

GOD'S WORK OF ART



It hung 'unrecognized'. Since 1930 it adorned a wall in the Jesuit community dining room in Dublin, Ireland. Hanging unnoticed, often not seen by the community as they passed by it daily on their way to meals. In 1990, in preparation for some refurbishment work at their house they invited an art expert to look at some of the other paintings that hung for decades around the period residence. Sergio Benedetti, an Italian conservator, from the National gallery of Ireland, was invited to assess the paintings with an eye to restoring them. After *The Betrayal of Christ* was cleaned and following painstaking research by Benedetti, the painting was revealed, to an astounded art world, to be the "lost" Caravaggio painting entitled *The Taking Of Christ*. Priceless!

We are God's work of art. As we read in yesterday's epistle to the Ephesians, we are God's "handiwork". More precious than gold. However precious we are in God's eyes we can sometimes grow over relaxed in our familiarity towards others, maybe even indifferent. We often pass each other, not taking time to acknowledge or recognize the other.

Lent is time for us to pause and take stock of the works of art around us – *The Images of God*. It's a time to recognize a new, the unique beauty in each other. To SEE beyond the barriers, we put up to hide or protect ourselves from daily life and living.

To love another is to SEE the face of God. As a Christian Community let us continue to pray daily that we do not betray Christ in one another.