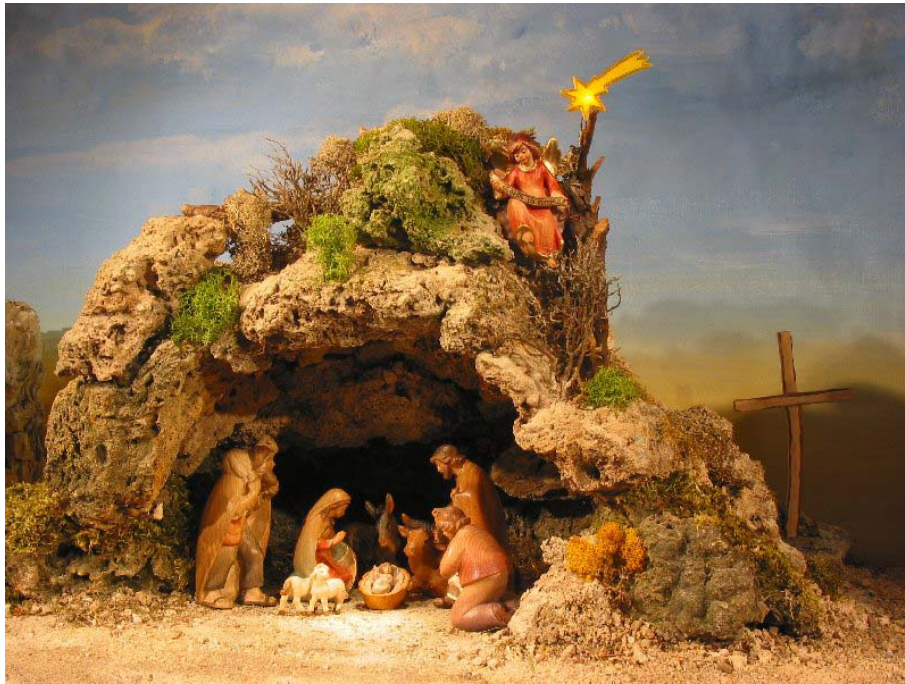


CAVE NATIVITY SCENE GROTTENKRIPPE



It cannot be said for sure whether the stall in which Jesus was born was man-made or a cave. A cave in which shepherds could find shelter for themselves and their animals during bad weather or through the night.

In this nativity scene the cave is made of limestone - tuff. A very new, soft, porous stone, whose wonderful structure develops when chalky water drips onto leaves and branches.

This thought is worthy of reflection: Here we have creation holding its hand over the creator:
The rocks, stones, trees and plants.

The message of the nativity points to the creator:

"In the beginning the Word already was. The Word was in God's presence, and what God was, the Word was. He was with God at the beginning, and through him all things came to be; without him no created thing came into being."

John. 1, 1 - 3

Apart from all Christmassy feelings: In the background the cross is waiting by a stony pathway. It is here that the creator will finally fall unprotected into the hands of mankind. Displayed as a sinner he will die for the sinners.

What joy that beside the crib and the cross there is also the resurrection. Another grotto, a cave with a sealed door totally unable to withhold the sovereign, risen Lord.

Nuremberg June 1999