

Redemptoristines of Malines

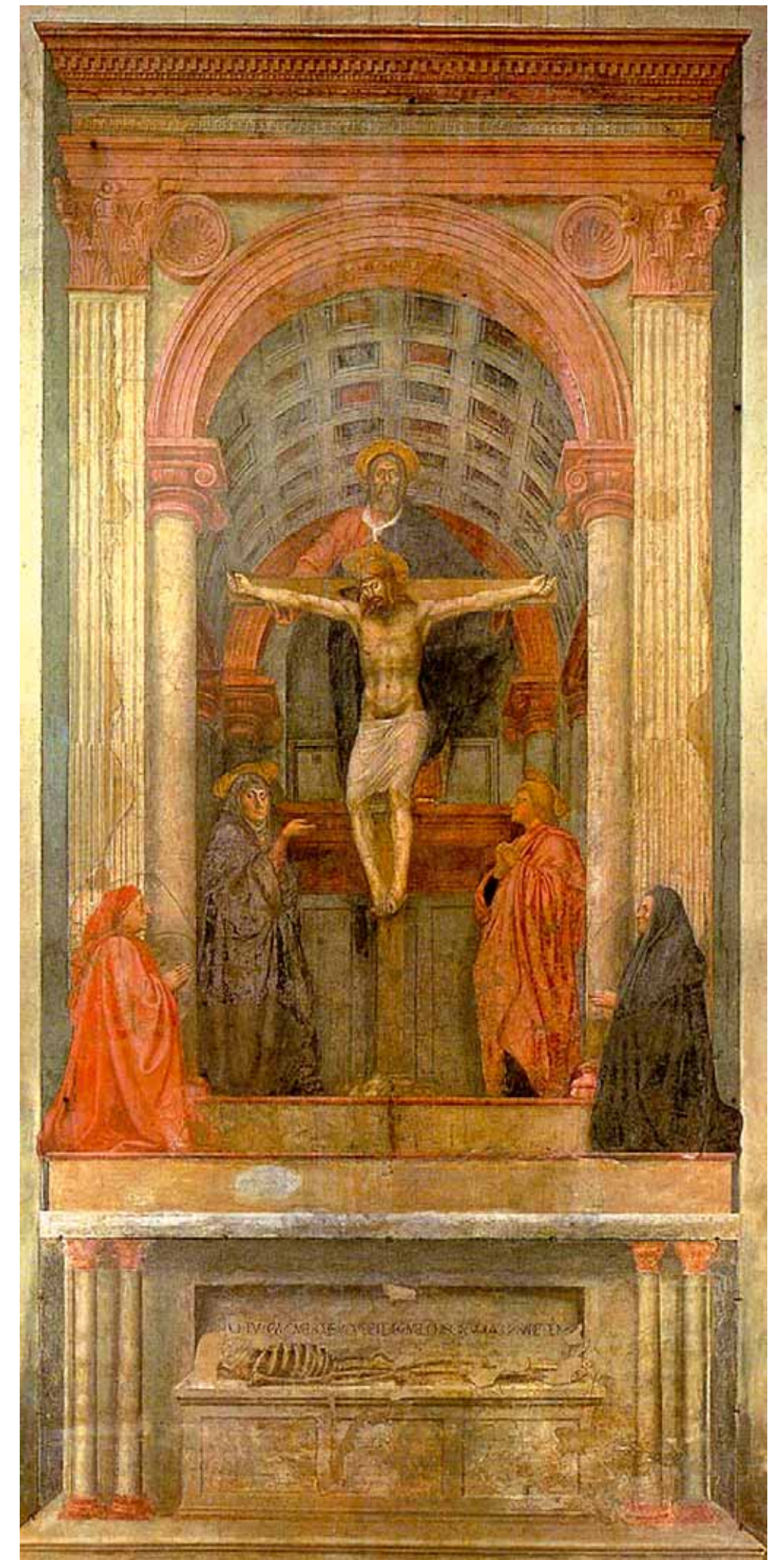
1871

PURGATORY

From September until December 1871, a vision of the Poor Souls in Purgatory appeared in the Belgian Convent of the Redemptoristines.

The deceased father of one of the Sisters, Sister Maria Serafina, appeared to her for three consecutive months requesting her prayers. During the first month, he appeared to her completely surrounded in flames and exclaiming: “Pity, my daughter, have pity on your father! Look at me in this pit of fire! It feels as if we have been suffering here for several centuries! Oh! If only you would realize and understand what Purgatory really is, you would do everything in your power to help the poor souls that are imprisoned here”. At times he would cry out from the flames that surrounded him: ‘I thirst, I thirst!’ From the fourteenth of October, the deceased, although still in much pain, seemed not to be encircled by any flames. He thought at the time that he had passed to a place less severe than Purgatory. It was during this time that he revealed to his daughter that the theologians do not exaggerate when they teach that the suffering of the martyrs was much less severe than what the souls in Purgatory experience. On the vigil of All Saints day and with the advice of her confessor, Sister Maria Serafina asked her father

what description or explanation would be fitting for a sermon on the feast of All Souls. Her deceased father replied: ‘Dear God! no one really understands or believes that the fires of Purgatory are the same as those of Hell; if every mortal soul would visit that place only once, no venial sin would ever be committed, knowing how severe its punishment!’. On the thirtieth of November, the good Sister heard her father cry out: ‘It seems an eternity that I am here; my greatest pain is a longing for God that devours me with an unquenchable desire to be with Him. Each time I seem to get closer to Him, I feel myself cast even further into this abyss simply because my punishment has not been satisfied’. Perhaps his punishment was coming to an end since on the fifth of December he appeared resplendent, but with a melancholy look. From the fifth to the twelfth of December, his appearances ceased; but from the twelfth to the fifteenth he appeared in a more dazzling light. Finally, during midnight Mass, as the chalice was elevated, he appeared for the last time, surrounded in light and in a state of blessedness. He addressed his daughter: ‘The time of my expiation has finally been completed and I am here to thank you and the community for all your prayers and sacrifices offered for my soul.



I will pray for all of you in heaven and for you, my dearest daughter, I will pray that you have the grace of complete submission to Divine Providence and the grace to enter Heaven without undergoing any of the pains of Purgatory!”

