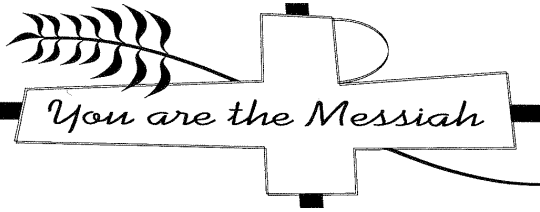


# Who do you say that I am?



What does religion mean to me? Why do I choose to belong to a Christian Community and pray with them on Sunday? Many of us know family members, friends, schoolmates and co-workers who are baptized Catholics, believe in

God, but rarely gather with their parish community for Sunday Mass. We raise this question NOT in judgment of others, but rather to **reflect on our own motives for living out our religion publicly**, in relationship to others and not alone.

Hopefully, one of our primary motivations is that we realize our need to be with others who are striving to be Christians in today's world. More so than ever before, **we** need one another to support us in living the Gospel in our everyday lives. **What difference does participating in our Catholic religion** make in our lives? Would we be missing something essential to our life, something significant if we did not make the effort to worship with other parishioners?

In today's Gospel, Jesus raises some fundamental questions about faith, relationship and identity. **"Who do people say that I am?"** How does the world view Jesus? Though our initial response might be negative, there are many communities that place Jesus as the center and source of who they are. We need only observe the crowds that fill Pentecostal Churches for hours on Sundays and weekday nights to realize many people are searching for answers to **"Who is Jesus?"** And, the amazing phenomenon is that countless more people of ALL ages are responding to their need to be in relationships and conversations which refocus their hearts and values on Jesus Christ. We need only look at the events that bring us together in this parish of the Holy Cross.

In the midst of a world which appears Godless and self-centered, there are many people and communities of faith, hope and action. Let us be assured that our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Gospel does not go unnoticed. The way in which we live our daily lives helps answer the question...**Who is Jesus Christ to me?**

The Pastoral Team



*The Bread and Wine  
for the week September 16th - September 22nd,  
have been donated in loving memory of  
**Philomena LaPolla**  
by her family.*