

JESUS

To order a subscription call: 1-800-488-0488, ext. 158

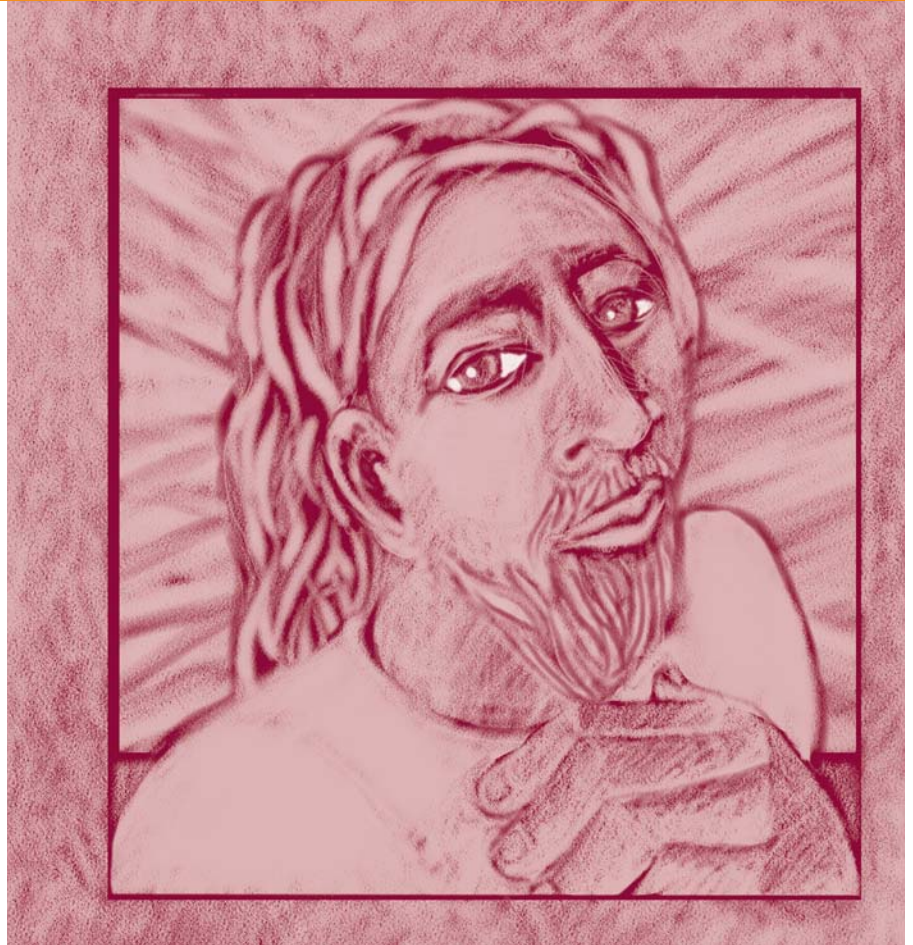
A HISTORICAL PORTRAIT

ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER PRESS | WWW.AMERICANCATHOLIC.ORG | 00306 | MARCH 2006

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.

JESUS A HISTORICAL PORTRAIT

A new catechetical tool for your parish!

An Opportunity for Adult Faith Formation

Who is Jesus? Why is he important? These are timeless questions that arise again and again in popular culture. The musicals *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* in the 1970s, the recent movie *The Passion of the Christ* and *The Da Vinci Code* book and upcoming movie are just a few examples of the continuing fascination with Jesus of Nazareth in popular culture.

Of course, Jesus is more than a superstar, the lead role in a musical or the fulcrum of a detective novel. For Catholics he is the center of our faith and the foundation of our hope. The questions and interest raised by popular books and movies, however, offer ministers the opportunity for adult faith formation—an opportunity to correct false ideas about Jesus and to present Catholic teaching. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: “At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father” (#426). The new *National Directory for Catechesis* echoes the *Catechism*: “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (#55).

Now is a teachable moment! In order to help educators and ministers respond to this pastoral need for solid Catholic teaching about the life and message of Jesus of Nazareth, St. Anthony Messenger Press will launch *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*, a 12-month publication.

Jesus: A Historical Portrait will help your people grow closer to Jesus, understand the Catholic approach to Scripture and learn about the life and message of Jesus of Nazareth.

Our guide for this series is renowned Scripture scholar and author Father Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., professor of New Testament at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Father Harrington’s focus is on the most basic of all Christian doctrines: the identity of Jesus.

Jesus: A Historical Portrait leads readers step-by-step through the world, life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. (See the outline of issues in the adjacent column). Father Harrington includes significant literary, historical and theological elements to interpret what the Gospels and other sources tell us about Jesus.

In comprehensive, authoritative, popularly written articles, Father Harrington artfully synthesizes the best of contemporary Catholic scholarship, placing it in the context of Catholic teaching and pastoral concerns.

A 12-Issue Publication for Lent and All Year

Jesus: A Historical Portrait will be published from March 2006 to February 2007. The first issue will be delivered to you right before the beginning of Lent. (Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2006.) This newsletter series offers Catholics an overview of the life and message of Jesus from a thoroughly Catholic perspective by one of the Church’s most respected Scripture scholars. This is an opportunity to offer your community an in-depth, yet popularly written, summary of Catholic Christology.

Jesus: A Historical Portrait integrates biblical scholarship with Catholic teaching to equip readers with the tools they need to more fully engage Scripture and grow in faith. Do not miss this opportunity for adult faith formation. See the back page of this flyer to order a subscription.

Topics of the 12 issues

March 2006

How Do We Know Who Jesus Is?

- Sources
- Methods
- Jesus’ Life and Teachings
- Quest for the Historical Jesus

April 2006

The World Jesus Knew

- His Birth
- Place in Judaism
- Relation to John the Baptist
- The First Disciples

May 2006

Thy Kingdom Come

- Jewish Background
- Future Dimensions
- Present Dimensions
- Jesus’ Role in the Kingdom of God

June 2006

Listening to the Master’s ‘Voice’

- The Parables of Jesus
- The Wisdom Sayings of Jesus
- Sermon on the Mount
- Symbolic Actions

July 2006

Miracles: Signs of God’s Presence

- Healings
- Exorcisms
- Nature Miracles
- Miracles and the Kingdom of God

August 2006

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

- Jewish Prayer
- Jesus’ Practice
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Jesus’ Teachings on Prayer

September 2006

The Truth About Jesus and Women

- The Mother of Jesus
- Women Followers
- Mary Magdalene
- Celibacy

October 2006

Rendering to Caesar—and to God

- Jewish Background
- Concern for Marginal Persons
- Attitude Toward the Romans
- Reasons for Jesus’ Death

November 2006

The Death of Jesus: Then and Now

- Sources
- Legal Responsibilities
- Crucifixion
- Why Jesus Died

December 2006

The Resurrection: High Point of History

- Jewish Background
- Empty Tomb
- Appearances
- Significance

January 2007

Christianity Takes Root

- Faith Statements
- Hymns
- Titles of Jesus
- Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist

February 2007

When He Comes Again

- Jewish Background
- The *Parousia* of Jesus
- The Last Judgment
- Rewards and Punishments

EVERY ISSUE ALSO INCLUDES:

In His Footsteps

Presents the stories of 21st-century followers of Jesus who are working to serve the Kingdom he preached.

Adding to the Picture

Explores new insights into Jesus through novels and movies, the works of scholars and historians, the teachings of the Church, observations of other believers. Includes the following topics: the Jesus Seminar, *The Da Vinci Code*, exorcisms: fact and fiction, Jesus and the death penalty, the *Left Behind* book series, the "Rapture" and more.

Question Corner

Offers questions for reflection and discussion.

All issues will have the official *Permission to Publish* from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.



REV. DANIEL J. HARRINGTON, S.J., who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, is professor of New Testament at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has been general editor of *New Testament Abstracts* since 1972 and is a past president of the Catholic Biblical Association. His most recent books are *What Are They Saying About Mark?* (Paulist Press) and *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* (Sheed and Ward).

Jesus: A Historical Portrait Questions and Answers

Q. What is *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. *Jesus: A Historical Portrait* is a 12-month, 4-page (11" x 17" folded to 8 1/2" x 11") publication to help Catholics understand the person and message of Jesus.

Q. What is contained in each issue of *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. Each issue contains a major article by Father Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., to help readers understand Jesus. In addition, each issue includes these helps:

- **In His Footsteps:** Presents the stories of 21st-century followers of Jesus who are working to serve the Kingdom he preached.
- **Adding to the Picture:** Explores new insights into Jesus through novels and movies, the works of scholars and historians, the teachings of the Church, observations of other believers. Includes the following topics: the Jesus Seminar, *The Da Vinci Code*, exorcisms: fact and fiction, Jesus and the death penalty, the *Left Behind* series, the "Rapture" and more.
- **Question Corner:** Offers questions for reflection and discussion.

Q. When will I receive *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. The first issue (dated March 2006) will be mailed in February—just in time for Lent. We will mail 11 more issues in the following 11 months. The series ends in early 2007.

Q. Who will benefit from *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. *Jesus: A Historical Portrait* is written for the average Catholic and is especially suitable for parish-wide distribution. It will help all Catholic adults, old and young, deepen their relationship with Christ as they gain practical experience of the Catholic approach to reading Scripture. It is also a wonderful resource for new Catholics and those participating in the RCIA.

Q. What is the cost of *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. Inexpensively priced for distribution to groups large and small, a single subscription is only \$13.00. Bulk subscriptions are available for as little as 13 cents a copy. See the back page of this brochure for complete pricing information.

Q. Can I purchase extra copies of *Jesus: A Historical Portrait*?

A. All back issues will be available for ongoing parish teaching and ministry needs.

See the next page for order information.

Jesus

A Historical Portrait

A 12-issue newsletter
for every Catholic:

- **Practical**
Handy 4-page, 8 ½" x 11" size for parish-wide distribution (the same size as this brochure).
- **Inexpensive**
Costs only pennies a copy in bulk.
- **Reliable**
Includes *Permission to Publish* from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- **Timely**
Gives Catholic leaders a resource to explore the person and message of Jesus, the center of Christianity, from a thoroughly Roman Catholic perspective.
- **Attractive**
Offers crisp layouts, warm illustrations and an inviting style to make every issue lively, eye-catching and engaging.
- **Comprehensive**
Explains and explores key issues concerning the person and message of Jesus: the world of first-century Palestine, the Kingdom of God, Jesus the teacher, Jesus the miracle worker, Jesus and prayer, Jesus and women, Jesus and politics, the growth of the early Church, and Jesus' death, resurrection and Second Coming.

ORDER AND PRICING INFORMATION FOR

JESUS

A HISTORICAL PORTRAIT

HOW TO ORDER

Phone: 1-800-488-0488, ext. 158, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Eastern, M-F

Mail: Fill in the order form below with your name, address and the quantity you wish to order. Mail to: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 28 W. Liberty St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Fax: 513-241-1197

Internet: www.AmericanCatholic.org **KEYWORD: JHP**

E-mail: Melodyb@americancatholic.org

Jesus: A Historical Portrait Subscription Prices

A single subscription is \$13.00.

2-9: \$9.00 each 12-issue subscription

10-99: \$4.80 each 12-issue subscription

100-199: \$3.96 each 12-issue subscription

200-299: \$3.24 each 12-issue subscription

300-499: \$2.40 each 12-issue subscription

500-999: \$1.92 each 12-issue subscription

1,000 or more: \$1.58 each 12-issue subscription

Example: Get 300 copies of *Jesus: A Historical Portrait* for 12 months for only \$60.00 a month (300 x 20 cents) if paying yearly. Monthly billing is available for orders of 50 or more copies at a slightly higher rate. All copies must be sent to the same address.



CLIP HERE

JESUS

A HISTORICAL PORTRAIT

Order Form

Subscriptions

Please send me _____ copies of *Jesus: A Historical Portrait* each month for 12 months.

(Your subscription begins with the March 2006 issue and ends with the February 2007 issue.)

_____ I have ordered a subscription of 50 or more copies. Please bill me monthly.

Please print clearly.

Ship and bill to:

Institution (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone Number (if we have a question about your subscription) _____

St. Anthony Messenger Press guarantees that if you are not completely satisfied with *Jesus: A Historical Portrait* you may cancel at any time and receive a refund for all remaining issues.

Thank you for your order!