

Collection News

NEWS



This week the Haggerty Museum of Art celebrates our nation's visit from Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope, with a focus on this portrait of Ignatius Loyola included in the museum's collection and currently on view in the exhibition *What is Hispanic? | ¿Qué es hispánico?* Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, whose teachings inspire Marquette University's Catholic, Jesuit mission.

Portrait of St. Ignatius of Loyola (ca. 1623)

The founder of the Society of Jesus is not only portrayed humbly in stark simplicity and in darkness, but is also deftly painted on a miniature sheet of copper the size of an average hand. It has been theorized that this work was probably inspired by the oil painting produced by Jacopino del Conte in 1556, which was based on Loyola's actual death mask. The bold words in Latin drifting out of the weeping Ignatius' mouth, "How tawdry this life seems when I look at heaven," complement the understated dimensions of this emotional image of the Basque noble who changed the way we view education, self-awareness, and spirituality today.

Excerpt from essay by Scott Dale.

Unknown Artist (Artista desconocido)

Spanish, 1600s

Portrait of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (Retrato de San Ignacio de Loyola), mid-late 1600s

Oil on copper

7 5/8 x 5 1/2 in.

94.10

Museum purchase, gift of Marquette University Jesuit Community



09.24.15

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