

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle starry pattern. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. A prominent one is a large circle with a scale around its perimeter, marked with numbers from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circles are smaller and some have dashed lines or arrows, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

PARTAKERS IN THE DIVINE NATURE

**LIVING AND MINISTERING AS PERSONS
AND NOT INDIVIDUALS**

OUTLINE

- **Part I: Creation**
- **Part II: Re-Creation (Salvation)**

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry pattern. On the left side, there are several circular diagrams. One large circle has a scale from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circles contain curved lines and arrows, suggesting a process or cycle. The text 'PART I: CREATION' is centered in a bold, yellow, serif font.

PART I: CREATION

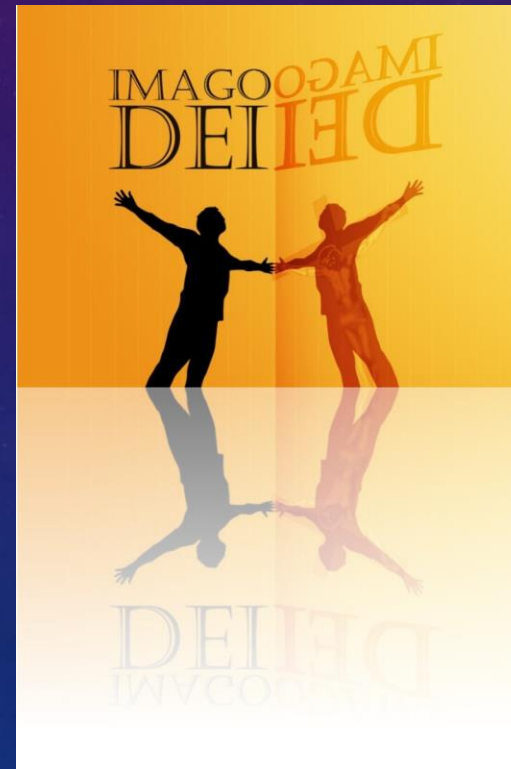
DIVINIZATION / THEOSIS

ROOTED IN REVELATION

IMAGO DEI

Then God said: "Let us
make man in our image,
after our likeness."

Genesis 1.26



IMAGO DEI

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1.27





ORIGINAL / IMAGE

- If I am an image of God, then GOD is my “original”
- If God is my original, . . .

JESUS REVEALED GOD TO BE THREE DIVINE PERSONS

- **Trinity = communion of persons**
- **Humanity = communion of persons**

TRINITY REVEALS THE MEANING OF “PERSON”

- *Person =*
 - *Relationship*
 - *Do not belong to self, but belong to the other*
 - *Discover self by looking into the face of the other*
 - *Live as GIFT and not as “get”*

HUMAN PERSON, HOME FOR DIVINITY

[T]he LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.

Genesis 2.7





<http://www.omhksa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/creationofadamicon.jpg>



<http://www.kingslandfbc.org/files/7414/8996/0050/imagodei.jpg>

HUMAN PERSON AS DESIGNED BY GOD

- Created to “be like” and “live like” God, who is a communion of persons
- Created as a “tabernacle” for the living God – to carry divinity within and therefore:
 - to live forever
 - to labor as a gift for the other

SIN CHANGED US FROM PERSONS TO INDIVIDUALS

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Genesis 3:7

- Took their eyes off God – look at self (death)
- Realized they were creatures – felt vulnerable in relationship to creator and one another
- HIDE SELVES

“INDIVIDUAL” – HUMAN PERSON WITHIN LOGIC OF SIN

- Isolated (no relationships)
- Feel vulnerability – others are threats to me
- My life is in my own hands
- Goal = to survive (at your expense)

MY LIFE AND MINISTRY . . .

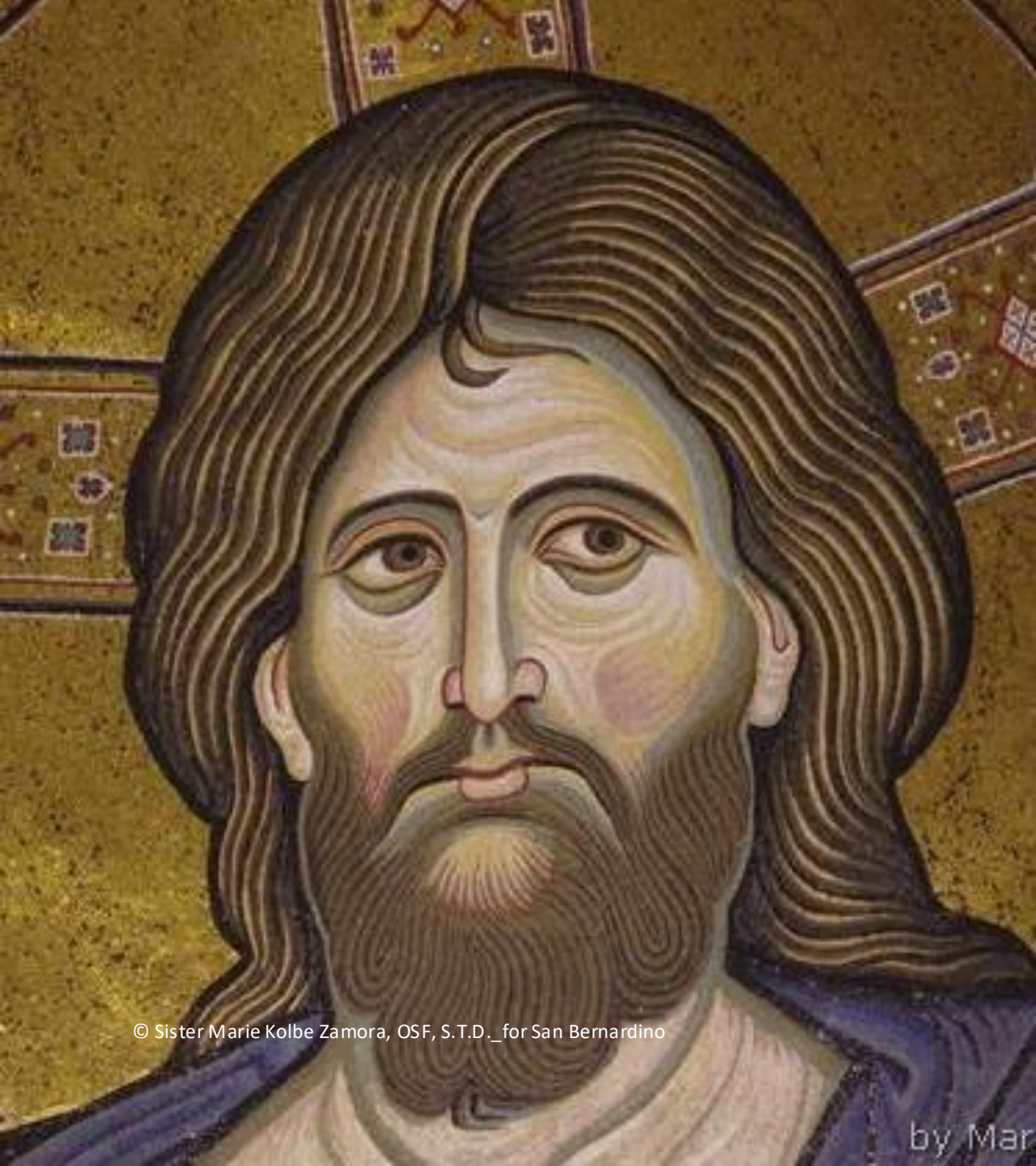
- . . . As a PERSON
- . . . Or as an INDIVIDUAL

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several circular elements: a large scale on the left with markings from 140 to 260, and several smaller circles with dashed lines and arrows, some containing solid lines, suggesting a process or cycle.

PART II: RECREATION (SALVATION)

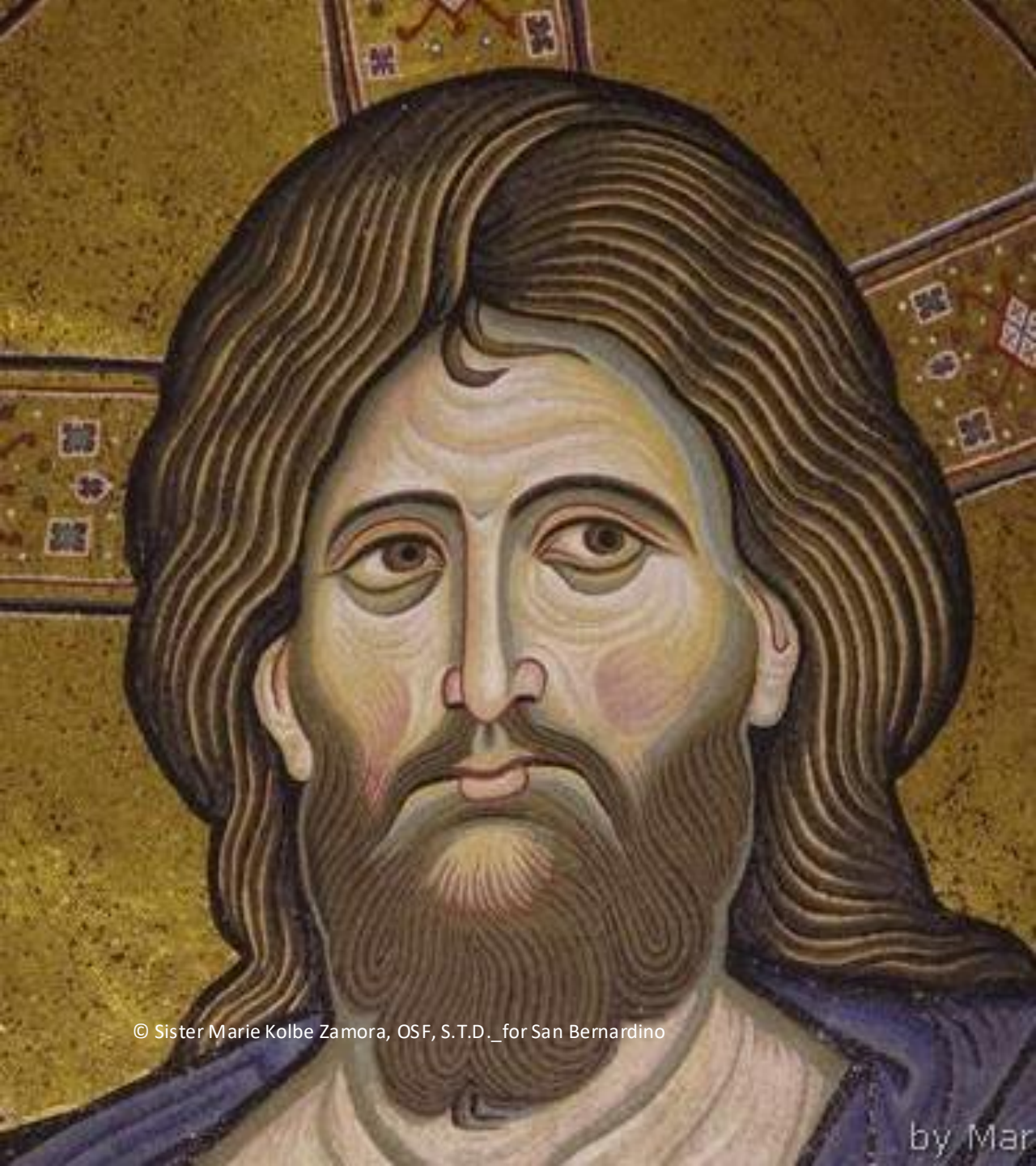
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

WHY DID THE SON OF GOD BECOME MAN?



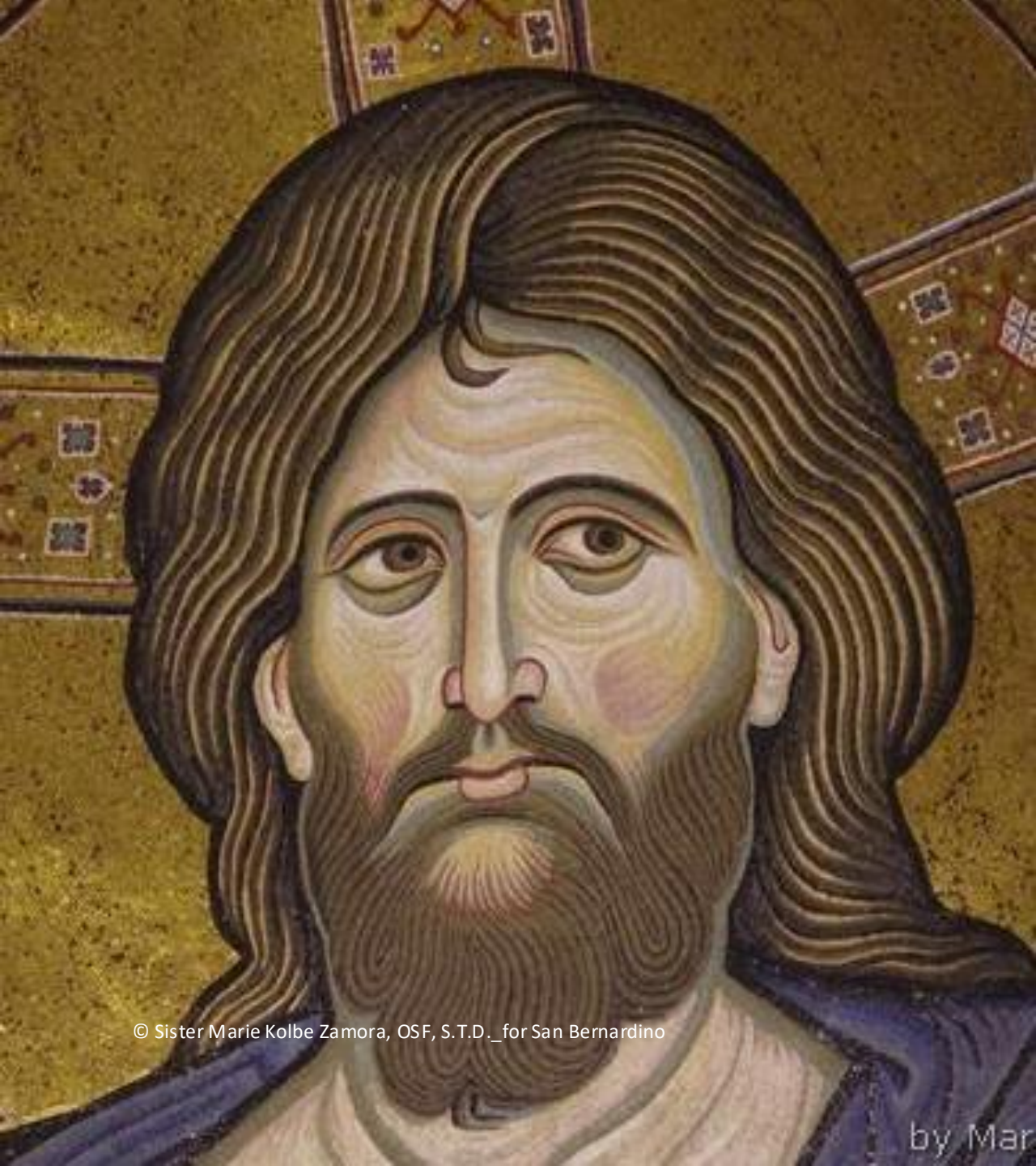
“Thus he has given us ... his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.”

2 Peter 1.4



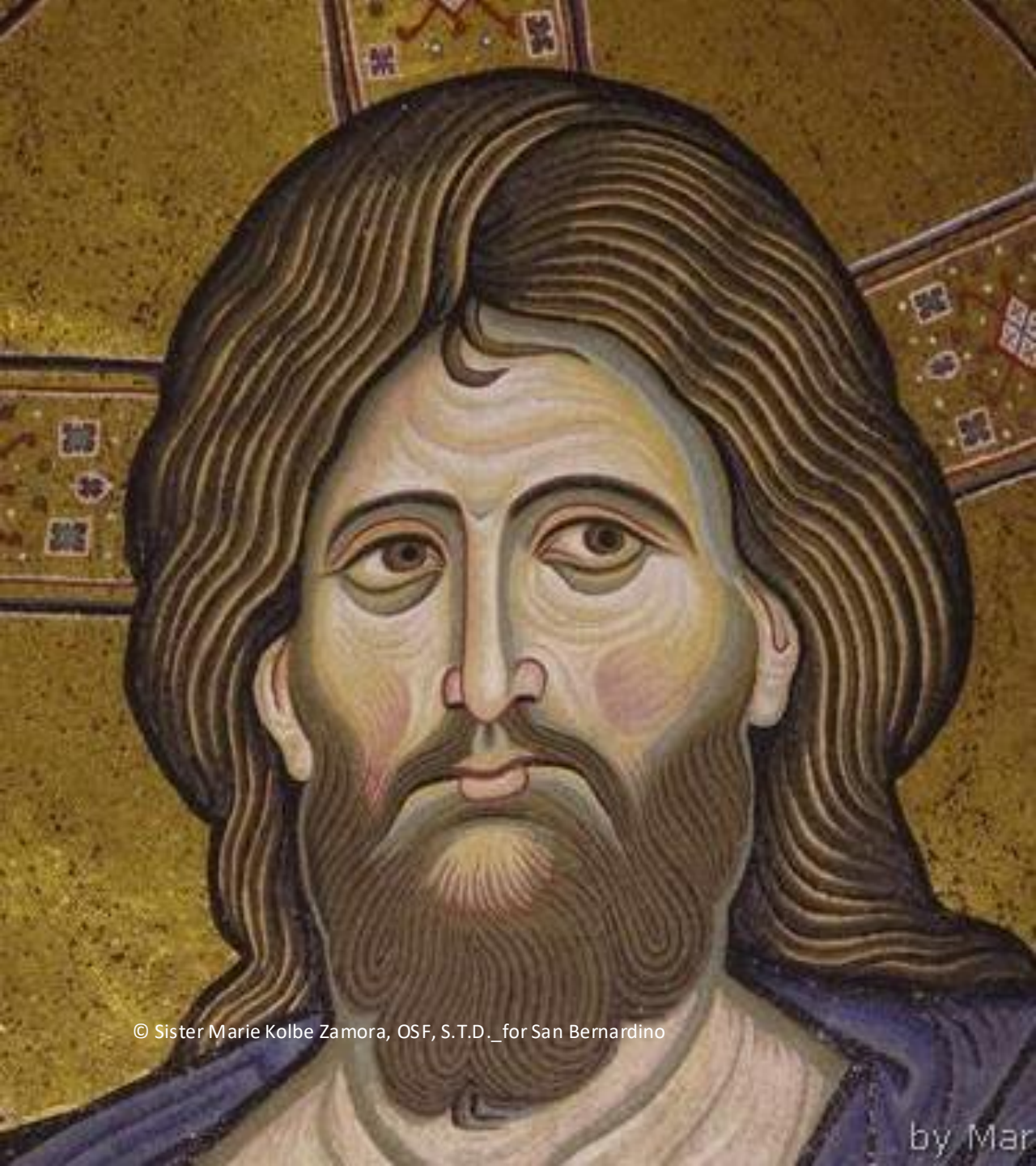
**“The Son of God
became man that we
might become God.”**

St. Athanasius, *De incarnatione*. 54, 3: PG 25, 192B.



"The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

St. Thomas Aquinas, Opusc. 57, 1-4



460 The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God." "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 460

BAPTISM BEGINS OUR DIVINIZATION



ROMANS 6.3

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into **his** death?



ROMANS 6.4 (RESS + DIV)

4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.



1 CORINTHIANS 15.12

(RESS + DIV)

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?



1 CORINTHIANS 15.16-18

RESS+DIV

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.
17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.



1 CORINTHIANS 15.19

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.



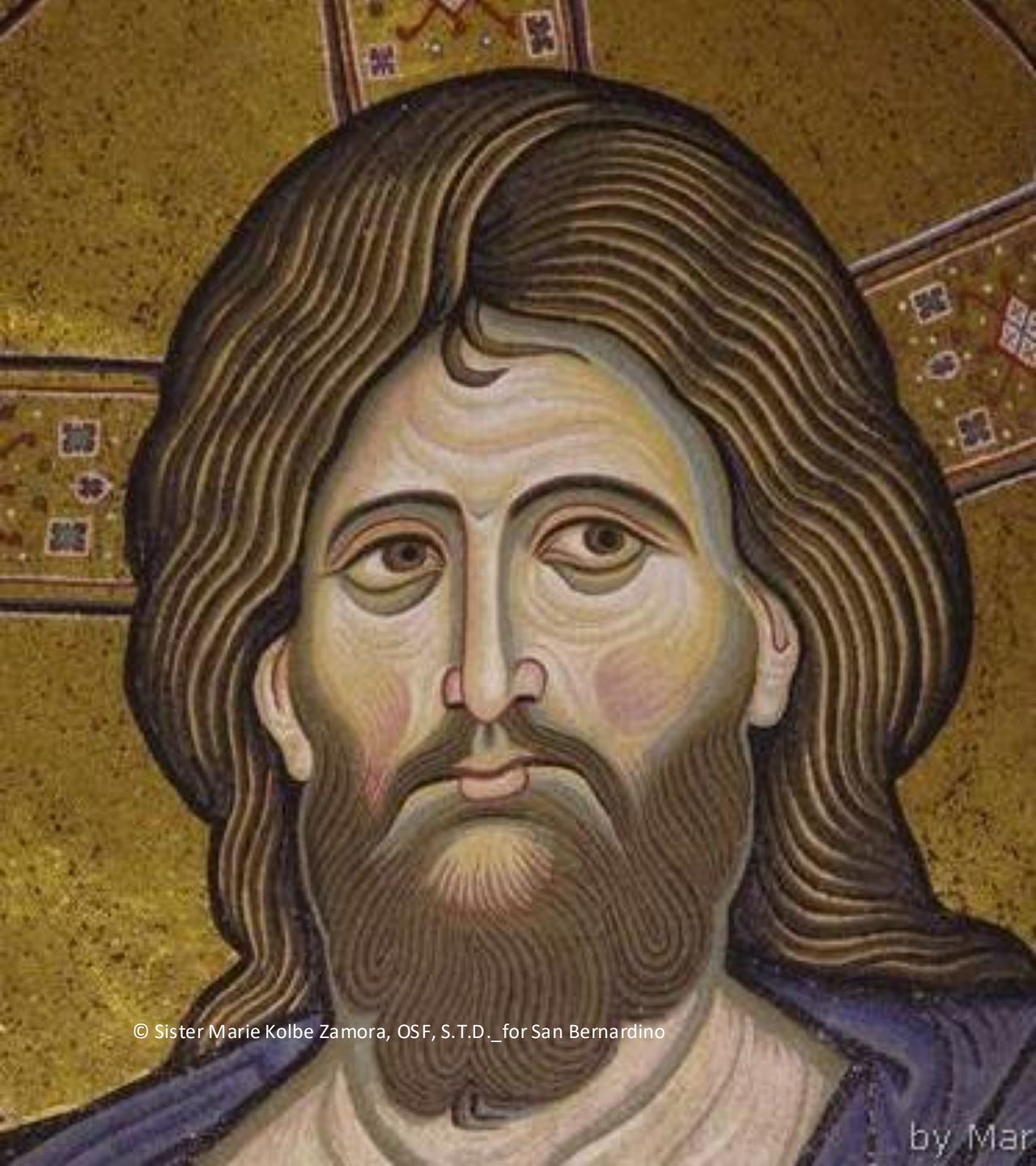
2 CORINTHIANS 5.17

17 So whoever **is** in Christ **is** a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

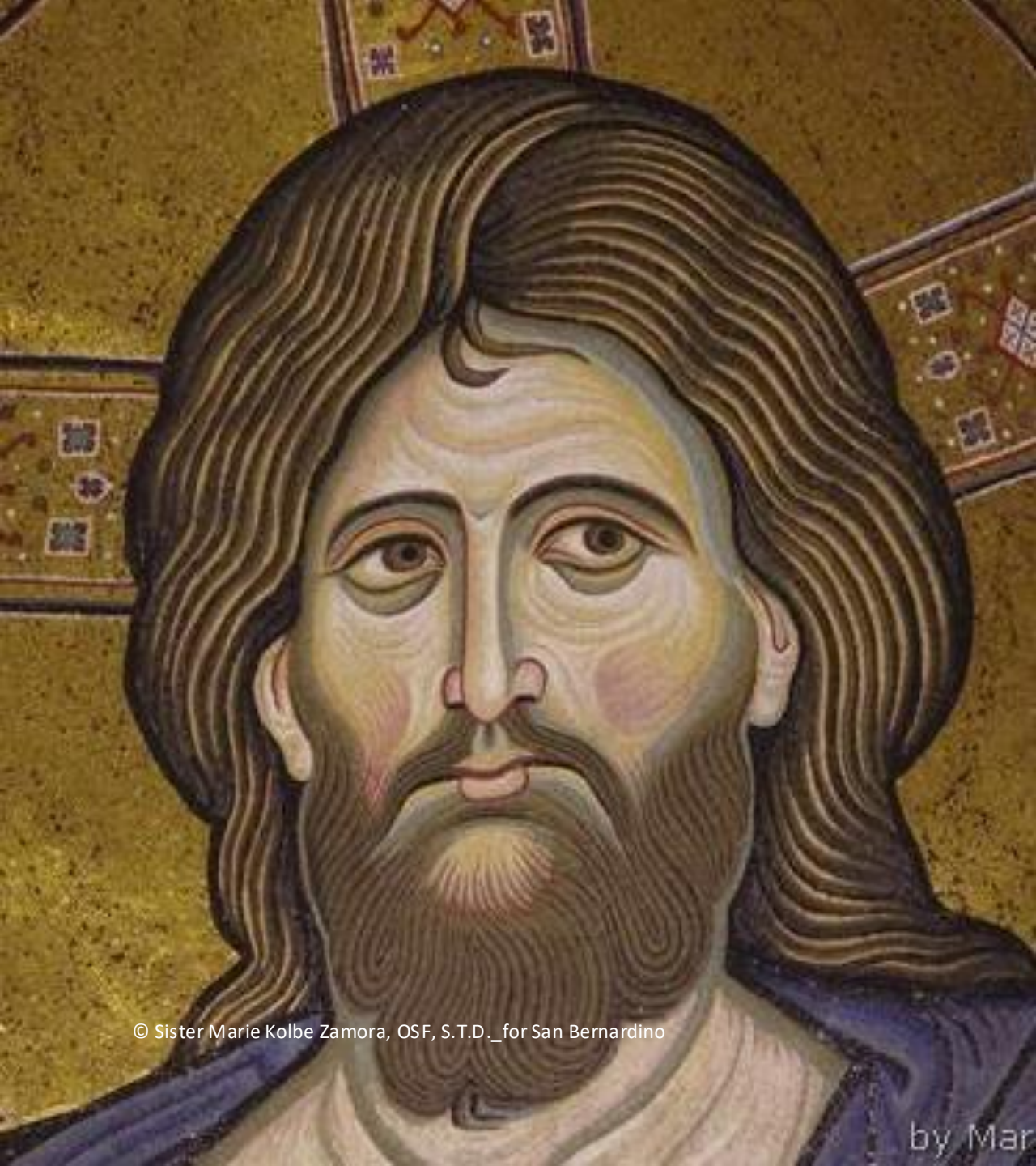


GALATIANS 2.19-20

I have been crucified with Christ; 20 and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



**Christ has redeemed us from
being individuals and stored
us as PERSONS**

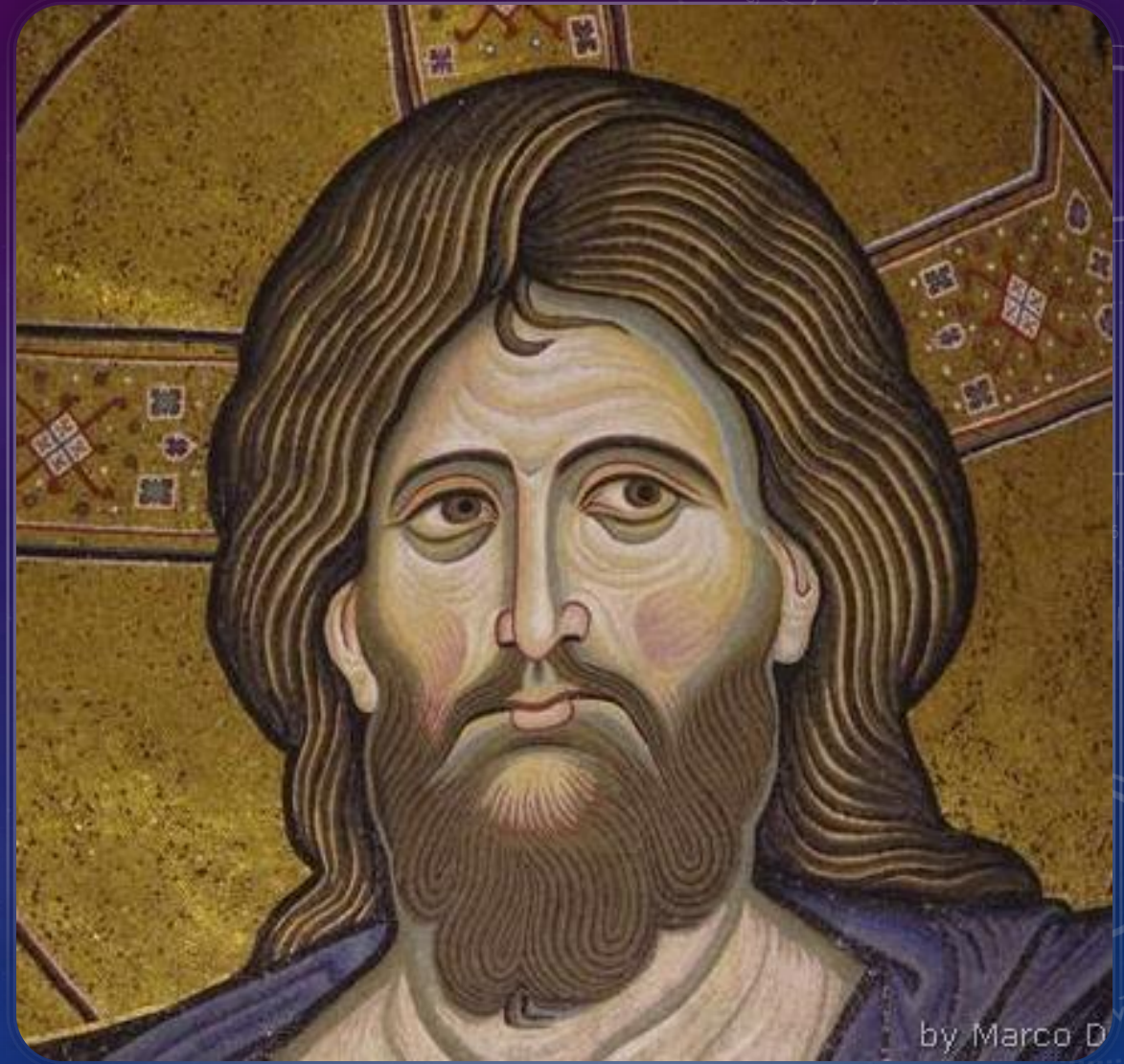


In Christ, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, my life can become a manifestation of HIS way of living life and living death

- **Focused on the Father**
- **Agape - Gift / sacrifice for others**

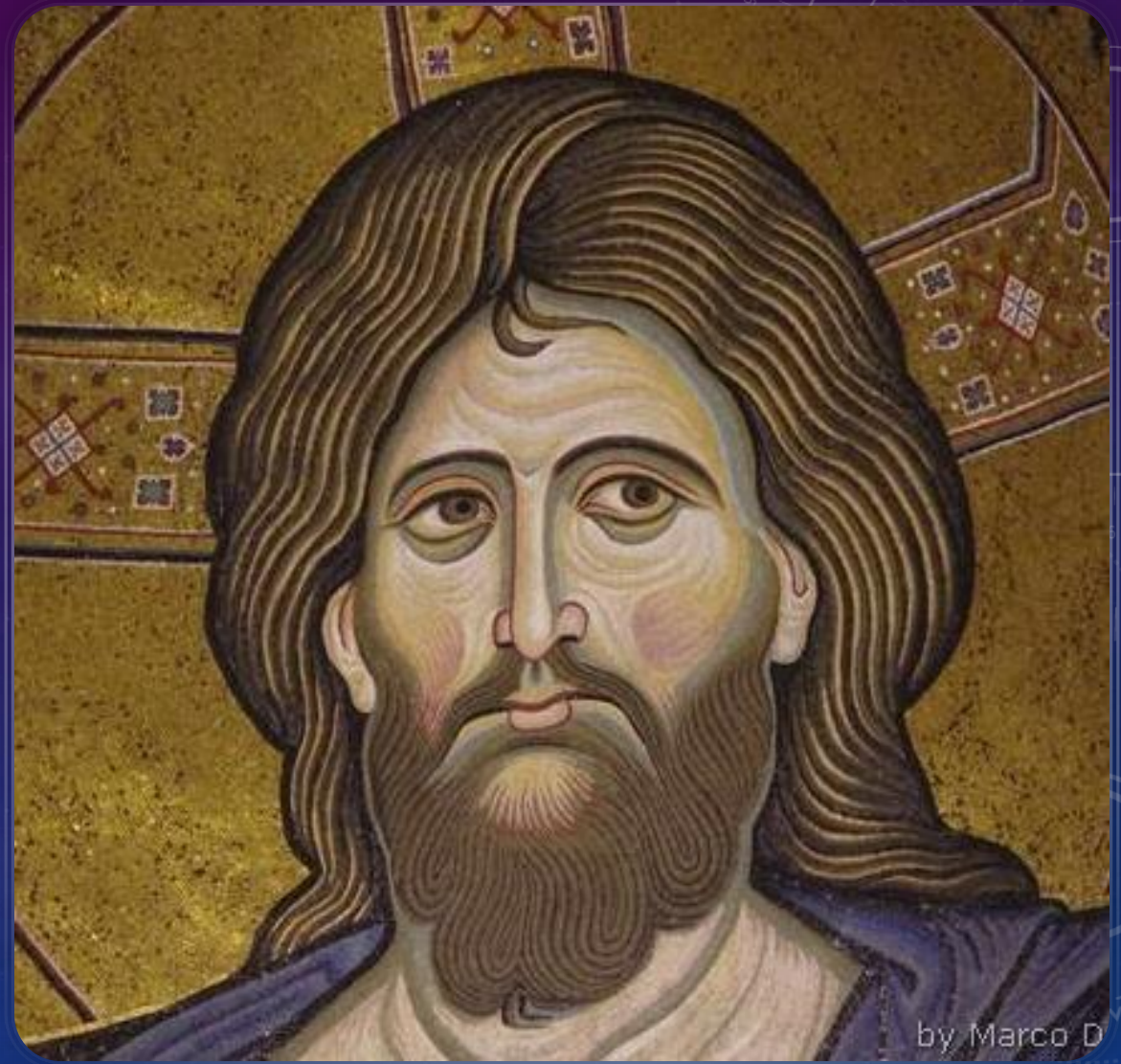
14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death.

1 John 3:14



Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days

Deuteronomy 30:19-20



by Marco D