

A Religious Exhibit L O W L E V E L 1**A**

The Exhibit of Christian Artefacts
Catholicity

Catalogue

Welcome to the Exhibition of Catholic Artefacts! Here today we have ten great artefacts from all over the world. They are:

1. The Cross Jesus died on
2. The I.N.R.I. from the Cross of Jesus
3. The Bible
4. The Ark
5. A Chalice
6. Tongues of Fire
7. Jesus' Crown of Thorns
8. Palms
9. The ICHTHUS
10. An Advent Wreath

These items are available for viewing in the observation room where we have priests ready to answer any questions you might have. Admission is 10 dollars and the tickets are in high demand, so get yours **right now!**

B

Layout of the Exhibit Area



C

Catalogue Number -1**Item** – The Cross (Latin)**Description** – Two pieces of wood, crossing each other in a ‘t’-like pattern**Religious Significance** – The Cross is the most common symbol in Christianity and can be seen in different shapes and sizes depending on where in the world it is, this being the most common form. The Cross is the centre of all Christian beliefs and represents the death of Jesus Christ. According to the bible, Jesus was executed on the Cross for being a “false” prophet. Jesus died for the sins of all people on the cross and rose from the dead three days after his death. The Cross represents everything that Jesus died for and has become the symbol of Christianity.**Catalogue Number** – 2**Item** – I.N.R.I.**Description** – Four letters representing four Latin words.**Religious Significance** – These four letters stand for “Iesus Nazareus Rex Lunaeorum”, which means “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”. This was put on the Cross by Pilate, it was also written in Arabic and Greek. This represents the poor judgement of the people who put Jesus on the Cross. It represents the sins that Jesus died for.**Catalogue Number** – 3**Item** – The bible**Description** – A thick book.**Religious Significance** – This bible contains the new and old testaments. The bible has many authors including apostles of Jesus. In the books of the bible, stories include, Genesis, the life and death of Jesus Christ, parables and other Christian related stories. The bible is used in mass on Sundays as the priest usually quotes a certain section related to his sermon.**Catalogue Number** – 4**Item** – The Ark**Description** – A large wooden box.**Religious Significance** – The ark is chest which contains the stone on which the ten commandments were written, pot of manna and Aaron’s staff. The top is made of solid gold, it is referred to as “the mercy seat”. On top of this seat sits two golden angels who’s wings extend over it. The ten commandments were written by God and given to Moses on a holy mountain and were put into the ark to preserve them.

D

Catalogue Number – 5**Item** – Chalice**Description** – A tall cup.**Religious Significance** – The chalice is a cup that the priest drinks out of during holy communion at mass. The Chalice symbolises the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for the sins of humanity as he died on the cross.**Catalogue Number** – 6**Item** – Tongues of Fire.**Description** – Tongues of Fire.**Religious Significance** – These ‘tongues of fire’ represent the power of the Holy Spirit, giving the apostles gift of being able to speak many different languages after Jesus died on the Cross. This proved to the disciples that Jesus did not die. This story comes from the day of Pentecost.**Catalogue Number** – 7**Item** – The Crown of Thorns.**Description** – A crown made of thorns.**Religious Significance** – This Crown was given to Jesus by the soldiers escorting him to his death to symbolize his role as the “King of the Jews”. The soldiers gave him the crown to ridicule him and put him down. Although Jesus’ head was bleeding heavily, the soldiers forced him to wear it as he walked his cross to his death.**Catalogue Number** – 8**Item** – Palms**Description** – A plant used by the Romans to show victory.**Religious Significance** – Palms were used to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem and were used at his death. They are used now to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection to show his victory over sin. They are now used to show victory.**Catalogue Number** – 9**Item** – ICHTHUS**Description** – A fish-like symbol.**Religious Significance** – This symbol was used by the early Christians to secretly show their faith. The word ICHTHUS comes from the initial letters of the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour”. The symbol would be drawn in the sand to show brotherhood in Christ.

LOW LEVEL 1

E

Catalogue Number – 10

Item – Advent Wreath

Description – A wreath with 4 candles.

Religious Significance – The Advent Wreath is used during Advent to count down the final four weeks left before Christmas. This tradition comes from a pagan custom of lighting candles in anticipation of winter. The wreath represents eternity, the glowing lights remind us of the Christian’s increasing joy.

Bibliography

“Symbols of Christianity.” 2. June. 2002.

<http://home.rochester.rr.com/gocek/images/christn/>

“Important Symbols of Christianity.” 2. June. 2002.

<http://home.att.rr.net/~wegast/symbols/symbols.htm>

Teacher’s Notes

Knowledge/Understanding

- The student provides details about Catholicity that are of limited relevance. Because the student does not include any introduction to the religious beliefs of Catholics, the comments made under “Religious Significance” in the catalogue listing lack context, and many aspects of the Christian religion that are referred to are unexplained. At times, the information provided about Catholicity is accurate (e.g., the description of the crown of thorns that was placed on Jesus’ head prior to the crucifixion). At other times, the information is misleading or contains errors (e.g., it is the wine contained in the chalice, not the chalice itself, that symbolizes the blood of Jesus).

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student interprets the religious significance of the selected symbolic items with limited effectiveness. For example, although the student attempts to explain the meaning of the cross for Catholics, he or she mentions only that it “represents everything that Jesus died for” and makes no attempt to interpret the Resurrection, which is fundamental to Catholic beliefs. With a number of other items, the student provides descriptive detail (e.g., the contents of the Bible) or historical background (e.g., the use of palms by the Romans as a symbol of victory), but does not sufficiently explain their significance to Catholicism.

Communication

- The student communicates information in the exhibit catalogue with limited clarity. Although the student organizes the information into appropriate categories, the descriptions of the items are usually too brief to give gallery visitors a clear idea of what they are about to see (e.g., “The bible” is “A thick book”). The layout of the exhibit area shows a collection of visual representations without titles or numbers, and conveys no sense of the space in which the items are displayed.

LOW LEVEL 1

- The student explains why the exhibit would appeal to the gallery visitors with very limited effectiveness. The student announces that the items included in the exhibit come from all over the world and that tickets are “in high demand”, but provides no information about highlights or special attractions to entice visitors to see the exhibit.

Application

- The student creates a catalogue for the gallery visitors that is of very limited usefulness. No directions are provided as to how visitors might approach the exhibit. The items in the exhibit area are not labelled to correspond with the catalogue listing, nor is there any indication as to whether these items are visual representations or concrete objects. The listing itself seems to follow a random order, and the catalogue as a whole presents more a collection of unrelated objects than an exhibit with a unifying theme.

Comments

This work is representative of a low level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge/Understanding and Thinking/Inquiry categories of knowledge and skills. The student also demonstrates a limited degree of achievement with respect to one criterion in the Communication category. In the Application category and in one criterion in the Communication category, the student demonstrates a very limited degree of achievement.

The result is a catalogue that reflects the lack of focus in the exhibit and leaves many unanswered questions for those unfamiliar with Catholic beliefs.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- provide an introduction to the religion;
- describe each selected item in greater detail;
- conduct further research to ensure that all information is correct;
- present information clearly in each of the established categories in the catalogue;
- establish why the exhibit would appeal to gallery visitors;
- provide a useful, and labelled, layout of the exhibit items;
- edit and proofread work to correct occasional errors.