Introduction to Theology
Haggerty Museum of Art Visit
November 7, 2013

Name ______________________________

During the first half of our course we worked on the skill of theological interpretation by interpreting biblical texts and their contexts. We looked to history, cultural backgrounds and grammatical meaning to interpret Scripture.

Of course, art is also a matter for interpretation, including theological interpretations. We may even say that art, in particular, provokes us to broaden and deepen our interpretive (hermeneutical) abilities. This worksheet will ask you to use your interpretive skills as part of your visit to the Haggerty.

Type this assignment, and turn it in at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 12th. Use this sheet to take notes and start drafting your responses to these questions.

The Haggerty’s website is: http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty/index.shtml

1. (4 points) The *Madonna of Port Lligat* (Salvador Dali, 1949) presents us with traditional as well as modern and surrealist imagery of Mary and the child Jesus. Likewise, Jean Roberts Guequierre’s portraits of the diseased Madonna and Child, in the exhibition “Current Tendencies III,” also takes traditional imagery and reinterprets them with a seeming focus on suffering and natural evils. Offer (in about 5-7 sentences) your interpretation of what Dali and Guequierre seem to be doing, respectively, in their portraits.
2. (3 points) In about 5-7 sentences, compare Jon Horvath’s *Portrait of My Mother* with Francesco Trevisani’s *Saint Francis in Pentinence*, the saint she admired. What do these portraits seem to portray about these persons. Offer your interpretation. Conclude by explicitly stating an assumption you are bringing to your interpretation, and perhaps a thought about what it says about you.

3. (3 points) Pick any piece of art from “Re-Seeing the Permanent Collection” that you find notably interesting. In about 5-7 sentences, explain what you find interesting about it and why it affects you, and offer any interpretive insights you may have about it. Clearly cite the title, artist and year of the piece you are interpreting.