

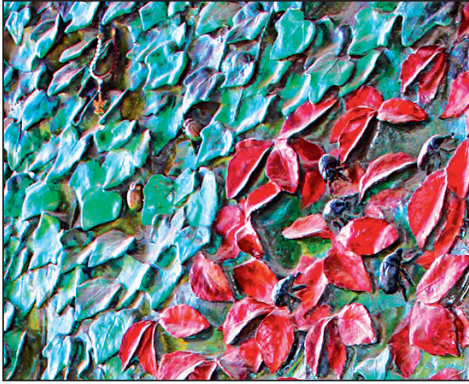
TRAVEL

A story told in stone and light

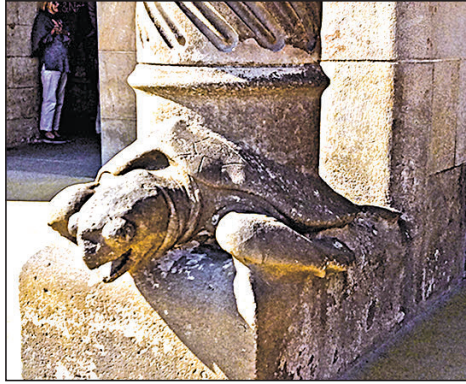
Photos by TONI-ANN ORTIZ

La Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona, Catalonia, in Spain, has been more than 133 years in the making. The groundbreaking for the art nouveau church occurred in 1882, but when its chief architect, Antoni Gaudí, died in 1926, construction was less than 25 percent done. Then a fire destroyed the original plans, drawings, mini sculptures and photographs during the Spanish Civil War. The construction of La Sagrada Familia continues to this day, based on reconstructed versions of the original plans, as well as on modern adaptations.

The vision of La Sagrada Familia, which was named a basilica in 2010, is an expression in stone and glass that tells the biblical history of Jesus as you view each of the three grand façades: the Nativity façade to the east, the Passion to the west, and the Glory to the south (yet to be completed).



A set of doors in the Nativity façade on the portal of charity is covered with leaves and different insects.



A tortoise supports the base of each column in the Nativity façade.



A snake, a typical symbol of evil or the devil, is placed behind Judas on the Passion façade



Above: Inside the nave, a starburst of light shines down on the crucifixion of Christ as sunlight streams through a roof supported by fluted ivory-colored columns. The pink and gray columns represent trees and branches reaching to the sky.



Right: Jesus is chained to a column in a sculpture depicting his flagellation. In the background are the Gospel doors, which contain New Testament texts on the Passion.



Top: Stained glass windows paint the walls around them in kaleidoscopic hues.

Middle: Six large tree trunks support the Passion façade. The lines are harsh and stark, with sculptures representing pain, sacrifice and death.

Bottom: The Passion façade depicts the judgment of Jesus, with Pontius Pilate washing his hands on the right.

TRAVEL



The Nativity façade celebrates the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God incarnate.



The three Magi kneel before Jesus in the Nativity façade.



In the Nativity façade, Mary lifts Jesus as Joseph protects them. At their sides are an ox and a mule.



The bell tower pinnacles show episcopal insignia: the ring, the staff, the miter and the cross. The shape of the pinnacle is the staff; the top is the miter, which contains the cross; and the hole is the ring.



The portal of faith, part of the Nativity façade, shows Jesus working as a carpenter.

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