



## Lesson 1

### **What is sacred art and what does the School of Sacred Art.**

Sacred Art: everything that refers in art to the service of liturgy and prayer. For example:

Paintings, sculptures, mosaics, frescoes, church furnishings (altars, Eucharistic tabernacles), stained glass windows, vestments, chalices, monstrances.

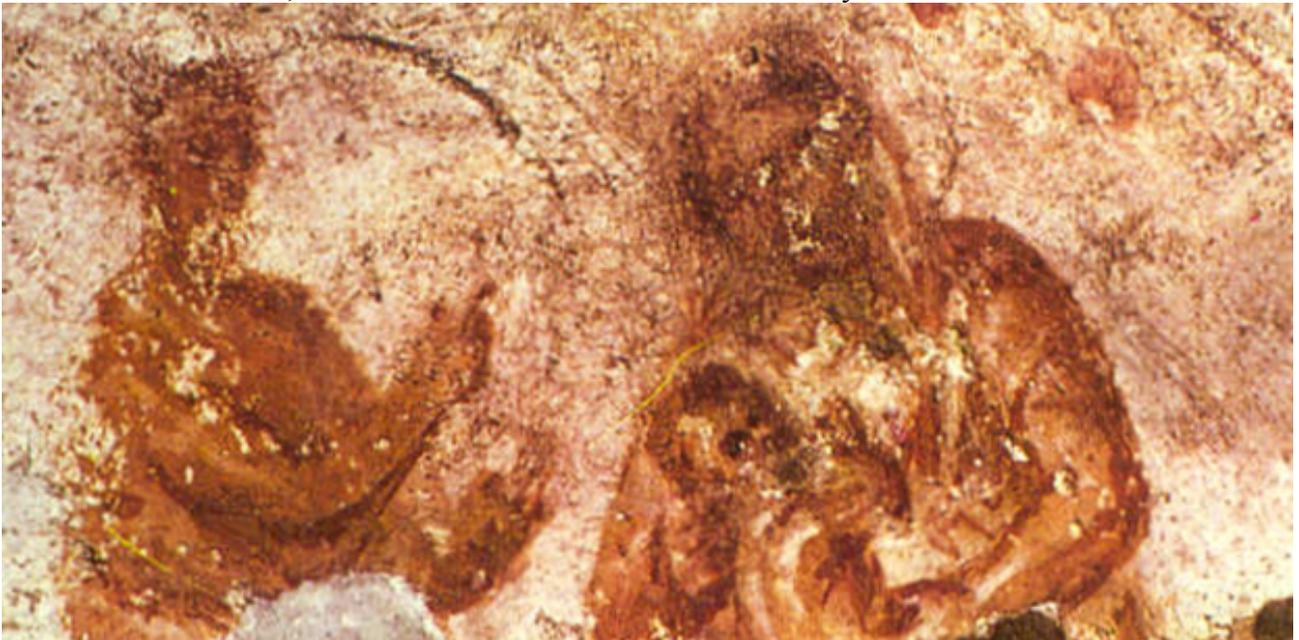
Sacred art has rules that are established by the authority of the Church (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant Christian, Lutheran, Evangelical, ...) and other religious denominations (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Confucianism, etc.).

Some religions forbid any image: Islam, Judaism.

Others allow images but only under certain conditions and respecting fixed canons.

In any case, each religion has its own customs and rituals, which require tools such as churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, etc ....

Christian sacred art is the only one that has developed over the centuries, now two millennia. Why? The Catholic Christian religion is founded on the incarnation of God. A God who became man, true God and true man. And a creature is conceived, develops in the mother's womb, is born, grows, falls ill, heals, ages, dies. The oldest image of the Virgin Mary in the world dates back to the third century and is preserved in Rome, twenty meters below ground, in one of the cubicles of the catacombs of Priscilla, where there is the ancient basilica of St. Sylvester on the Via Salaria.





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There are therefore rules, documents, protocols in which the artist must learn to move, reaching such a high artistic quality that it allows him to take possession and dominate in his art the rules themselves. Benedict XVI speaks of it in the "Spirit of the Liturgy".

Here you can learn techniques and modes of expression, but it is then up to each to develop their own style, identify the thread in which to fit and develop. Without fear of making a mistake, daring, proposing, fighting against personal anxieties and discouragements, which are all essential ingredients for growth.

The "theoretical" subjects are fundamental to be able to grow artistically in sacred art: the knowledge of sacred writing, old and new testaments, stories, images, emotions that the Bible gives us are the perfect canvas to work in this field.

And so are the stories of the saints, who are the true history of the Church (union of people). And the symbology. And the history of art. The artistic composition. Theology of the body, Contemporary art. The liturgy.

Learning together, working together, not being afraid to discover the other, not being isolated in the individualism that dries the sources of creativity. And for those who have faith and believe in it, prayer together is a high point in the life of the School. We hope to have Holy Mass in our classrooms soon.