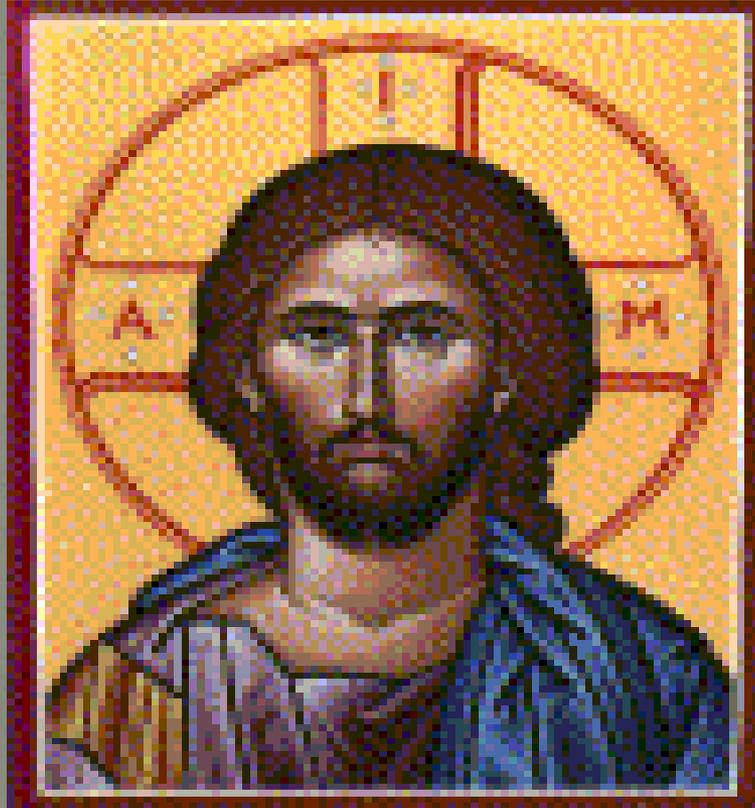


# Jesus Christ



January 31, 2013

- This is all well and good to read, reread, and even commit to memory about who Jesus is. But this is not enough to just “know the facts” in our minds. We must each of us answer in our hearts the accompanying question that Jesus asked of his disciples 2000 years ago and is asking each of us, his current disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” (or in other words, “Who am I in your everyday life?” and “Am I any more important in your life than everyone and everything else?”)

Our answer must come from us as people passionately involved in a search for a truth that will make all the difference in the way we lead our lives.

Our answer involves: faith and humility.  
an acknowledgment of Jesus' divinity (Jesus is the SON of GOD) and always remembering that "God is God and I am not" and  
an acknowledgment that his claims on us are ultimate, that is, vital for our eternal salvation.

## Who do you say I am?

- “Who made you? Why did God make you? (know, love, serve, be happy)
- John 15:16 “It was not you who chose me but I who chose you to go and bear fruit that will last...”
- Archbishop Smith-NMB “The heart of the Christian life is a transformative encounter with the person of Jesus Christ ...”
- So the question, “Who do you say that I am?” is more important than just knowing who Jesus is.

## Catechesis of: Who is Jesus Christ?

- aims at putting people ...in communion with Jesus Christ; only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity. (CCC 426)
- the Incarnate Word and Son of God... is taught. Everything else is taught with reference to Him and it is Christ alone who teaches – anyone teaches to the extent that he is Christ's spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips. (CCC427)

Christ's whole life is a "mystery"

The CCC tells us that Christ's whole life is a "mystery".(CCC514) "A mystery of what?"

-of Revelation of the Father, (CCC516)

-of Redemption, (CCC517)

-of recapitulation, i.e. to restore us to our original vocation (CCC518) ("... I have come that they might have LIFE and have it more abundantly" – Jn 10:10)

# Who is Jesus Christ?

- Is a question having been, is being, and will be answered in hundreds of different ways until the end of time by theologians, philosophers, scientists, lay people, religious and anyone and everyone else who is serious about why we are here and where we will be going after our earthly life comes to an end.

## Who is Jesus Christ? continued

- “Don’t make Jesus less than he is”, Father Scott McQuaig told Family Conference in July, 2010. He continues, “Jesus is not some ‘enlightened guru’ who has been elevated to the divine.
- Jesus is God come down to us in the flesh to reveal the fullness of who God is.
- There is nothing esoteric or New Age about Jesus. It’s just the opposite. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, the messiah of the whole world; he is the saviour of the world.

## Who is Jesus Christ? continued

Fr. McQuaig continues:

- “...Skeptics today often describe Jesus as a ‘good guy’ – somebody deserving of respect and admiration but not of worship.
- The problem with that argument is that:
  - Jesus didn’t claim to be a good man. (Mt. 19:16ff)
  - Jesus didn’t claim to be a wise teacher...
- What he claimed was that he was divine, that he was the Way, the Truth, and the Life for everyone. (John 14:6-7)

## Who is Jesus Christ continued

- So, if he is not speaking the truth then he is not a good man at all. He is either a very bad man or he is a lunatic.
- Very bad men don't give you the highest, and in some ways the most difficult, moral code that has ever been given to humanity. Lunatics don't calm storms, raise the dead and heal the sick.
- So we are left with one option: that Jesus didn't just talk the talk; he walked the walk... Jesus didn't just make claims ; he vindicated them...”

## Catholic view

- Jesus is alive today. “Jesus is a living reality who belongs in our lives.” (Fr.S. Lewis SJ CR/Dec19/10)
- “Jesus is living proof of God’s love for mankind, living centre of time, source of salvation”. (John Paul II)
- “Christ is the answer to the question that is every human life.” (Archbishop R Smith-NMB -Nov2009)
- “To be with Jesus should be the greatest desire of our hearts..” (Fr. Andrew STMP bulletin Jan15/12)
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

# Supremacy of Jesus

Colossians 1:15-20 (Cf Jn 1:1-5)

- “[Christ] is ...
- the image of the invisible God,
- the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.

## Supremacy continued

- He himself is before all things and in him all things hold together.
- He is the head of the body, the church.
- He is the beginning.
- [He is] the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
- For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and
- through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Who does Jesus say He is?

- Jesus himself connects the revelation of his identity to his suffering and death. (Mark 8:27-35)  
As Messiah and Savior, Jesus is the Suffering Servant described by Isaiah 50:4-9a, who gave his life willingly and suffered out of love so that others might be redeemed.

## Who does Jesus say He is? (continued)

- Jesus preferred the title: “SON OF MAN”
- “...before Abraham was, I AM.” (Jn 8:58)
- “Whoever has seen ME has seen the FATHER.” (Jn 14:8) “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)
- “I am the GOOD SHEPHERD (Jn 10:1-16)
- “I am the LIGHT of the WORLD.” (Jn 8:10-20)
- “I am the VINE, you are the branches.” (Jn 15:1-8)
- “I, myself, am the BREAD of LIFE.” (Jn 6:35)
- “I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE.” (Jn 11:1-44)

Who does Jesus say He is? (continued)

Jesus says ultimately to each of us;  
“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (Jn 14:6-7)

- The Way- like that of a child (Mk 10:14-16) and a servant. (Mk 9:35)
- The Truth- through the Spirit who will guide us to all Truth. (Jn 16:13-15)
- The Life-that through believing and loving we may have eternal life. (Jn 17:3)

# Jesus is his “mission”

- “... a joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit” (CCC727) “I come to do His will” (Mt. 11:2-5)
- Who Jesus is, and what he did, essentially determines whether or not he had the power to save us. Had Jesus not been God, he could not have saved us from our sins, for only God is able to give salvation. Jesus’ death [and resurrection] played [the key] role in our salvation.” (Catholic Understanding of Jesus Christ-D.Bennett-2/6/2011)

## Jesus is his mission continued

- Are you the one who is to come, or we to wait for another?” asked John from prison through his followers and
- Jesus replied, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the poor have the ‘good news’ brought to them...” (Lk7:20)

# Jesus is his mission summarized

- Healer and miracle-worker (Mt.4:23-25)
- Teacher (Mk.135-39, 6:6)
- Servant (Phil.2:6-11, Jn3:13)
- Pray-er (Mk 1:35, Lk. 6:12)
- Priest (and sacrifice)
- Prophet (fulfillment of all prophecy)
- King (Heb.2:17, 7:25-8:6, Mal3:1-4, Jn18:36, Lk1:33)

The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church. (CCC 737)

# Titles and attributes given to Jesus

- Jesus – God saves.
- Christ – (not a surname) – Messiah – anointed
- My beloved Son (“I and the Father are one” – Jn10:30)
- Son of God – Son of Man – Son of David – Jesus is truly & fully man & truly and fully God.
- Lord – Yahweh – Kyrios – sovereignty
- Son of the Most High
- Rabbi – teacher
- These titles were given to Jesus by: His heavenly Father, by his earthly parents and friends, by angels, by the apostles, by his enemies. But who does Jesus himself say that he is.
- Rosary

The consequences for us of Jesus' true identity are established by a link that Jesus makes in Mark's Gospel (Mk.8:27-35).

“Jesus is the divine Savior who redeems through suffering, (innocent suffering out of perfect, unbounded eternal love – Jesus is his mission) who requires his followers (that is you and me) also to be willing to embrace the cross and suffer in our own lives in order that we might share both in his mission and in his redeeming grace.

If we want to obtain life everlasting, we must become like Jesus; we must develop a close personal (John 3: 3) and communal relationship (Heb 10:24,25; Catholic Apologetics 10-6-2011) with him.

# Relationship

- “I have called you friends for that is what you are.”
- Who are my mother, my brother, my sister? Whoever does the will of God. (Lk 19-21)
- “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, Father, as you and I are one.” (John 17:20-21)

How can we (I) develop this relationship when we are (I am) just a simple person with many faults?

1) We must first recognize that without him we can do nothing but that “with him and in him [through his Holy Spirit] we can do all things for nothing is impossible with God”. Just as throughout Jesus’ time on earth the Holy Spirit worked within him, guiding and inspiring him (see Luke 3:22) so we must listen to the Holy Spirit when He prompts us.

- 2) We need to trust but not be presumptuous;
- 3) We need to be confident that Jesus is always “standing right beside us” but not think that we are or have anything that is not “gift” from God;
- 4) We need to be grateful for any and all the talents we have been given and we must use these talents for the building up of the body of Christ. :

5) We must pray as Jesus prayed (that is always and everywhere and in accordance with the will of the Father. (“I come to do Your will”, said Jesus.) We pray always to Jesus and through Mary to know the will of God for us at every moment. We must develop an “enlightened conscience” which always keeps us doing all for the glory of God’.

We must offer the Sacrifice of the Mass often and receive the Sacraments, particularly Eucharist, remembering that the Mass is the highest form of prayer as it is Christ who is both the priest offering the Mass and the victim who then gives himself to us in Eucharist. We must visit the Blessed Sacrament often in the Chapel of Repository talking to Jesus about our joys, sorrows, our pains and our lives in general listening in the silence of our hearts for his reply or advice to us.

We can pray the Divine Office, the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Morning Offering, the grace before and after meals, and any other devotions we may have.

6) Read **Scripture** to find out who Jesus really is and how he wants us to be “perfect as his heavenly Father is perfect”.

7) Use your talents for the service of others. “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me...” Remember that the way of Jesus can be walked only with Jesus. “Cut off from Me you can do nothing,” said Jesus. But he also promised, “Whoever remains in me, bears fruit in plenty...” (John 15:5) (We read in Ste. Theresa of Avila: “Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which to look with Christ’s compassion for the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; yours are the hands with which he is to bless.”)

In conclusion, this is the way that I answer the question Jesus poses to me, “Who do you say that I am?” I say,

“You are my best friend in prayer and work. (You told me in Scripture that, “I call you friends for that is what you are...”)

You are my teacher in Scripture and in Church.  
You are my Creator and everyone else’s so I owe everyone that dignity.

You are my food in Eucharist and in the other Sacraments.

You are the power of the Holy Spirit to guide me.

You are the image of God in me and in all so I must see you in everyone.

You are the “4<sup>th</sup>” level of love, (perfect union with Jesus)

# Hymn – Workshop – Homework

- Hymn – You Are the Centre of My Life
- Workshop – What is your image of Jesus?
- Home prayer -What choice(s) must I make in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who out of pure love, freely embraced every form of suffering etc. for me? In other words what might Jesus be asking of me this week?