

## 'TEST YOUR FAITH' QUIZ FOR ADULT

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"FACTS ABOUT JESUS AND MARY"

Msgr. Pat Stilla

*(Scroll down to pages 2 & 3 for the correct answers)*

- T  F 1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but He lived most of His life in Nazareth. This is why He was known as Jesus, the Nazarene.
- T  F 2. Although not a popular practice in most Christian nations, Christians of Central and South America often name their male children, "Jesus".
- T  F 3. In other Christian cultures boys are rarely named, Jesus, but are sometimes given names that are associated with Jesus.
- T  F 4. In Italy, girls are often named, Mary, but are rarely given names that are associated with the Virgin Mary.
- T  F 5. The name, 'Mary Ann' honours both the mother and the grandmother of Jesus.
- T  F 6. We celebrate the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation, which is observed around the world each year on March 25.
- T  F 7. John the Baptist, the Lord's cousin, was 6 months younger than Jesus.
- T  F 8. After the birth of Jesus, King Herod was anxious to find the child to be able to pay him homage.
- T  F 9. King Herod who was present at the birth of Jesus is the same King Herod who approved of Jesus' condemnation and crucifixion at the age of 30 by Pilate .
- T  F 10. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was born in a stable.
- T  F 11. The Gospels speak of a drummer boy visiting the infant Jesus after His birth.
- T  F 12. Matthew is the only Gospel of the four that mentions the appearance of a star and visiting wisemen after the birth of Jesus but makes no mention of shepherds.
- T  F 13. Jesus' birth is not mentioned at all in the Gospel of Mark.
- T  F 14. John's Gospel stresses the humanity of Jesus and how much He was like us.
- T  F 15. We read about Jesus getting lost at the age of 12 and then found in the temple, only in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, but not in the other two Gospels.

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

- 1. TRUE** Since last names were not very common in Jesus' time, persons with the same name were often distinguished from each other by adding to their first names, the town or village where they resided for most of their adult lives.
- 2. TRUE** This is especially the custom in Mexico but also in many other Latin American nations. We may recall some Latin American baseball players who are named, Jesús.
- 3. TRUE** This is actually more common than we think. The names that are associated with Jesus or Christ are often given mostly to boys but sometimes also, to girls. Here are several examples that are associated with 'Jesus', 'the Christ', and 'Immanuel': *Joshua, Krystian, Christian, Christino, Christine, Kristen, Khristos, Emmanuel, and Emanuella*. Other popular names which are associated with Jesus are: *Dominic, Domenica* and *Dominik*. These derive from the Latin word, 'Dominus' which means, 'the Lord'. Other less popular names like the Italian, *Nazareno* (Nazarene) and *Salvatore*, (Saviour) are also used. Finally, children are sometimes also given names which are associated with the birth of Jesus or with His resurrection. Names associated with His birth include, *Natale, Natalie, Noël, Natasha, Gloria, Holly, Epifaneo, Angelo*, etc. Those which refer to Easter are *Pasqualina, Pasquale, Pascual* and *Lily*. Also included are *Anastasia, Renata* and *René* which all mean, 'born again'. I am certain that you can think of many others.
- 4. FALSE** While it is true that throughout the world and especially in Italy, many girls are named 'Mary', it is not true that names associated with Mary are rarely used. In fact they are used quite frequently. Some names are derived from Mary's titles like: *Grace, Ava, Virginia, Immacolata, Dolores, Concetta, Addolorata, Annunziata, Consolata, Assunta, Carmela, Clemenzia, Clement, Pia, Regina, and Stella*. Others are inspired by Marian apparitions like: *Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, Loretta, Madonna*, etc. Still others are associated with Mary and the Rosary, like: *Rosemarie, Rosaire, Rosarina, and Rosario*.
- 5. TRUE** *Marianne, Anna Maria, Ann-Marie, Mariano* etc. are all names for girls and sometimes boys that honour Mary, the mother of Jesus and Ann, His grandmother.
- 6. TRUE** March 25 was purposely chosen by the Church because the birth of Christ is celebrated on December 25, exactly 9 months after His conception. This is how the Church uses its Feastday calendar to help us remember significant events in salvation history.
- 7. FALSE** John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus, according to the Bible's account of the Annunciation. The angel, Gabriel, after announcing to Mary that she was chosen to conceive Jesus in her womb, also said these words to her: "Your relative, Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren". Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist.

8. **FALSE** When Herod announced to the wisemen that he wanted to find the child, “to be able to pay him homage”, he was lying and intended to do just the opposite. He wanted to find the child in order to kill him out of fear that he would lose his own power as King of the Jews to this newborn king. Since he could not locate the child Jesus because He had fled to Egypt, together with Mary and Joseph, he ordered all male children under the age of two years to be slaughtered. We celebrate these innocent infant martyrs every year on December 28<sup>th</sup> on the ‘Feastday of the Holy Innocents’.
9. **FALSE** The King Herod who was alive at the time of Jesus’ birth fathered three sons who were given control over three different territories in Israel after their father’s death. The first was, Archelaus, who was made King of Judea, Samaria and Idumea. The second was Herod Antipas, King of Galilee and Peraea. This was the ‘Herod’ who approved of the condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus. The third son was Philip who was King over the regions around Jordan.
10. **FALSE** Contrary to popular opinion, no Gospel writer tells us that Jesus was born in a stable. Luke is the only one who does tell us that after His birth, “He was laid in a manger because there was no room for them at the Inn”. We place stables in our Nativity scenes because we assume that mangers to feed animals are not found in homes but in barns or stables, where the animals are kept.
11. **FALSE** Drums were not instruments that were used by the Jews and certainly no Gospel writer tells us of a visiting drummer boy at the manger. The popular Christmas carol, ‘The Little Drummer Boy’, was written by the American music composer and teacher in 1941. Though there is no historical proof of the existence of a drummer boy at the manger, the lyrics are clearly inspired by Christian values. The boy is poor and cannot offer great material gifts to Jesus. He only offers him in gratitude, his talents as a drummer, gifts granted to him by God Himself.
12. **TRUE** Matthew mentions the visit of the wisemen who followed the star but never mentions shepherds or sheep or even a manger.
13. **TRUE** The Gospel of Mark begins not with Jesus’ birth but with the beginning of His public life when Jesus is 30, after His baptism in the Jordan River.
14. **FALSE** Although John’s Gospel acknowledges that Jesus was both human and divine, the Gospel emphasises the Divinity of Jesus instead of His humanity. This is why John begins his Gospel with the first three words of the Book of Genesis, “In the beginning”. This is to remind the reader that Jesus was present with the Father and the Spirit at the very beginning of time and creation and therefore is the second Person of God’s Trinity.
15. **FALSE** Luke is the only Gospel writer who makes mention of the losing and finding of Jesus in the Temple. Matthew, Mark and John say nothing about this event.