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Ordinary Men Who Changed the World Easter Prayer Service Tells the Story of the Twelve Apostles

by James Michal '13

Students filed into Darby Auditorium expecting to attend a prayer service, but, based on what they saw, they might have just as easily been attending a lecture sponsored by the fine-arts department.

Projected on a screen at the back of the stage was a larger-than-life image of one of the most world-renowned paintings of all time, Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

In the famous fresco, Jesus sits at table with his twelve Apostles the night before He is to be crucified. These twelve men are present with Jesus at one of the most important moments of His earthly ministry, namely, the institution of the Eucharist.

But who were these at-one-time virtually unknown men, and what did they accomplish?

Quite a bit. And that was precisely the point of the 2010 Easter Prayer Service, held on May 20 for freshmen and sophomores and May 21 for juniors. According to the prayer service, these men changed the world.

Kevin Mercadante '13, one of two narrators to step forward during the prayer service, summarized its theme: "No one ever believed in the ordinary man as Jesus did. It was as if Jesus said, 'Give me twelve ordinary men and, with them, if they will give themselves to me, I will change the world.'"

To illustrate the point, one student, sophomore Tom Lynch, played Christ, calling each of His Apostles by name. Each was seated in the auditorium, among the members of the audience, dressed in ordinary school clothes – ordinary students called to portray the twelve Apostles.

And that is exactly what they did. The twelve students stood at their places in the darkened auditorium; held flashlights up to

their faces; proceeded backstage; changed into period costumes; and then reappeared on stage, forming a living tableau of da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

Bartholomew, played by Chris LoGrippe '12, was the first to speak. He noted that the first Apostle chosen by Jesus – Andrew – never got much credit for being the "first choice."

"But this never bothered Andrew, for he never worried about being noticed or important. To Andrew, only Jesus was important," Bartholomew said.

Narrator Ryan Glass '12 concluded the Easter Prayer Service by reiterating its main theme.

"Who are these men? They have been introduced to you, and you know each one of them. Remember, these twelve men are human beings, the same as you and I."

After the lights came back on, CHS chaplain Fr. Garrett Long proceeded to the front of the auditorium to deliver a brief homily on the themes of the prayer service. He echoed the nobility of the common man, saying that even an average person can become a legendary servant of God.

Additionally, Fr. Garrett emphasized their steadfastness. "Eleven out of the twelve Apostles would die in martyrdom for Jesus. Only the Beloved Apostle John was the exception."

After finishing his homily, Fr. Garrett then blessed the Easter symbols. With the aid of some of the actors, he distributed a dazzling lapel Cross to each member of the audience.

As the Easter Prayer Service made quite clear, young Christians today are called to be the next wave of Apostles. They must be "fishers of men" and carry on Jesus' work, for only through the almighty power of God could the twelve Apostles, leading ordinary lives and working ordinary jobs, change the world forever. ➤



Tom Lynch '12 calls upon the twelve Apostles and each of us in this year's Easter prayer service.