



# Talking Transcendentals

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Check your answers against the answer key on page 3.

**1** Awe and wonder are gifts of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) space program b) world of Disney  
c) cosmos d) Holy Spirit

**2** According to ancient Greek philosophers, human life was made up of three areas of interest: truth, beauty, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) goodness b) wealth c) pleasure  
d) technology

**3** \_\_\_\_\_ is the area of human activity that is associated with seeking truth.

- a) Wikipedia b) Social media  
c) Science d) Plumbing

**4** \_\_\_\_\_ is the area of human activity where people express beauty.

- a) Eating b) The arts c) Welding  
d) Snowplowing

**5** \_\_\_\_\_ is the area of human activity where people strive for goodness.

- a) Body piercing b) Snowboarding  
c) Gambling d) Religion

**6** Only sacred art or Catholic science reveals God's truth, beauty, or goodness.

True | False

**7** \_\_\_\_\_ is known for his love of animals and nature. He famously wrote the Canticum of Creation, praising God for creation, life, and even death.

- a) Snoop Dogg b) John Muir  
c) Teddy Roosevelt d) St. Francis

**8** "Charm is deceptive and \_\_\_\_\_ fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:30).

- a) battleships b) humility c) beauty  
d) fidelity

**9** Who said: "Doctors can heal the body, but it is music that uplifts the spirit"?

- a) Beethoven b) Bruno Mars  
c) Mother Teresa d) Dr. Who

**10** "Sun and moon, bless the Lord ... Stars of heaven, bless the Lord ... All you winds, bless the Lord ... Fire and heat, bless the Lord ... Cold and chill, \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord" (Daniel 3:56-67).

- a) exalt b) bless c) praise d) freeze

Interior of the basilica of **ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS AND THE MARTYRS** (Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri) in Rome

**11** If a bird flies, sings, or builds a nest, it is giving glory to God. True | False

**12** St. Irenaeus of Lyon said: "The glory of God is man fully \_\_\_\_\_."

- a) alive b) educated c) asleep  
d) dipped in chocolate

**13** The philosophy that "anyone can believe whatever truth they want" is called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) don't judgism b) to each his ownism c) universalism  
d) relativism

**14** Jesus said, "Unless you become like \_\_\_\_\_, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

- a) angels b) adults c) famous singers  
d) children

**15** Religion teaches "how" things work and science describes "why" life is as it is. True | False

**16** The place where Catholics celebrate truth, beauty, and goodness is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Mass b) the graduation party c) the summer vacation d) the Vatican

**17** Beauty is pleasing to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) deaf b) senses c) blind d) ungodly

**18** Moral truth teaches us how to make the right \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) choices b) purchases c) breakfasts d) noises

**19** St. Paul wrote to the Romans that God could be known through \_\_\_\_\_ because nature showed God's

power and control over all things.

- a) strong armies b) the gladiators c) creation d) books

**20** The Catholic Church should sell its priceless art and its lavish buildings to raise money to feed the poor.

True | False

## Kids' quiz *God Is Good* DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help your students review what they know about our Catholic faith. Check answers with the answer key on page 3.

**1** Jesus said: "I am the way, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the life" (John 14:6).

- a) path b) truth c) superhero d) avenger

**2** When God created the world, he "looked at everything he had made, and found it very \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:31).

- a) good b) bad c) big d) pretty

**3** All beauty comes from \_\_\_\_\_. So when we see something beautiful, we are seeing a little bit of the beauty of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) lots of makeup b) Hollywood c) the universe d) God

**4** Science and faith do not agree.

True | False

**5** "It is good to give thanks to the \_\_\_\_\_, to sing praise to your name, Most High" (Psalm 92:2).

- a) teacher b) president c) Lord d) boss

**6** Finding the cure to cancer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) contrition b) selfishness c) goodness d) kung fu

**7** Studying hard in school is a search for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) rewards b) the Elf on the Shelf c) Waldo d) truth

**8** To write a simple poem with all the right words is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) beauty b) homework c) frustration d) haiku

**9** Jesus said, "You will know the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ will set you free" (John 8:32).

- a) answers to the test b) truth c) prison guard d) principal

**10** Beautiful art and buildings were often created to praise and honor God. True | False



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Exterior of Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and Martyrs, designed by Michelangelo



## ANSWERS

1. **d)** Awe and wonder are a natural response to the beauty of God's glory throughout creation. The Holy Spirit helps us recognize that it is God who created all this beauty and that God is awesome.
2. **a)** Truth, beauty, and goodness are called the "transcendentals" because they are the ultimate desires of every person. These desires, which are given to all people by God, transcend every generation and every society.
3. **c)** Through systematic investigation, scientists seek to understand the truths of nature, truths that God created to be discovered (see CCC, 159).
4. **b)** "Created 'in the image of God,' man expresses the truth of his relationship with the Creator by the beauty of his artistic works ... art bears a certain likeness to God's activity" (CCC, 2501).
5. **d)** All religions outline a path directed toward a moral life. Christianity teaches Christians how to love the things of God and avoid evil.
6. **False.** All truth, beauty, and goodness — found inside the Church or not — ultimately can be traced back to God since God is the author of everything true, beautiful, and good.
7. **d)** St. Francis wrote: "Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brothers Wind and Air, Sister Water and Brother Fire, for Sister Earth, our Mother. ... Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death."
8. **c)** Physical beauty fades away, but inner beauty lasts for those who are close to the Lord.
9. **c)** Along with encouraging music, Mother Teresa taught that kindness, a smile, and joy could bring world peace.
10. **b)** The prophet Daniel recognized that all of creation blesses the Lord when it does what God designed it to do.
11. **True.** It delights the Lord to see his creatures doing what he created them to do. People are inspired by nature because they intuit this divine goodness in creation.

12. **a)** St. Irenaeus taught that God created life, love, beauty, joy, truth, and goodness to be enjoyed and celebrated. Jesus came so that we might have life to the full (see John 10:10).
13. **d)** Just because someone believes something is true doesn't make it true. Only God's truths are true. Christ came so that we would not be confused and mistakenly choose what is wrong or evil (see CCC, 2466).
14. **d)** Jesus knew that children instinctively recognize beauty, truth, and goodness.
15. **False.** The opposite is true. Science and technology describe how things work, such as a computer, a car, or our bodies. Religion explains why we are here, why there is evil, or what our purpose in life is. Therefore, religion and science work together to answer life's questions in distinct ways.
16. **a)** We were created to worship God, who is the source of all truth. Good liturgy with beautiful music, art, ritual, and architecture raise our minds and hearts to the heavens.
17. **b)** Catholicism with its art, music, architecture, incense, bells, ritual, oils, symbols, gestures, dances, and sacraments has always honored our capacity to encounter God through our senses.
18. **a)** Not every choice is a good one. Catholicism teaches how to avoid self-destructive choices and instead choose God's way of happiness and peace.
19. **c)** St. Paul wrote: "Ever since the creation of the world, [God's] invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made" (Romans 1:20).
20. **False.** Even though selling them would raise money, the money would run out before all the poor were fed. But the poor could all be fed if rich people and nations would simply share. The Church's art and architecture help people encounter God, which could change their hearts and increase their generosity.

## Kids' Quiz

1. **b)** Truth is what is real and can be proven, like  $2+2=4$ . Jesus is the truth because everything he said and did lined up with the way God created the world to work. Saints have tested the truth of Jesus and have proved that his way is right and trustworthy.
2. **a)** When God created everything, it was just the way it should be. When people and things are not good in this world, it is because of sin.
3. **d)** "The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty of the Creator" (CCC, 341).
4. **False.** "Research in all branches of knowledge ... can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God" (CCC, 159).
5. **c)** Goodness means that something is doing what it was created to do. A good knife cuts well. A good heart pumps blood. People were created to love, serve, praise God, and do God's will. When we do these things, our actions are "good."
6. **c)** We were created with brains so we could use them to do the works of God. Healing is an act of God. Anything we do that brings healing is an act of "goodness."
7. **d)** God created us to seek the truth, to want the truth, and to be satisfied only by the truth. This is because God is the truth, and our hearts desire God.
8. **a)** Beauty is often shown through simplicity, purity, and harmony, which can be found in a verse of poetry.
9. **b)** We come to know the truth of Jesus by being faithful disciples and obeying his word.
10. **True.** Magnificent works of art and architecture are gifts back to God created by grateful artists whom God has given a special talent to create beautiful things.