



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

December 2, 2016

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Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
NY NY 10007

Hon. Carmen Fariña
Chancellor
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
NY NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Fariña:

As president of the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, I am writing to you in support of New York State Senator Tony Avella's request that the public schools display a nativity scene during the holiday season. Currently, only secular Christian symbols, such as a Christmas tree, are permitted, though Jewish religious symbols, e.g., the menorah, are allowed. Yet every year, the New York City Parks Department extends a permit to the Catholic League to erect a nativity scene in Central Park, on public property. So why not in the schools?

I am not interested in seeking parity with Jews by banning the menorah in the schools; rather, I am interested in seeking equity by establishing equal treatment for the display of crèches.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg ignored similar appeals. Hopefully, you will not follow suit.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President