

9. How many windows are there in the dome?

There are 24 huge windows, each more than 10 feet tall.



10. Who gave us the altar and angel statues near it?

The priests of France gave us these gifts in 1821.



Altar and Angels

11. Who gave us the gigantic paintings near the entrance?

These were gifts of King Louis of France in 1821.



12. What is a basilica?

"Basilica" is honorary name given to a church by the pope. The pope gives this honor because the church is very old, or historic or beautiful. Pope Pius XI gave this honor to the Baltimore Cathedral in 1937.



Pope Pius XI

13. Why do we have a big red & yellow umbrella?

The big red and yellow umbrella is a symbol that this church was honored as a "basilica". The umbrella is used to shade the pope whenever he comes.



Basilica Umbrella

THE BALTIMORE BASILICA



1817 - 1840. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1840 - 1845. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1845 - 1850. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1850 - 1855. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1855 - 1860. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1860 - 1865. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1865 - 1870. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1870 - 1875. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1875 - 1880. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1880 - 1885. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1885 - 1890. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1890 - 1895. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1895 - 1900. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1900 - 1905. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1905 - 1910. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1910 - 1915. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1915 - 1920. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1920 - 1925. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1925 - 1930. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1930 - 1935. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1935 - 1940. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1940 - 1945. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1945 - 1950. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1950 - 1955. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1955 - 1960. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1960 - 1965. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1965 - 1970. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1970 - 1975. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1975 - 1980. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1980 - 1985. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1985 - 1990. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1990 - 1995. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1995 - 2000. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2000 - 2005. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2005 - 2010. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2010 - 2015. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2015 - 2020. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2020 - 2025. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2025 - 2030. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2030 - 2035. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2035 - 2040. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2040 - 2045. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2045 - 2050. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2050 - 2055. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2055 - 2060. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2060 - 2065. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2065 - 2070. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2070 - 2075. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2075 - 2080. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2080 - 2085. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2085 - 2090. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2090 - 2095. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2095 - 2100. Collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Questions & Answers

1. How did this building get started?

In 1789, the pope gave the United States its first "bishop," John Carroll. The pope asked Bishop Carroll to build a "cathedral."



Bishop John Carroll

2. What is bishop?

A man chosen by the pope to be the leader and teacher of Catholics in a particular area. The bishop teaches us with the authority of Jesus' apostles



Archbishop William Lori

3. What is a cathedral?

A cathedral is the church where the Bishop's teaching chair is located. The chair is called a "Cathedra"



Cathedra

4. Why is the first cathedral in Baltimore?

When John Carroll was named to be the first bishop in the United States, his headquarters was placed in the city with the most Catholics, Baltimore.

5. Who designed this building?

Benjamin Latrobe. He was also one of the designers of the US Capitol building in Washington DC.



Benjamin Latrobe

6. How is President Thomas Jefferson connected to this building?

President Thomas Jefferson was the one who suggested that Benjamin Latrobe could design the church. He also helped to design the windows in the dome.



Thomas Jefferson

7. Why are there no stained glass windows?

The church was built before electric lights were invented. Clear glass lets in the sunlight, and makes the whole church bright.



Window from 1943-2006

8. How is dome held up?

The dome is held up by four big arches, in the shape of ovals. The arches curve under the dome, and then when they reach the basement, they curve back up.



Basement Dome Support