kevin Hanna** through the Marian Library at (937) 229-4214.

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