

# LIVING FAITH

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



### THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Who do *you* say that Jesus is? That is perhaps the most important question that every person of faith has to answer. We can learn what the Church teaches. We can read what history has to say on the subject. We can go to other people and gather their opinions, thoughts, and insights. But, ultimately, each person has to answer this question in his or her own way. Who do you say that Jesus is? How have you come to know Jesus Christ? And how has your life been changed because you know Jesus Christ?

There is a great deal of difference between *knowing about* somebody and *knowing* somebody. How do we really get to *know* Jesus, rather than just *know about* Him? You can pray. You can reflect on His Word at Mass, and receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. You can look at your life, and ask Jesus to show you how and where He has been most present in your past, so that you might more readily recognize Him in the present. You can also practice seeing Him in the people you meet each day, for each one bears the face of Christ. What works best for you?

# WHO DO YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE?

Use these starting points to have good family and friend discussion about how we see ourselves and others: as we grow through our life journey:

If you could be friends with any famous person in history, who would it be and why?

Share a characteristic you admire in others...

Talk about three things in your life you are most grateful for...



Share about something you would like to do in your life ...

What would you like to be better at?



Talk about a personal accomplishment you are very proud of...

I am good at....

Describe what your perfect vacation would be



Describe sometime somebody could do for you that would make you very happy...



Share a compliment with the people you are having this conversation.

Describe a compliment you received from another person

Where is a place you visited that is most memorable to you?



I feel best when...



My favorite time of year is...



# *I Believe...*

## THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: THE MYSTERY OF JESUS CHRIST—WHO IS HE? (part 4)

Reflections by Fr. Gregory Carruthers, SJ

### The Name "Jesus"

The personal name of the Word-made-flesh (Incarnate Word) is "Jesus". The name Jesus means in Hebrew "God saves". At the Annunciation the angel Gabriel gave the proper name "Jesus" to the Incarnate Word of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

### Three Titles of Jesus

1) **CHRIST**: The title "Christ" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew "Messiah" which means "anointed". So both titles "Christ" and "Messiah" mean "the Anointed One". That is, Jesus is the One sent by the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the messianic hope of Israel and to inaugurate the Kingdom of God definitively. "Christ" became the name proper to Jesus, "Jesus Christ", because he accomplished perfectly the divine mission given him by the Father.

2) **LORD**: The title "Lord" is a translation of the Greek "Kyrios". In the Old Testament, the ineffable Hebrew name, YHWH, by which God reveals himself to Moses, was so sacred that it was not pronounced. When reading the Old Testament, and when the sacred name would come up in the Scripture passage, the reader would substitute the spoken word/title "LORD". From then on, "Lord" becomes the usual name to indicate the divinity of Israel's God. The New Testament uses this full sense of the title "Lord" both for the Father and - what is new - for Jesus who is thereby recognized as God Himself. In the encounter with the risen Jesus, the title becomes adoration, love and affection, "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28). The earliest Christian profession of faith, "Jesus is Lord" affirms from the beginning that the power, honour and glory due to God the Father are due also to Jesus.

3) **ONLY SON OF GOD**: From the beginning this acknowledgment of Jesus' Eternal Divine Sonship will be the centre of apostolic faith, first professed by St. Peter at the Church's foundation (Mt 16:13-19). Jesus calls himself the "only Son of God" (Jn 3:16), and by this title Jesus affirms that from all eternity he exists as the Divine Son of God.

