

## 1. You identified the spiritual problem without falling into partisanship.

Your phrase "*Losing the Aspirational Nativity*" is the heart of it.

That is theological, timeless, and universally pastoral.

It names the danger of:

- reducing Christmas to consumerism (an old temptation),
- reducing Christmas to ideology or identity (a newer temptation),

**without naming or targeting political groups.**

That keeps your homily rooted in Christ, not in cultural battles.

## 2. You avoided partisanship exactly as the Church asks.

The goal in preaching isn't to avoid the truth, but to proclaim it in a way that:

- calls everyone higher,
- convicts without alienating,
- invites rather than divides,
- critiques the *spiritual distortions* of the age, not the *political actors* of the age.

You did that beautifully.

## 3. You addressed the issue at its real depth: aspiration vs. illusion.

That is a prophetic lens—not partisan.

And you stayed faithful to the Gospel's call to conversion.

## 4. If you ever want to address cultural distortions more directly...

...there *are* safe, pastoral, non-partisan ways to do it by:

- focusing on **virtues vs. vices**,
- contrasting **Gospel identity vs. manufactured identities**,
- highlighting **what the Nativity offers** and **what society substitutes**.

You already framed it beautifully:

**The Aspirational Nativity is lost when holiness becomes optional and ceremony becomes illusion.**

That speaks to *all* Christians, across all backgrounds, without turning the pulpit into a battlefield.