

# The Last Supper by Da Vinci and Treasure, Talent and Time

A special contribution by All Saints' Parish Council

In preparation for next week's Ministry Fair, Monsignor Marren asked the Parish Council to write a piece for the bulletin on Time, Talent and Treasure. Let's take them in reverse order; least important first.

Treasure is simple and the most easily measured. That is probably why it garners more than its fair amount of attention. It is also sort of boring. Being an **active** Catholic includes making a sincere effort to tithe (5% to parish; 1% to Archbishop's Annual Appeal; 4% to other charities). Currently, All Saints contributions to parish are at about 9/10 of 1% (\$1.9M/1,850 families/ \$113K mean HHI). This follows a national trend of decreasing percentages in areas of increasing prosperity. But there are dioceses that are bucking this trend. The diocese of Wichita currently requests parishioners to tithe 8% to their parishes in order to support free Catholic education. This successful initiative started in a single parish in 1969, but has now spread to the whole diocese and beyond. The Wichita Diocese ordained **20 priests** in 2017-2018. The Atlanta Diocese, 8x as large, ordained 7. We can and should do better. If necessary, follow the Matthew Kelly plan of increasing your donations periodically so as to meet the tithing commitment in 5 years, but start your plan today. There are details in the bulletin for automatic e-giving to make things easy. Boring, so let's move on.

One of the most iconic artworks of the Renaissance, the Last Supper by Da Vinci is housed in the refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. Think about that. One of the greatest works of art of all time isn't in the public area of the church at all, but in the private dining room of monks. Thankfully, Da Vinci didn't concern himself with the location of his work. God, help us to use our talents for your will, even if we aren't sure if anyone will see our work.

Jesus of course is the center, but to the left, and closest to Jesus, is Thomas. Thomas is almost hidden, and the local lore is that Da Vinci had forgotten about him and had to add him as an afterthought. The Italians love a good story. But while Thomas is almost hidden, his finger is prominent. Thomas is the first to offer his life to protect Jesus in John 11:16. Thomas is the Apostle who journeyed east spreading the Good News and founding the Catholic church in Syria,



Picture from: commons.wikimedia.org

Iran, Iraq, and southern India where he was martyred. Yet Thomas is remembered today, and in Da Vinci's time, as Doubting Thomas and the finger. Sometimes God calls us to use our talents, but God can also use our weaknesses for His will. Don't believe that you aren't talented enough to help.

Time. Time is an integral part of the Last Supper. Da Vinci chose to paint on dry plaster to allow time to focus on every detail. This technique contributed to the painting's rapid deterioration so that only 150 years after completion (aka the Reformation) it was barely discernible. The art was so badly damaged that in 1652 it was deemed acceptable to cut a doorway through a portion, removing Jesus' feet. Yet today, with the aid of modern technology, we are able to know the Last Supper as Da Vinci intended.

Time and Space. Unlike previous artists, Leonardo painted the Apostles linearly with lines of perspective all converging on Jesus. In doing so, Da Vinci includes the whole room in the painting, including the viewer and the opposite wall. If Jesus were to look up from the painting, he would see the scene of his crucifixion, painted by Donato. In the space in between is the span of a single day in which Jesus saved the world.

Leonardo gave his time and talent to give us a priceless treasure. As you accept the gift of the Eucharist acknowledge that Jesus also calls us to serve. And as you gaze upon the Cross, remember the beauty of The Last Supper.

© 2018



**Start any time.**  
Each meeting stands on its own.  
Sign up online.

Oct. 15: *Grief and Your Relationships*  
Oct. 22: *Why?*  
Oct. 29: *Guilt and Anger*  
Nov. 5: *Complicating Factors*  
Nov. 12: *Stuck*

Nov. 19: *Lessons of Grief—Part 1*  
Nov. 26: *Lessons of Grief—Part 2*  
Dec. 3: *Heaven*  
Dec. 10: *What Do I Live for Now?*  
Dec. 17: *Surviving the Holidays*



## Advent by Candlelight

Preparing Hearts to Receive the Savior



Friday, November 9th, Social Hall, 6:30-8:30pm

Register by November 4, Speaker Melissa Foley. See flyers for more details and guidelines for hosting tables.

[allsaintsdunwoody.org/advent-by-candlelight](http://allsaintsdunwoody.org/advent-by-candlelight)