

JESUS

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A HISTORICAL PORTRAIT

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Sample Front Page

How Do We Know Who Jesus Is?

by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.



To come to know Jesus better and to deepen our relationship with him—what better goals for Lent, the year ahead, our entire lives? At a time when so many different ideas about Jesus are being circulated, what more authentic source for learning about Jesus than the Gospels? And what better way of studying the New Testament than with an expert who has spent his life pondering and teaching it?

Father Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., is our gifted guide.

—Judy Ball and Joan McKamey, editors

The question of Jesus' identity is central to us as Christians. Because Christianity is an incarnational faith—rooted in Jesus, the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us—it is important to learn as much as we can about the Jesus of history. He lived in the land of Israel during what we now call the first century. The question of his identity still has great relevance for us in the early 21st century. Just consider the recent media attention received by Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* and Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*.

When Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" he got several different answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. Even when Peter identified Jesus

While charged with frustration, the quest for the historical Jesus has been a fascinating and even irresistible topic.