

The Renaissance

Central Historical Question:

If Renaissance art is credited with influencing humanistic ideas, was the Church taking an unnecessary risk by funding the work of artists?

Document #1 Sermon by Michele da Caraca, a Dominican friar, 1492

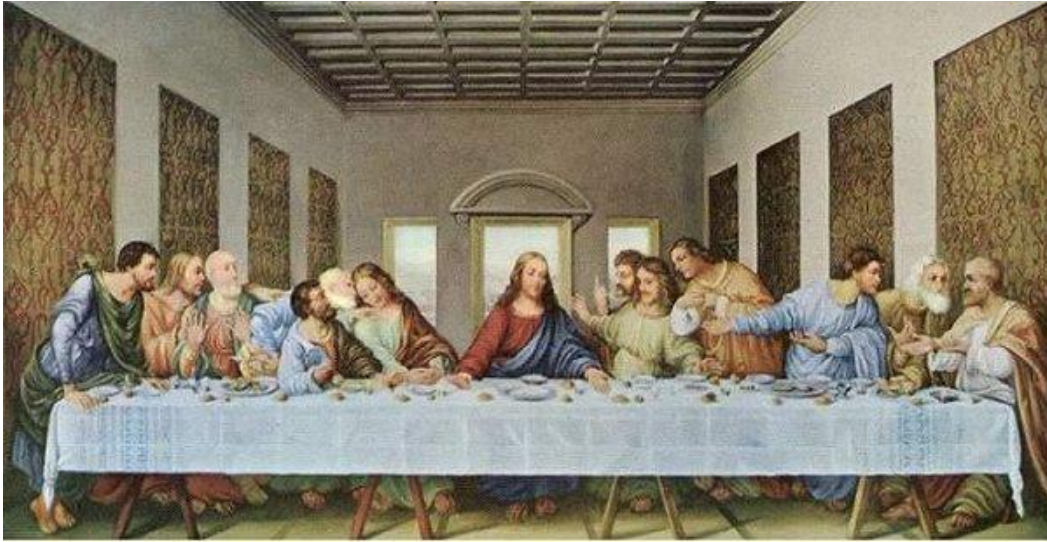
Images of the Virgin and Saints were introduced for three reasons.

1. People are simple and ignorant- those who are not able to read the scriptures can learn by seeing the sacraments of our salvation and faith in pictures
2. People are often emotionally sluggish- men who are not aroused to devotion when they hear about the histories of Saints may at least be moved when they see them, as if actually present, in pictures. For our feelings are aroused by things seen more than by things heard.
3. People have unreliable memories- many people cannot retain in their memories what they hear, but they do remember if they see images.

Doc #2 Sinners in the Jaws of Hell Judgment Day Amiens Church France 14th cent.



Document #3 Leonardo da Vinci The Last Supper 1495-1498



Document #4 William Shakespeare, Hamlet Act II, Scene II. (approx. 1600)

What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world, the paragon of animals!

Document #5 The Flagellation by Piero della Francesca. 1460

