Crèches Around the Cathedral

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SHARED THEIR HOME CRÈCHES.
Crèche is defined as a manger, a trough for holding feed for livestock or to identify the manger where Jesus was laid.*

Crèche shared by Jean Lee
By the late 18th century, crèche became the representation of the Nativity scene.*

Crèche shared by Phyllis Porio

Crèche shared by Sherrie Travis
Saint Francis of Assisi created the first depiction of the Nativity to help the children to understand the true meaning of Christmas.*

Crèche shared by Nancy Michael
St. Francis of Assisi wanted to remind the world that the season was about more than just giving or receiving gifts, but that it was about celebrating the birth of a special baby – Jesus.*

Crèche shared by John Keating
For his midnight Christmas mass (1223), St. Francis of Assisi staged a live baby Jesus in a manger, an ox, a donkey, and the scene were surrounded by hay.*

Crèche shared by Sandy Tagle
St. Francis of Assisi wanted to excite the parishioners and commemorate the Nativity with this live scene. He became so overcome by the emotion of the scene that he was unable to say the name Jesus, he referred to him as “the babe of Bethlehem.”

Crèche shared by Dolores Simon
The live Nativity scene spread throughout Europe and became popular in Italy with almost every Catholic Church hosting real people and animals. Eventually, the tradition evolved into the scene with statues.*

Crèche shared by Nancy Michael
During the French Revolution (1789-1799), the live scenes were banned. So people began to make the crèche in secret by using household supplies such as cloth and bread or clay.*

Crèche shared by Denise Kolanczyk
The small clay crèche figurines were referred to in France as Santons, meaning “Little Saints”.*

The cat is known as “le chat.” 😊

Crèche shared by Ken Ortega
These small clay crèches have paved the way for many styles and sizes we now have today.*

The dogs are known as "les chiens" 😊

Crèche shared by Sherrie Travis
Our crèche scenes are a visible reminder of that night when our Savior was born. May we never forget to see in our hearts the little “babe of Bethlehem”, who came to save us from sin. We must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely, would one day give way to the wood of the cross he died upon.*

Crèche shared by Sherrie Travis
Other cultures may use different names or stories, but in the end, each is telling us the holiday is not just a time for gift giving, it is to focus on the time to celebrate the birth of our Savior.*

Crèche shared by Nicholas Vallorano
May we embrace him and the true meaning of the crèche with all our love, as did St. Francis of Assisi.*

Crèche shared by Ken Ortega
Wishing All of You a Very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

*Thank you to Shelley Cronin for the commentary on the origin and tradition of the Crèche; references include Napa Institute, Catholic Straight Answers, Bible Gateway, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and WeBe Christmas