Cathedral Architect

Did you know that our Cathedral is modeled after another cathedral in France? What were the problems with building the original Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament? How was it changed with the Restoration completed in 2005?

Your job is to investigate the architectural plans and building issues and the amazing stories that go with them!

To begin:

The term “cathedral” means ________________ in Latin. Our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament is modeled after the ____________________ in ________________. Cathedral entrances are usually through ____________ doors which represents the Holy Trinity. Most cathedrals are built in the shape of a ________________.

Cathedral Map:

Look carefully at the Cathedral map. All cathedrals are planned in a particular way and are symbolic in this design. Sketch a map (use a ruler!) of the Cathedral below or on a separate sheet of paper, and label with the terms listed. Be ready to teach everyone else to use the correct terms!

apse, narthex, nave, cathedra, transept, rose window, ambulatory, choir (from quire), vestibule, baptismal font, dome, sanctuary, altar, oculus, clerestory, cartouche, arch
Project Mathematician

You are the bean counter and the mathematician! All projects have someone who keeps track of the numbers and that is your role. However, the architects need you to check their math on some of the measurements they have taken, so off we go!

First, your role as bean counter! How many and how much? What numbers and statistics can you find that tell the story of the Cathedral? Some hints to get you started:

Cost of the entire Cathedral restoration

Cost of the seismic retrofit

Length of time to plan the restoration. Length of time the Cathedral was closed

And now... a Cathedral math problem:

The crucifix is _____ feet high and the crown is 14 feet in diameter. Together they weigh 2,000 pounds. What is the circumference of the crown? (Hint: \( \pi = 3.14 \))

Back to counting beans:

The original cost of building the Cathedral from 1886-1889 was _________ in today's money. There are over _______ works of art painted by Evergreen Studios in the Cathedral.
Cathedral Historian

History is a story well told.

Your role is to learn the stories of the Cathedral and be ready to share them with your group. The Cathedral stories revolve around people and objects and each researcher always discovers something new! Let’s see what you can discover!

Research each of the three people listed below. Find fascinating facts and one quote from this person to share with your group. Be ready to explain at least one story from their lives!

**Bishop Patrick Manogue**

- Fact:
- Fact:
- Quote:

**Father Peter Anderson**

- Fact:
- Fact:

Why is he honored in the Cathedral? Where is he honored in the Cathedral? ____________________________

**The Missing Lamp**

The large sanctuary lamp was lost for a long time. What is the story behind its sudden reappearance?

__________________________

__________________________

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Laconic Liturgist

A liturgist has a special function in the Catholic Church. This person, now you, helps the people of the church become closer to God. Your job is to interpret the symbols placed in the Cathedral to help us be closer to God and to feel his presence.

Most symbols in the church speak silently and the people must look carefully and thoughtfully to completely understand. Some symbols are the same in every Catholic church, and some are special to the individual church. Think carefully first about the name of the Cathedral as you research and walk around.

A laconic person is one of few words. You are laconic as the liturgist because you must see the symbols and explain them in just a few words. Be sure that you are seeking the deeper meaning behind each symbol. Take some time to ponder, understand, and then meditate when you visit the Cathedral.

**Symbolism in Structure**

Each of the places listed below has a special meaning in either the Mass or in bringing the people closer to God. Research why it is used, what it means, why it is placed where it is.

Outline of the Cathedral (bird’s eye view of the entire building):

__________________________________________________________________________

Saint statues (in the niches on the outside of the building):

__________________________________________________________________________

Baptismal font:

__________________________________________________________________________

The altar:

__________________________________________________________________________

The crucifix:

__________________________________________________________________________

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Civic Leader

At the time the Cathedral was built, Sacramento was booming with growth. There were some people who were key “movers and shakers” as Sacramento grew. They were the civic leaders of the time and we still feel their influences today. Who were they? What were their stories?

Research the three colorful and interesting people listed below and be ready to share what you learned about them with your group. Look for any influences they may have had on the building of the Cathedral as your walk quietly throughout.

Mrs. Jane Stanford, wife of Governor Leland Stanford

- Fact:
- Fact:
- Fact:
- Fact:
- Fact:
- Quote:

Anthony Cools

- Fact:
- Fact:
- Fact:
- Quote about him:

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You are the Latin Linguist! So much of our scripture and history is in Latin and needs translation!

Look carefully throughout the Cathedral for labels, hymns, and an antiphon. Hints: Labels are found at the back of nave and in the vestibule. Choose one line of the hymn written on the Eucharistic Chapel facing the altar. Stand under the dome and read the antiphon written in the drum of the dome.

Cathedral Label (pick one to share):

Latin: __________________________________________

___________________________________________

English: _______________________________________

___________________________________________

Where was it found? _______________________________________

Hymn verse facing the altar on the Eucharistic Chapel:

Hymn title: __________________________ Author: _______________________

Latin: ______________________________________

___________________________________________

English:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Why was this part of the verse chosen to face the people during Mass?

___________________________________________

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Scripture Expert

You are the Scripture Expert! Your job is to find and interpret the scripture written throughout the Cathedral. You’ll find many scripture references written in Latin, and only two in English. Working with the Latin Linguist should help you to decipher and interpret the references.

Once you have found the scripture readings, your job is to interpret them! How are they appropriate for their location in the Cathedral, and why do you believe that they were chosen for the Cathedral?

**Begin at the Baptismal Font:**

**English:**

________________________________________

________________________________________

**Dominant symbolism:**

________________________________________

________________________________________

**Interpretation:**

________________________________________

________________________________________

**Dome:**

Look carefully at the roundels located at the cardinal points in the dome. Look up the scripture references in the Bible and write a sentence or two explaining the story and perhaps the reason you believe it was chosen.

**East -**

________________________________________

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Saint Historian

You are the official historian of the lives of the saints we see in the Cathedral! A saint is a person who lived a holy life, is in heaven, and is honored by the Church. Canonization (the process the Church uses to name a saint) does not “make” a person a saint; it recognizes what God has already done.

There are two large groupings of saints in the Cathedral. One grouping is in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel and the other is in the Martyrs Chapel. Let’s investigate their stories and their experiences!

Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel

Investigate the saints listed below and be ready to tell their stories to others. Make any notes you need to make here, but just make them notes and not full sentences. Why are they here in the Cathedral?

Our Lady of Guadalupe:
________________________________________
________________________________________

St. Toribio Romo Gonzalez:
________________________________________
________________________________________

St. Rose of Lima:
________________________________________
________________________________________

Blessed Junipero Serra:
________________________________________
________________________________________

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