

## Christmas Crib Competition 2009

"The Christmas crib, so as we see it today, was born, according to the tradition, by the desire of St. Francis to revive the birth in Bethlehem in a natural scenario by involving the people in the commemoration that took place in Greccio on Christmas Eve of 1223. This event was masterly represented by Giotto in the Basilica Superiore of Assisi.

The crib is an important sign of our Christian identity and the association Manlium, along with the Parish of Santa Maria Assunta in Magliano Nuovo, has tried, with this competition, to re-evaluate this tradition rich in history and faith. It also aims to encourage the setting up of the crib in our homes, since this tradition has weakened at present due also to the introduction of the Christmas tree.

In the first competition the participants were:

Franca Tarallo, Elena Passerella, Giuseppe Nigro, Patrizio Breglia, Roberta Pisani, Maria Rita La Gorga, Amalia Maucione, Carmine Bonfrisco,  
and, from Magliano Vetere, Dr. Silvio Coccaro;  
from Capizzo Mr. Pasqualino Piano.

It's easy to see that all the cribs are beautiful, but unfortunately a competition imposes the choice of a winner, so we decided to reward three cribs.

We thank all the people who participated and invite them to continue to setting up the crib.

Mr. Giuseppe Nigro comes third in the competition He made a beautiful nativity scene in front of his house with care and good taste, even in small details. It must be noted that the weather in these days, not always good, prevented the execution of all the effects, but it remains a beautiful crib.

Mr. Pasqualino Piano comes second. His big and articulated crib was prepared with passion and proposes a nativity as it is in our tradition, with small details that enhance its beauty.

Dr. Silvio Coccaro wins the competition. His crib is really a small work of art; tradition, innovation, very suggestive and special effects like the transition from night to day and the recommencement of daily activities through mechanical movements of each small statue in the crib are concentrated in it."