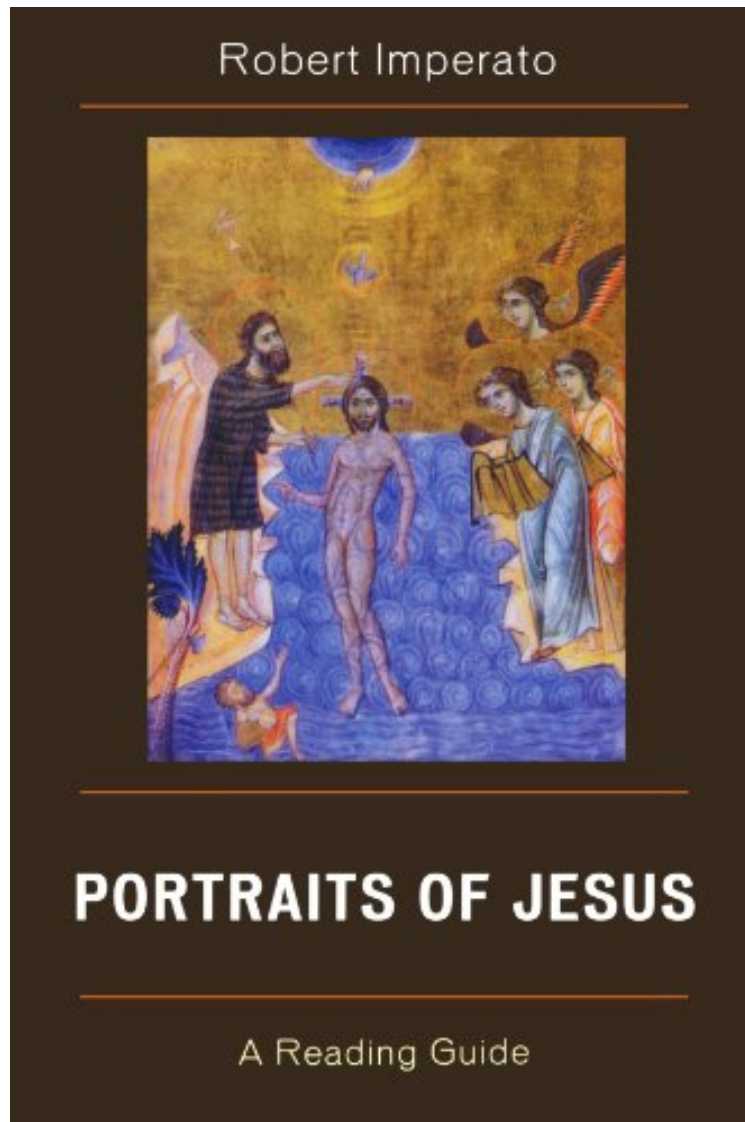


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Portraits of Jesus: A Reading Guide

Robert Imperato

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Portraits of Jesus is an introductory guide to the ways Jesus is depicted in the New Testament. Both college students and the general reader will find here a variety of New Testament understandings of Jesus that are rooted in critical reading of the four Gospels and Pauline letters. The authors of the four Gospels show considerable freedom in their handling of the words and deeds associated with Jesus. New Testament authors are not so much news reporters as promoters of Christian living. They shape their material to highlight who Jesus is and how to live according to his teaching and example. This book presumes neither religious faith nor lack of faith; its aim is to inform and to stimulate some fundamental questions.

I do believe that the kind of New Testament survey material that Dr. Imperato has prepared can stimulate the interest of newcomers to the field, especially college undergraduates and others who have a cultural connection to the Bible but very slender acquaintance with it. The observation of parallel versions of the same pericope in the gospels is usually a new and intriguing experience for this constituency, which is often predisposed to consider the sacred texts dryly uniform and threadbare. In respect to Paul, there is next to no undistorted prior exposure to build upon, especially among Catholics, so an introduction to his prominent themes but only with understanding of his texts as genuine letters, not treatises can arouse interest in further assisted reading. Dr. Imperato's sketches are properly dedicated to such reading assistance, not to furnishing "cliff notes" in place of the Bible. This is why I think his work can be of considerable educational value. (The Rev. Dr. Richard J. Dillon, Senior Professor of Theology (New Testament), Fordham University, former general editor of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly)From the Back Cover"I do believe that the kind of New Testament survey material that Dr. Imperato has prepared can stimulate the interest of newcomers to the field, especially college undergraduates and others who have a cultural connection to the Bible but very slender acquaintance with it.... Dr. Imperato's sketches are properly dedicated to...reading assistance, not to furnishing "cliff notes" in place of the Bible. This is why I think his work can be of considerable educational value."-- The Rev. Dr. Richard J. Dillon, Senior Professor of Theology (New Testament), Fordham University.About the AuthorRobert Imperato is professor of religion at Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida. His other books are Early and Medieval Christian Spirituality (University Press of America, 2003), Christian Footings (University Press of America, 2000), and Merton and Walsh on the Person (Liturgical Publications, 1988). His first interests in religion were stimulated by yoga which he practiced while studying for a Masters Degree in developmental psychology at Columbia University. His religious formation has roots in the seven years he spent as a non-professed monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani followed by formal study of theology at Fordham University, where he received an MA and PHD.