



Francisco de Goya y Lucientes by Vicente López Portaña (1826)



The Last Communion of St. Joseph Calasanctius by Goya (1819)



**Prado Museum
Madrid, Spain**

The Piarists Lend a Painting of Our Founder by Goya to the Prado Museum

Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746 – 1828) is a world renowned Spanish painter. Some have described him as the last of the “Old Masters” and the first of the “Modernists”.

As a young child, he studied at the Piarist Fathers’ School of Saint Anthony (Escuelas Pías de San Antón) in Zaragoza, Spain.

At the request of the Piarist Fathers in Madrid, Goya agreed to paint a scene titled *The Last Communion of Saint Joseph Calasanctius*. The oil on canvas painting is 120 inches high and 87 inches wide.

He delivered the final work to the church of the Piarist Fathers' School of Saint Anthony (Escuelas Pías de San Antón) in Madrid in 1819. At the same time, he donated 75% of the previously agreed price to the Piarists and gave them an additional painting titled *Christ in the Garden of Olives*.

Students and alumni from Devon Preparatory School in Devon, PA and The Calasanctius School in Buffalo, NY are probably very familiar with Goya's painting. Copies of the painting are in Devon Prep and were in Cal before it closed in the early 1990's.

The painting was originally hung in the Church of Saint Anthony in Madrid. In recent years, it was moved to the residence of the Piarists' Provincial Superior (65 Gaztambide Street) in Madrid. The two previously mentioned paintings by Goya now join other works by Jusepe de Ribera, El Greco, Francisco Bayeu and Pedro de Orrente in the same residence.

The world famous Prado Museum opened in 1819. The Piarist Fathers' Province of Bethany in Spain has agreed to lend *The Last Communion of Saint Joseph Calasanctius* to the Prado Museum in celebration of the museum's two hundredth anniversary. The temporary exhibit will last for at least one year. It will become a part of the largest and most complete collection of the works of Goya.

Sources:

<https://www.artehistoria.com/en/artwork/last-communion-saint-joseph-calasanctius>

<https://artescolapio.org/cep/>