

## 'TEST YOUR FAITH KNOWLEDGE' QUIZ FOR ADULTS

July 26, 2020    **UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS ART**    Msgr. Pat Stilla  
*(Scroll down to pages 2 & 3 for the correct answers and pages 4 & 5 for pictures)*

- T  F 1. In religious art, red often denotes divinity and the colour blue, humanity.
- T  F 2. Religious paintings on wood that decorate Ukrainian Catholic or Orthodox Churches are called "Religious Icons".
- T  F 3. In art, St. Joseph and St. Anne are usually both depicted holding the Christ child.
- T  F 4. Images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of Jesus' Divine Mercy represent two apparitions that have officially been deemed credible by the Church.
- T  F 5. In the image of the Divine Mercy (*which is venerated in our Cathedral*), the red and white rays of light reflect two things that happened after Jesus' death.
- T  F 6. Since we don't know what the apostles looked like, artists distinguish one from the other in art, by painting different coloured halos around their heads.
- T  F 7. The Holy Spirit is depicted in art either as a white dove or as a tongue of fire.
- T  F 8. In Christian art, Martyrs are usually depicted holding white lilies in their hands.
- T  F 9. In images of St. Dominic, artists always place a dog at his feet to remind us that Dominic, like St. Francis, loved animals.
- T  F 10. St. Francis is often depicted with birds and animals to remind us that he often referred to them as his sisters and brothers and that he loved nature.
- T  F 11. St Theresa of Lisieux (*whose statue is in our Cathedral*) is always dressed in a brown and cream coloured Religious Habit because she was a Sister of St. Joseph.
- T  F 12. Images of St Anne usually depict her teaching her grandson, Jesus how to read.
- T  F 13. In Michelangelo's *Pieta'* (*a copy of which is in our Cathedral*) Mary is depicted as being very much younger than her crucified Son, Jesus, whom she holds in her lap.
- T  F 14. The Holy Canadian Martyrs (*depicted in a painting in our Cathedral*) are always portrayed in Jesuit black robes because they belonged to the Society of Jesus.
- T  F 15. In religious art, Mary and St. Patrick are each depicted with a snake at their feet.

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ -#1

- 1. TRUE** For instance, some paintings of Jesus depict Him wearing a red robe with a blue garment partially worn over it. This is an artist's way of reminding us that Jesus is primarily God's Son (*red robe for His Divine nature*) but that He took on a human nature when He walked the earth (*like the blue garment "put on" over the red robe*). (see: Picts #1)
- 2. TRUE** Most Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches are fully decorated with religious icons to give the impression that entering the church is like entering heaven! (see Picts #2)
- 3. FALSE** St. Joseph is usually depicted with baby Jesus, but St. Anne is not. (see: Picts #3)
- 4. TRUE** Jesus with His heart shown on His chest was an apparition reported by a Visitation nun, Marguerite Marie Alacoque in France between 1673 to 1675 and was deemed by the Church to be credible. The prayer devotion that she promoted after her experience is called devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Since the apparitions were reported to have happened while she was praying in front of the exposed Eucharist on the altar of her convent on a First Friday of the month, every First Friday of each month became traditionally associated with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The 'Divine Mercy' devotion is based on the many apparitions recorded by Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun in her personal diary in 1936-38. In it she wrote that she received visions of the merciful Saviour. This Diary was later published with the title, Divine Mercy in My Soul. An artist was eventually commissioned to paint the now popular image of the 'Divine Mercy', based on her recollections of these visions. At the base are the words, 'Jesus I trust in You'.

Both visionaries were officially canonized Saints by the Church. (see: Picts #4)
- 5. TRUE** The red and white rays of light emanating from the Heart of Christ represent the blood and water which flowed from His pierced heart, after His death on the cross. (Jn.19:34). (see Picts #5)
- 6. FALSE** Saints' halos are usually all the same. The Apostles are distinguished either by what they are holding (*instruments of torture with which they were martyred*) or, by what is depicted close to them.

For instance, St. James the younger is depicted holding a club and St. Bartholomew is holding a knife, because James was clubbed to death for his Christian Faith and Bartholomew was martyred by being skinned alive.

St. Peter is either holding two keys (because Christ gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven) or else, two crossed keys are placed somewhere near him. (see Picts #6)
- 7. TRUE** This is based on images used to depict the Spirit in the Bible. He appeared as a dove at Jesus' Baptism and as tongues of flame at Pentecost. (see: Picts #7)

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ -#2

8. **FALSE** Martyrs are usually depicted holding palm branches. If Saints are depicted holding white lilies it means that they were virgins or celibate. In the case of St. Maria Goretti, both are used because she was a virgin and a martyr. (see: Picts #8)
9. **FALSE** The name Dominic comes from the Latin word, "Dominus", which means, "the Lord". "Canes" is the Latin word for "dogs". A Latin play on both words means, "dogs or hounds of the Lord" as well as "dogs or hounds of Dominic". The dog always carries in its mouth a burning torch. It represents the fact that the followers of Dominic (*with the same determination as faithful hounds*) were mandated by their founder to spread the flame of Faith throughout the world. (see: Picts #9)
10. **TRUE** Francis believed that humans should not subdue nature for selfish reasons but should live in harmony with nature. He called all created things, including the sun and the moon, his brothers and sisters. He was the first real ecologist! (see: Picts #10)
11. **FALSE** Theresa wears the religious habit of the Carmelite nuns, which they still wear to this day. Most sisters of St. Joseph don't wear a religious habit any longer. When they did, it was black and white. (see: Picts # 11)
12. **FALSE** St. Anne is almost always depicted teaching her daughter, Mary and not her grandson, Jesus. (see: Picts # 12)
13. **TRUE** This was Michelangelo's way of showing not Mary's youth, because she was obviously much older than her Son, but her Virginitly which was associated with a fresh and youthful face. (see: Picts #13)
14. **TRUE** They were members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who came to North America from France to preach the Gospel in the New World. The official Jesuit religious habit is a black cassock or robe with a crucifix on a black cord around the neck of the priest or brother and tucked into a black sash worn around the waist. The ones in the Cathedral painting who are not wearing habits were the men who were still in formation to become Jesuit priests or brothers and who accompanied the missionaries to North America. Like the priests, they too were martyred. Notice the palm branch in the painting. (see: Picts # 14).
15. **TRUE** The serpent in Christian art always represents the evil one or "Satan". The Mission of the Virgin Mary and of St. Patrick (and of every other Christian) is to ultimately destroy the power of evil and the influence of the devil in the lives of people. This is why many Saints are shown crushing a serpent with their feet. (see: Picts # 15)

# PICTURES -#1

Picts #1



Picts #2

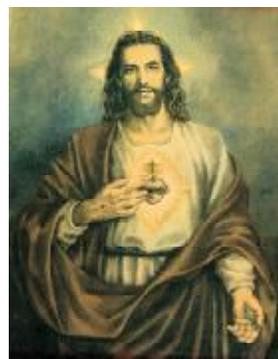


Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Thunder Bay

Picts #3



Picts #4



Picts #5



Picts #6



James

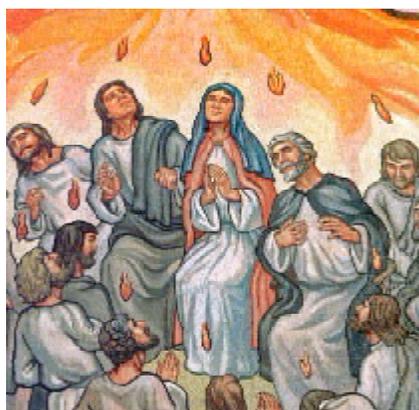


Bartholomew



Peter

Picts #7



Picts #8



Lawrence



Maria Goretti

# PICTURES -#2

Picts #9



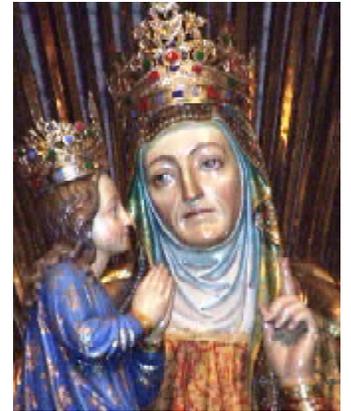
Picts #10



Picts #11



Picts #12



Picts #13



Picts #14



Picts #15

