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UD'S ELECTRO-OPTIC CHRISTMAS SCULPTURE TAKES HIGH-TECH APPROACH TO TIMELESS THEME

DAYTON, Ohio, December 1, 1988—The University of Dayton's Christmas present to the Dayton community is too big to gift wrap. This Christmas season, a Madonna and Child sculpture measuring 25 feet high and 10 feet wide will grace the west side of Miriam Hall on campus.

The electro-optic sculpture, which takes a high-tech approach to a timeless theme, will be installed near the rooftop, between the building's sixth and ninth floors. It will be visible from roadways surrounding the campus.

Four simple, curved lines—made of wood covered in white fiberglass—outline the image of the Madonna and Child. Thin strands of fiber-optic material contained in vinyl tubing run the length of the sculpture and illuminate the work. The color of the light outlining the sculpture can be changed from year to year.

UD's sculpture was designed by Woolpert Consultants and Heapy Engineering. Construction is by Grauduss, Inc., and assembly will be by Blommel Sign.

The design is based on artwork that two Marianist brothers, Gary Marcinowski and Tom Pieper, created for a liturgical banner last June. "They did it on the spur of the moment," said Brother Donald Fahrig, S.M., a cataloguer in the Marian Library. Fahrig suggested to Brother Bernard Ploeger, S.M., vice president for administration, that UD might want to adapt the artwork for a Christmas display. Two of the University's neighbors, St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Miami Valley Hospital, traditionally decorate their rooftops with lighted displays during the holidays.

The display will be installed before UD's Christmas on Campus celebration on Dec. 8 and will be on exhibit through the holidays. For more information, contact Bob Rotterman at (513) 229-4344.