

HANDOUT B

Our Lady of Loreto in the Refugee's Cloak

BY MARGHERITA GALLUCCI (2020)



Oil on panel, 40cm x 60cm, Florence, Italy.

www.margheritagallucci.com

Sacred Art: *Our Lady of Loreto in the Refugee's Cloak*

Directions: Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Then think about the questions below, and discuss them with your classmates.

Conversation Questions

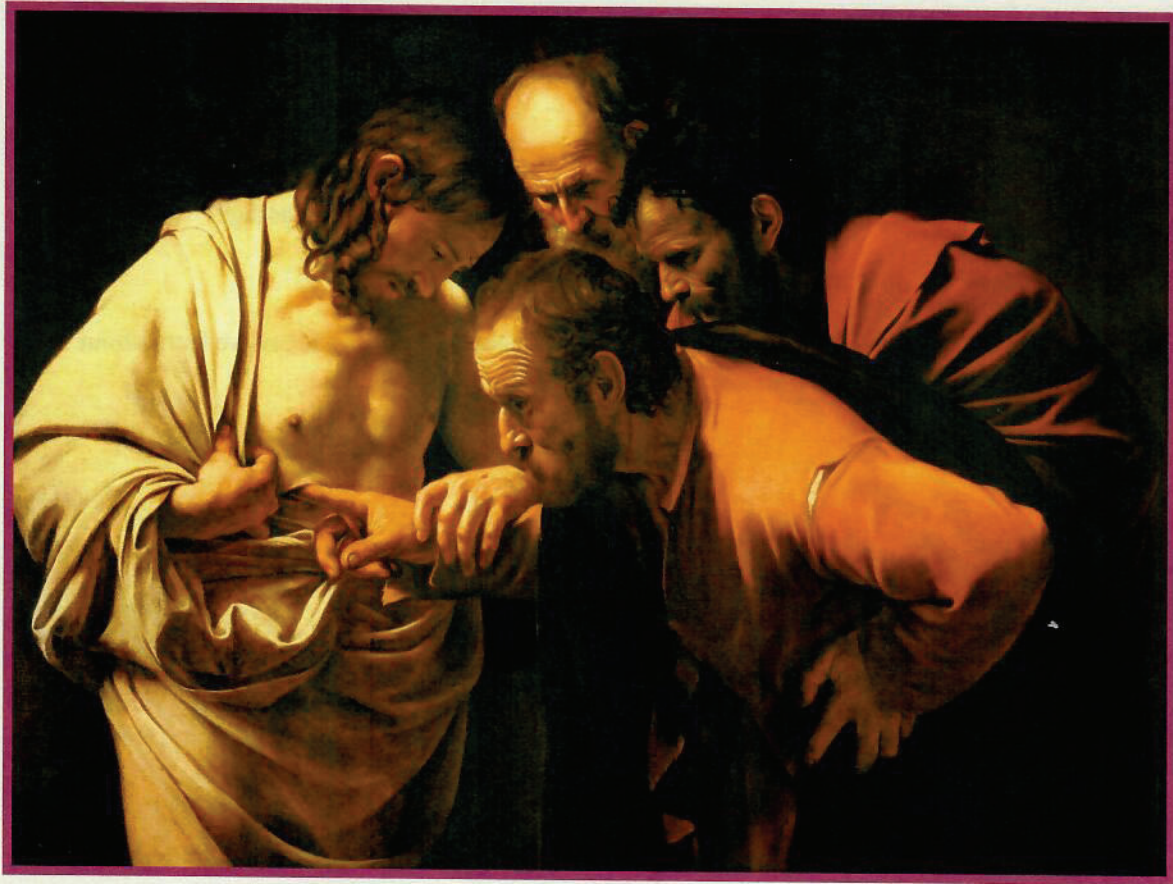
1. What stands out to you about this painting?
2. Who are the figures in the painting? What makes you think so?
3. The original Madonna of Loreto, seen here to the right, is a wood sculpture of Mary and Jesus wrapped in a golden cloth mantle, with various silver jewels. What might be the symbolism of the golden mantle in this painting?
4. Artist Margherita Gallucci described the inspiration for *Our Lady of Loreto in the Refugees Cloak* painting as follows: "One day I was shocked to see images of children, women and men who had lost their lives at sea while trying to reach the Italian coast, were fleeing the war, the misery, and the violence of other people who took advantage of their weakness. Men and women covered themselves with the emergency blankets given to them by the rescuers, and in seeing those women who tried to protect themselves and their children, I thought of ...I thought about how easy it can be to see God and Mary in a statue, and how paradoxically it is more difficult to see God in our brothers and sisters." What has been your experience, if any, with refugees fleeing war and oppressive governments? Why do you think images of suffering refugees shock the conscience?
5. To what extent do you agree with Gallucci's idea that it can be easier to see Jesus in a statue than in another person? Explain.
6. Gallucci continued: "Perhaps, if each of us was covered by a golden mantle, we would be able to recognize at first sight the preciousness of each person." What can you do on a daily basis to recall the sacredness of each human person, independent of their culture and background?



HANDOUT A

The Incredulity of St. Thomas

BY CARAVAGGIO (CA. 1601-1602)



The Incredulity of St. Thomas

Directions: Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Let yourself be inspired in any way that happens naturally. Then, think about the questions below and discuss them with your classmates.

Conversation Questions

1. Who are the figures in this painting?
2. What do you notice first about this painting?
3. How does this painting make you feel?
4. How would you describe the way Jesus looks?
5. Read **John 20:24-25**. What do we learn about St. Thomas in this Scripture passage?
6. Read **John 20:26-29**. How does Jesus respond to St. Thomas's doubt?
7. Having viewed this painting, and read the story of St. Thomas' doubt, what can we learn about how God responds to us if we ever struggle to believe in Him?