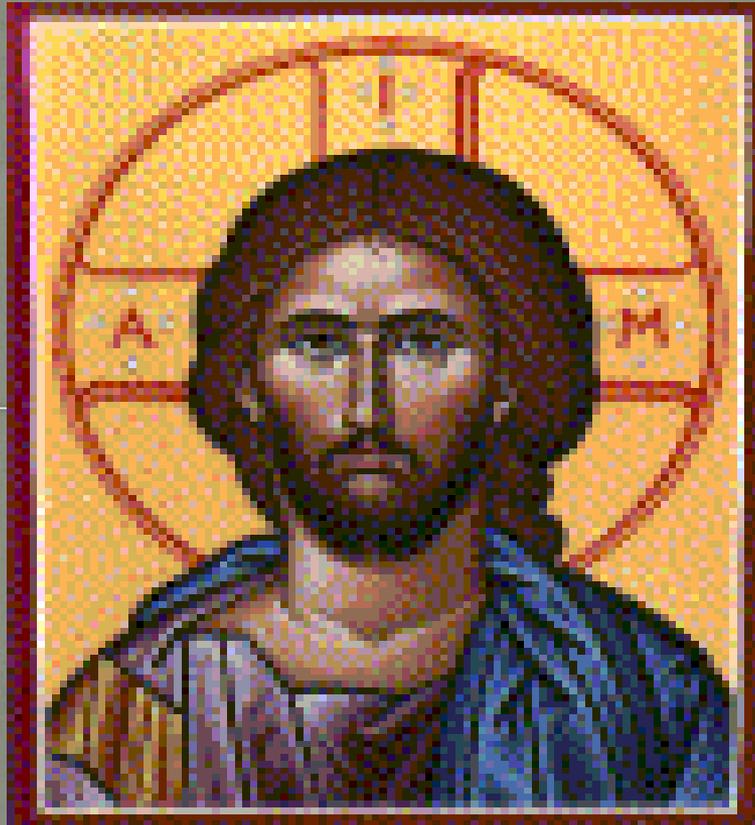


Jesus Christ



January 22, 2015

Introduction

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

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 **Restoration**, to our original relationship with God (CCC 518)

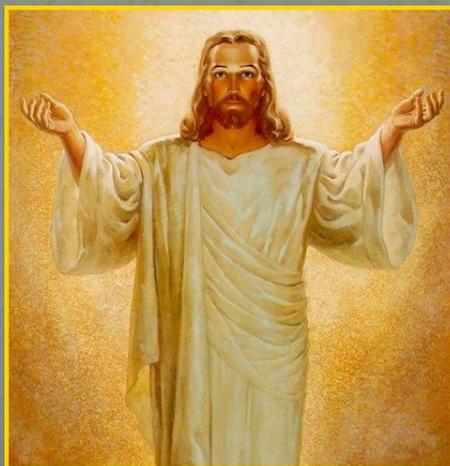
Who is Jesus Christ?

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?

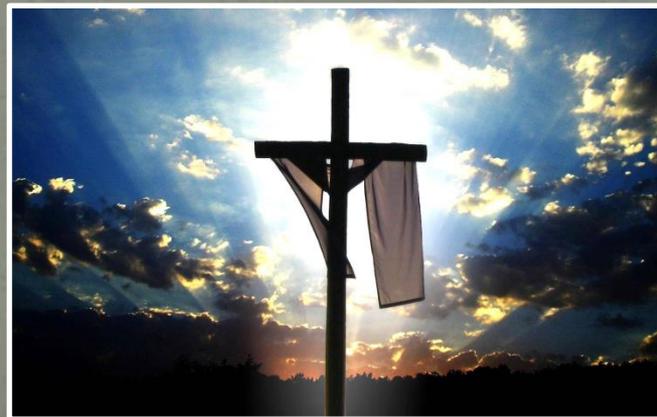
“Don’t make Jesus less than he is”, *Father Scott McQuaig told the Family Conference in July, 2010.*

He continues, “Jesus is not some ‘enlightened guru’ who has been elevated to the divine.”



Who is Jesus Christ?

- **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.



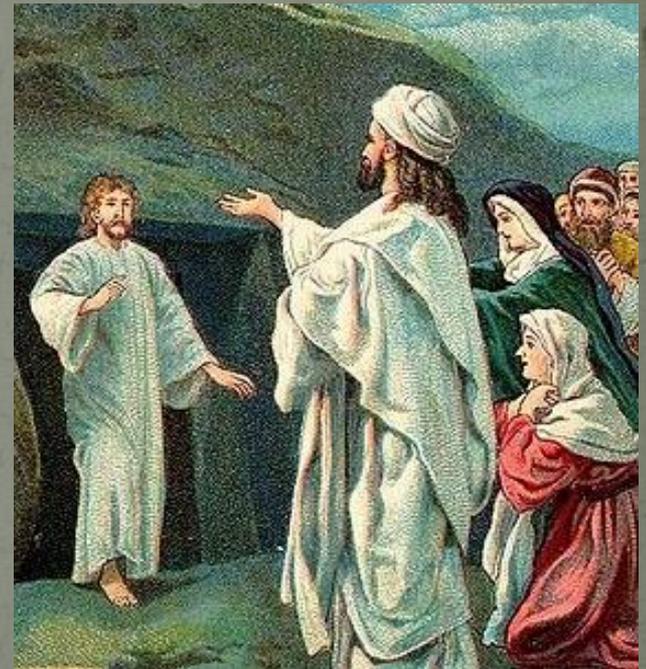
Who is Jesus Christ?

Fr. McQuaig continues:

- “...Skeptics today often describe Jesus as a ‘good guy’ –deserving of respect & admiration but not of worship.”
- The problem with that argument is:
Jesus didn't claim to be a good man (*Mk. 10:17-19*)
or a wise teacher.
- What he claimed was that he was
Divine (i.e. **Son of God**), that he is
the **Way, the Truth, and the Life** for everyone.
(*John 14:6-7*)

Who is Jesus Christ?

- 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.



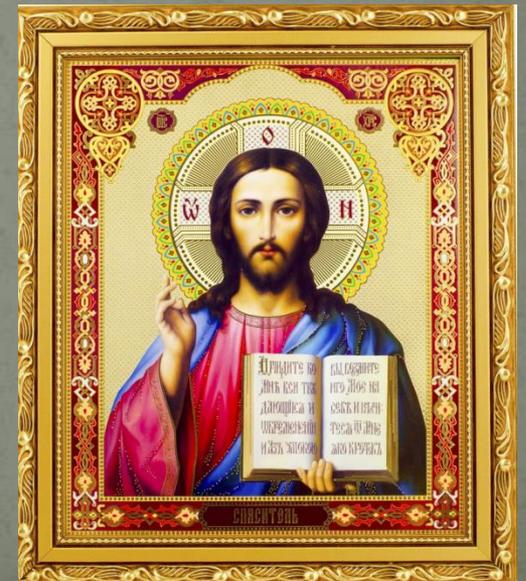
Who is Jesus Christ?

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..."



More Catholic Views

- “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.** (*St. John Paul II*)
- “Christ is the **answer** to the question that is every human life.” (*Archbishop R Smith-NMB –Nov 2009*)
- “To be with Jesus should be **the greatest desire of our hearts..**”
(*Fr. Andrew STMP bulletin Jan 15/12*)
- “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 of Jesus

- 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.**

Supremacy of Jesus

- [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.

Supremacy of Jesus

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”

- “... joint mission of Son & Holy Spirit”
(CCC727) **“I come to do His will”** (Mt. 11:2-5)



Jesus is his **Mission**

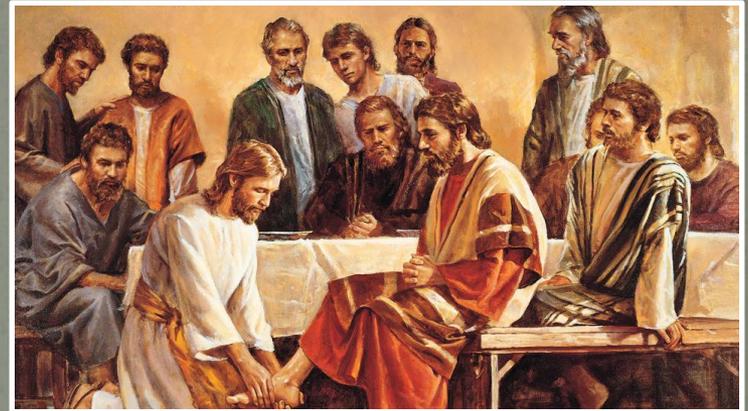


- Are you the one who is to come, or we to wait for another?” asked John from prison through his followers ...
- Jesus replied, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the poor have the ‘good news’ brought to them...” (*Lk 7:20*)



Jesus is his **Mission** -- Summarized

- Healer and miracle-worker (*Mt. 4:23-25*)
- Teacher (*Mk. 1:35-39, 6:6*)
- Servant (*John 13:14-16*)
- Pray-er (*Mk. 1:35, Lk. 6:12*)



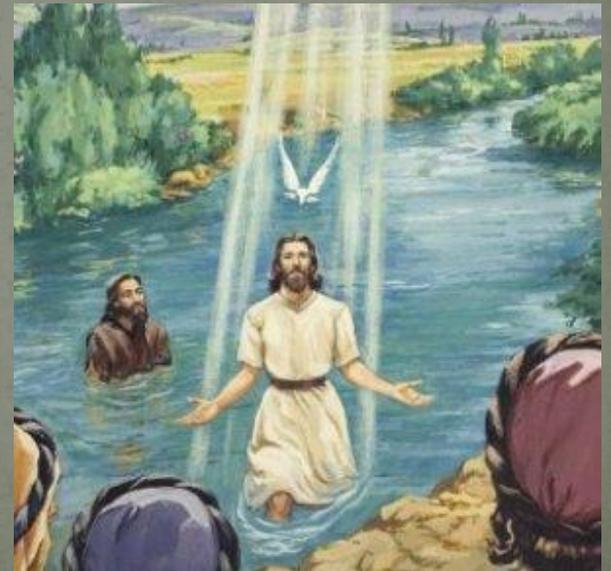
Jesus is his **Mission** --Summarized

- Priest (and sacrifice) Mass & Eucharist
(*Heb. 2:17, Heb. 7:25-8:6*)
- Prophet (fulfillment of all prophecy)
- King (*Mal. 3:1-4, Jn. 18:36, Lk. 1:33*)
- 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.” – *Jn.10:30*)
- **Son of God**
 - **Son of Man**
 - Jesus is truly & fully man, truly and fully God.



Titles and Attributes given to Jesus

- **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.



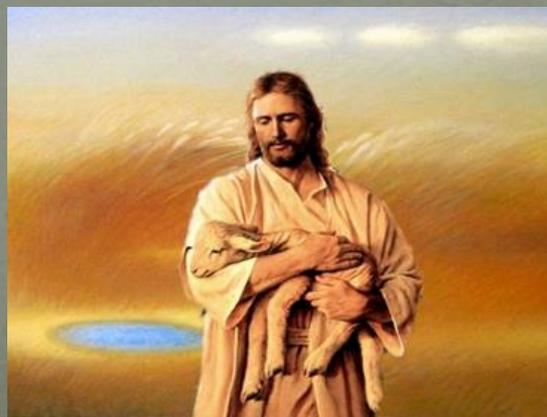
Who does *Jesus Himself* say He is?



- 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 in 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?

- Jesus preferred the title: **“SON OF MAN”**
 - “...before Abraham was, **I AM.**” (*Jn 8:58*)
 - “Whoever has seen **ME** has seen the **FATHER.**” (*Jn 14:8-9*)
 - **“I and the Father are one.”** (*Jn 10:30*)
 - “I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD** (*Jn 10:1-16*)



Who does Jesus say He is?

- “I am the **LIGHT of the WORLD.**” (*Jn 8:10-20*)
- “I am the **VINE**, you are the branches.” (*Jn 15:1-8*)

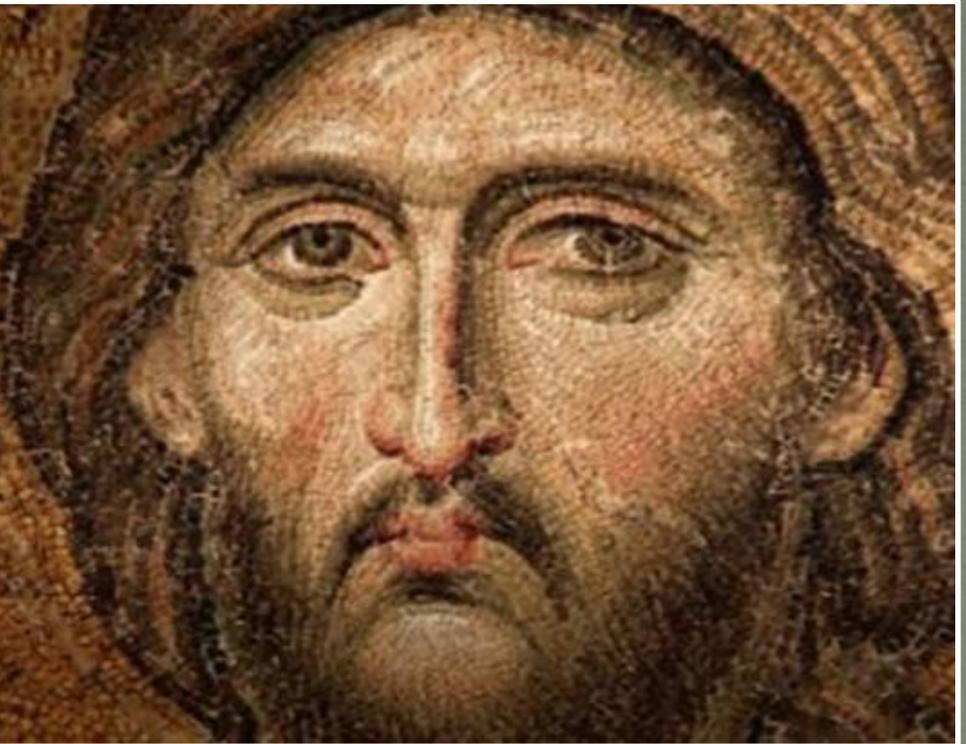


- “I, myself, am the **BREAD of LIFE.**” (*Jn 6:35*)
- “I am the **RESURRECTION and the LIFE.**”
(*Jn 11:1-44*)

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...

*How well
do you know
Jesus?*



“Who do you say that I am?”

or in other words,

- “Who am I in your everyday life?” (Mk. 8:27-30)
- “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 the truth that will make all the difference in the way we lead our lives.
- Our answer involves: **faith** and **humility**:
 - acknowledgment of Jesus' divinity (Jesus is the SON of GOD)
 - always remembering that "God is God and I am not"
 - acknowledgment that his claims on us are ultimate, i.e., vital for our eternal salvation.

Relationship

- **God is Love** and love is His first gift containing all others. (CCC733)
- He created each of us in love “for the sole purpose of a relationship of **covenant love** with him...” (Archbishop R. Smith)
- **Jesus’ mission** is to restore our relationship with God that was broken by Adam and Eve.

Relationship

- “I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. (*Jn. 15:15*)
- Who are my mother, my brother, my sister?
Whoever does the will of God. (*Lk. 8:21*)
- If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and **take up their cross and follow me.** (*Mk. 8:34*)

Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

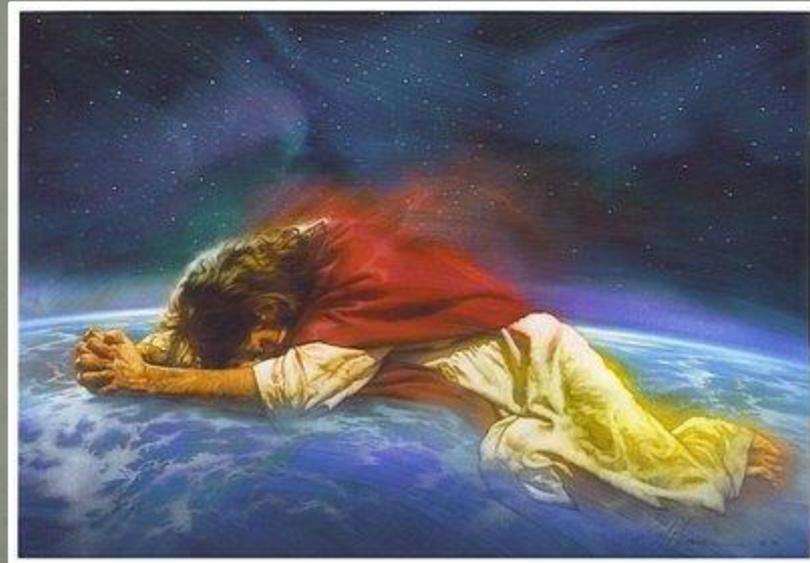
- Recognize that without him we can do nothing but that “with him and in him we can do all things for nothing is impossible with God”. (Lk 1:37)
- Listen to the Holy Spirit when He prompts.

Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

- Trust but do not be presumptuous.
- Be confident that Jesus is always “standing right beside you”.
- Remember that all we are or have is “gift” from God.
- Use your talents for the service of others for building up the Church (the Body of Christ).
“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me...”

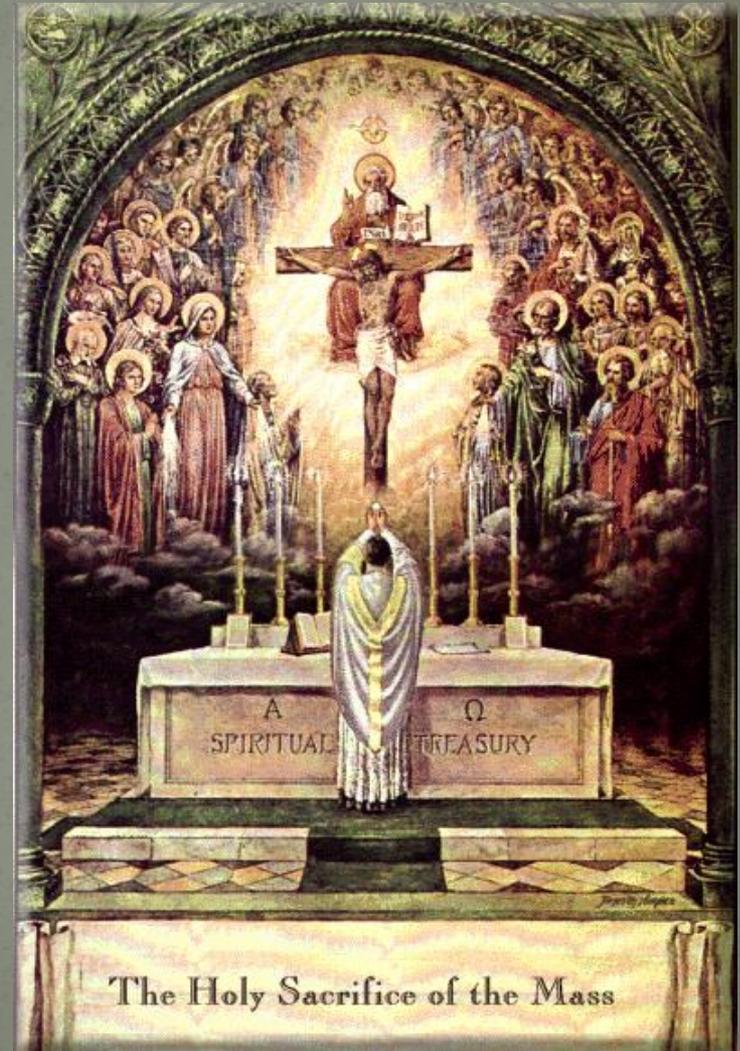
Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

- Pray as Jesus prayed (i.e. always, everywhere and in accord with the will of the Father)



Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

- Offer the Sacrifice of the Mass often, receive the Sacraments, particularly Eucharist.



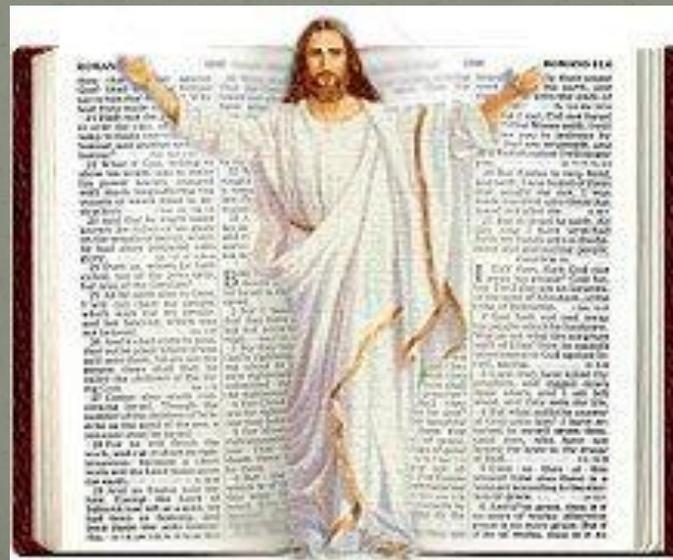
Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

- Visit the Blessed Sacrament often
- Develop an “enlightened conscience” which always keeps us doing all for the ‘glory of God’.



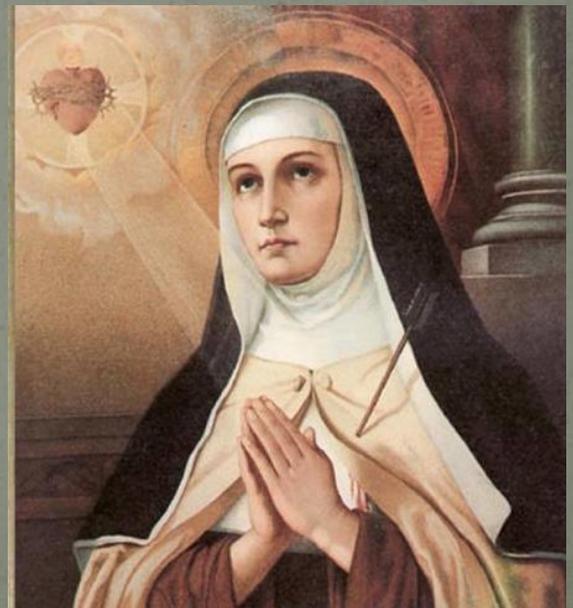
Developing a Relationship with Jesus:

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



*"Christ has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the
compassion of Christ
looks out upon the world,
ours are the feet with which he
goes about doing good,
ours are the hands with which he
blesses his people."*

--St. Teresa of Avila



In conclusion

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

I say, Jesus, you are:

- my **best friend** in prayer and work.
- my **teacher** in Scripture and in Church.
- the **Creator** of us all.
- my **food** in Eucharist and in the other Sacraments.
- the **power of the Holy Spirit** to guide me.
- the **image of God** in me and in all.

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?