

John Dominic Crossan



John Dominic Crossan was born in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. He was educated in Ireland and the United States, received a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland, in 1959, and did post-doctoral research at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1959 to 1961 and at the École Biblique in Jerusalem from 1965 to 1967. Dr. Crossan was a member of a thirteenth-century Roman Catholic religious order, the Servites (*Ordo Servorum Mariae*), from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago in 1969, remained there until 1995, and is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

Dr. Crossan was co-chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. In the last forty years he has written twenty-five books on the historical Jesus, earliest Christianity, and the historical Paul. Five of them have been national religious bestsellers. The scholarly core of his work is the trilogy from *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant* (1991) through *The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus* (1998), to *In Search of Paul: How Jesus's Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*, co-authored with the archaeologist Jonathan L. Reed (2004). Dr. Crossan's latest book, *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*, was published by HarperOne San Francisco in September, 2010. He has co-authored three books with Marcus Borg on Jesus and Paul, also published by HarperOne. His next book will be entitled *The Power of Parable: How Fiction by Jesus became Fiction about Jesus* and is due for publication this spring. His work has been translated into twelve foreign languages, including Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian.

Dr. Crossan lectures to lay and scholarly audiences across the world and has appeared on NPR's *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross, ABC's *PrimeTime*, *Peter Jennings Reporting*, and *Nightline*, CBS's *Early Show* and *48 Hours*, NBC's *Dateline*, and Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor*, as well as cable networks A&E, History, Discovery, and the National Geographic Channels. He will begin his term as the Society of Biblical Literature's incoming president in 2011-12.