

First known nativity scene figurines are on display in Rome



Nativity scene commissioned by Pope Nicholas IV in 1292. Credit: Daniel Ibanez/CNA.

By Courtney Mares

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The first known nativity scene figurines are currently on display in one of Rome's oldest basilicas.

The underground Chapel of the Nativity in the **Basilica of St. Mary Major** — known to Italians as Santa Maria Maggiore — once contained at least six marble nativity statues sculpted by Arnolfo di Cambio in the late 13th century.

The public can now view these nativity figurines in the Marian basilica's **Sistine chapel**, located to the right of the main altar.

The figurines were commissioned in 1292 by Pope Nicholas IV, the first Franciscan pope, who was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, the creator of the first living nativity in Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

Mexico's Guadalupe Pilgrimage Draws Huge Crowd after One-Year Absence



Pilgrims walks towards the Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021.
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MEXICO CITY —

A throng of Catholic pilgrims estimated at more than 1.5 million gathered at a basilica in Mexico City on Sunday for the annual Virgin of Guadalupe gathering after the festivities were canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Virgin of Guadalupe basilica, the most visited Catholic shrine of the Americas, was constructed next to a hill in the north of the Mexican capital where Catholics believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to an Aztec man in 1531, a decade after the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Mariah Carey says Mary mother of Jesus is ‘Queen of Christmas’



I don't always look to pop stars for religious clarification but when I do I look to Mariah Carey.

The Blaze: Popstar Mariah Carey has given her Christmas crown to another woman she feels is better suited to be called the “Queen of Christmas.”

Carey told BBC radio host Zoe Ball that she did not come up with the title “Queen of Christmas” and feels that the moniker belongs to the virgin Mary, the mother of Christ.

“Can I just say that I did not create the title or the moniker ‘Queen of Christmas,’” Carey explained. “I did not do that. That was other people, and I just want to humbly say that I don't consider myself that,” Carey said on “The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show,” which aired on BBC 2 Friday.

Carey elaborated, telling listeners that she did not deserve to be called by the title but that Mary, the mother of Christ, was the real “Queen of Christmas.” Carey's comments came after Ball lightheartedly introduced the singer to listeners by the nickname given to her by fans. The popstar downplayed her success humbly, suggesting she was someone who has been blessed to write and perform many Christmas songs.

“And let's face it, you know, everybody's faith is what it is. But to me, Mary is the Queen of Christmas,” she told BBC listeners Friday.

Pope Doubles Down On Latin Mass

December 18, 2021 by sd

From Catholic News Agency:

The Vatican issued Saturday further strict guidelines on the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, in response to questions about the *motu proprio Traditionis custodes*.

The explanatory document, which bans confirmations and ordinations according to pre-Vatican II Roman Missals, was published Dec. 18 with Pope Francis' approval, the Vatican's liturgy office said. In one of the responses, the Divine Worship congregation said that according to Traditionis custodes, sacraments cannot be celebrated using the liturgical books *Rituale Romanum* and the *Pontificale Romanum* promulgated prior to the Vatican II reforms.