ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
1225-1274 AD
1. Thomas was born in the county of Aquino, ________________ Italy, which is where the term “Aquinas” comes from in his name.

2. When Thomas was 5 he asked his teacher, “_________ ___________ ___________?” When his teacher was unable to give a satisfactory answer Thomas decided to become a ______________________ theologian and dedicated the rest of his life to answering this question.
3. When Thomas was **19** he made up his mind and received the habit (**robe**) of a **Dominican** brother. His family was rather angry with this, not because he had chosen to become a monk, but because the Dominicans were a **mendicant** order (meaning they would be so poor that they would beg for **food**).

4. Thomas’ brothers (by order of their mother) ambushed Thomas and locked him in the family castle for nearly **2** years, even sending a **prostitute** to tempt him at one point (Thomas chased her out with a **burning log**). They did all of this with the hope that Thomas would change his mind and not become a Dominican.
5. Thomas studied under one of the most famous teachers of his day, St. **Albert the Great**
6. Because Thomas was quiet in class and a rather large man, he was given the nickname, “____________________”.

7. When Thomas traveled he often ______________ walked instead of ______________ riding a ______________ donkey. Thomas “____________________” offered up the long journeys instead of causing the animal discomfort.
8. Thomas spent a lot of time thinking about deep **theological** and **philosophical** questions. Once, while at a French banquet hosted by King Louis, Thomas was pondering a way to disprove Manichaeism (a false religion once believed by **St. Augustine**). When he found the answer, Thomas slammed his fist on the table and shouted, “That will settle the Manichees!” Instead of chastising Thomas for his outburst, King Louis ordered a scribe to come **write** down Thomas’ **thoughts**.
9. While a professor at the University of Paris Thomas participated often in public debates known as Disputed Questions. During these debates, ___________ students and ___________ teachers could ask any questions they wanted. Most professors stayed away from these debates for fear of ___________ embarrassment, but Thomas ___________ loved them.
10. Once, while traveling over a mountain pass a fellow Dominican said, “Wouldn’t it be grand to be the ___________ of everything you can see?” Thomas replied, “Well, I suppose so, but I’d rather be the owner of that _______________ page in that ___________ Aristotle manuscript. For Thomas, 1 page of _______________ trumped all the riches of the world.

11. Thomas once went through an entire surgery (without any anesthetics like we have today) without shedding a single _______________. As impressive as this was, Thomas wasn’t always so fearless. It is said that he was scared of _______________ throughout his entire life.
12. Thomas Aquinas’ most famous work was the **Summa Theologica**, a 4,000 page masterpiece in which he attempts to summarize all theology. It is widely considered the greatest work on faith ever written.
13. When Thomas wrote he had 4 scribes surrounding him. Thomas would dictate one sentence to one, one sentence to the next one, and so on. He spoke four times as fast as they wrote. Thomas’ mind was incredibly bright. He wrote over 50,000 pages during his lifetime, the equivalent of 500 short modern books (and would have undoubtedly written more if he had owned a computer!).

14. Near the end of his life, while celebrating Mass, Thomas received a revelation of God that affected him so much that he said, “All that I have written appears to be as so much straw.” This experience of God was so amazing that it couldn’t possibly be put into words. Thomas never wrote again.
15. When Thomas was terminally ill he made a general Confession of all the sins of his life. His confessor came out of the confessional booth weeping and saying, “The sins of a _______ child of ______... The sins of a _______ child of ______...”
16. Thomas was named a [Doctor of the Church] as a way to honor the intellectual influence (in theology and philosophy) he has had on the Church. There are only 35 people in the 2,000 year history of the Catholic Church who have been given this title.

17. Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of [students], schools, theologians, philosophers, and the patron against [thunderstorms].
18. Once, while at prayer, God spoke to Thomas, saying, “You have written well of me, Thomas. What would you ask of me?” Thomas responded, “Non aliam nisi te”, Latin for “__________________________”. This is the answer of a ________________. None other than You SAINT
Which story did you like the most?

1. Thomas’ Fearlessness
2. A Question for His Teacher
3. Wanting to Become a Dominican
4. The Dumb Ox
5. Donkeys
6. Thomas’ Absentmindedness
7. “Wouldn’t it be grand…”
8. How Thomas Wrote
9. The Unfinished Summa
10. Disputed Questions
11. Last Confession
12. Flat on His Stomach, Talking to Jesus
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