

FAITH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ FOR ADULTS

Christmas Day, 2020

"Christmas Around the World"

Msgr. Pat Stilla

(Scroll down to the bottom of page 2 for the correct answers)

1. On December 25 every year we celebrate the Feast of Christmas according to the:
 - a. Syro-Arabic Calendar;
 - b. Gregorian Calendar;
 - c. Latin-Roman Calendar;
 - d. Julian Calendar

2. In Eastern nations like the Ukraine, Christmas falls on January 7 because they follow:
 - a. the Baltic-Russian Calendar;
 - b. the Julian Calendar;
 - c. the Biblical Calendar;
 - d. the Moscovite Calendar.

3. The custom of building Nativity Scenes in our churches and homes at Christmas comes from:
 - a. Denmark;
 - b. France;
 - c. Italy;
 - d. Spain

4. in the very first Nativity Scene that was built, they used:
 - a. real people and animals;
 - b. large statues in the town squares;
 - c. icons of the Christmas figures;
 - d. real people but only statues of animals.

5. The tradition of decorating an evergreen tree in our homes at Christmas came from:
 - a. Sweden;
 - b. Scotland;
 - c. the Netherlands;
 - d. Germany.

6. 'Yule' which is associated with Christmas, was actually,
 - a. a long-burning log that was used to celebrate Christmas in Wales;
 - b. a 12 day pagan festival celebrated by the Germanic peoples at the winter solstice;
 - c. the Gaelic festival celebrated for the birth of Christ;
 - d. a Norwegian festival of fire.

7. John the Baptist who was born 6 months before Jesus was:
 - a. Jesus' cousin;
 - b. Jesus' brother;
 - c. St. Joseph's brother;
 - d. Jesus' best friend.

8. The names of John the Baptist's parents are:
- a. Joachim and Anne;
 - b. Zechariah and Elizabeth;
 - c. Joachim and Elizabeth;
 - d. Joseph and Mary.
9. The Magi who visited Jesus on the day of Epiphany are traditionally named:
- a. Ahmed, Arian and Caspar;
 - b. Herod, Balthassar and Melchizedek;
 - c. Caspar, Bathassar and Melchior;
 - d. Zachary, Josiah and Arisadek.
10. In this nation, children receive gifts on the Feast of Epiphany, not Christmas. The nation,
- a. is Ukraine;
 - b. is Belgium;
 - c. is Holland;
 - d. is Italy.
11. The custom of sending Christmas cards at this time of the year originated in:
- a. Russia in 1860;
 - b. the U.S.A. in 1776;
 - c. the U.K. in 1843;
 - d. Mexico in 1905.
12. The `Canadian` Christmas carol known as the `Huron Carol` was written by:
- a. an Anglican Missionary;
 - b. a Catholic priest;
 - c. a Presbyterian Pastor ;
 - d. a Methodist Minister.

CORRECT ANSWERS

1. **b.** This calendar's use in most of Western Europe came into effect in 1582.
2. **b.** This is the older of the two calendars. It was created by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.
3. **d.** It was St. Francis of Assisi who started this tradition in Italy to teach aspects of the Nativity story to the townspeople of Greccio.
4. **a.** It was very much like a Christmas pageant with real people playing the parts and real animals present in the scenes.
5. **d.** Christians of Germany first brought decorated trees into their homes (16th century).
6. **b.** Since Christmas falls near the winter solstice this pagan custom was `Christianized`.
7. **a.** In those days close relatives all lived either close to each other or in the same house.
8. **b.** The story of the birth of John the Baptist is recorded in the Gospel of Luke 1:57-66.
9. **c.** These Eastern sounding names have been used traditionally but there is no mention of their names in the Bible.
10. **d.** On the eve of Epiphany Italian children put up their stockings to receive a gift (or coal) from a flying witch called, `Befana`.
11. **c.** It began when a man named, Henry Cole thought it was a good way to greet his many friends without having to write long letters.
12. **b.** His name was Father John de Brébeuf.