

5.1.21

T: Can I understand why the crib is important?



I think that a crib is...

I think it might be important because...

St. Francis of Assisi (not St. Francis Xavier) recreated the scene of Christ's birth in a special service and Mass he held inside of a cave in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration. Later he told a friend why he wanted to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."
(Which meant that he wanted to make it look as real as possible, just like when Jesus was born.)

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger, just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. By making it real, he wanted to show people how Jesus came into the world simply and in poverty. This was how St. Francis of Assisi lived, in a poor, spiritual way.

QUESTION TIME!

1. Why do you think St Francis of Assisi made the first crib?
2. Why do you think people carried on making cribs and having cribs in their home?
3. What does the crib tell us about Jesus?

CHALLENGE

Why is the crib important to Christians today?

Write a prayer we can add to the crib for Christmas time.