

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, in today's Gospel, St. John the Baptist calls Jesus: The Lamb of God. Besides using this title in his Gospel, he uses the term twenty-nine times in the Book of Revelation. Its use brings together three different images from the Hebrew Scriptures that would have been very familiar to the Jews of the time of Jesus, and in using the term St. John is telling us that these three ancient images are fulfilled in Jesus.

In the ancient Covenant, God required that the Jews sacrifice a lamb twice a day to expiate the sins of the people; thus the use of the term symbolized the price to be paid for the seriousness of sin. It is also used for the Passover, in which a lamb was slaughtered and offered and eaten by the family, and the blood painted upon the door posts to spare the Hebrew people from the plague of the death of the first born. This signified God's merciful and saving love for His people. And in the third image, a lamb going quietly and docilely to be slaughtered is used to describe the coming Messiah, who would take Israel's sins upon himself and wipe away their sins through his sufferings and obedient death. By calling Jesus the Lamb of God, John reminds us of all of these Old Testament symbols that are fulfilled in Christ. That is why, St. John the Baptist sent his disciples, in an act of humility, after Jesus. That is why St. John the Baptist directs us to Christ, and why the Church reminds us of this fact in each and every Mass: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..."

When we were baptized, we too were immersed in the saving flood of water, the flood of the Divine Mercy, and the stream of the Divine Life of Jesus Christ in the same Spirit that descended upon Him at the Jordan. By Him, we were made the Adopted sons and daughters of God and share, by His infinite mercy and love, in His very Divine Life! However, if we share in His Divine life, then we also share in His Divine Mission. Most Catholics do not take this reality seriously!

Like Jesus, we too have His mission, we too are called to fulfill His plan for our lives and for the world. We too are called out of the desert to go into the desert of this world and proclaim the Good News. Jesus is the Good News. I do not have to be a Scripture Scholar, or Theologian, nor a Priest nor a Deacon to proclaim to

others what God has done for me in Jesus. I just need the courage to do so! Start by inviting a fallen-away or a none, into your home for a dinner or coffee and cookies, or a beer and pizza. Get to know them, share with them, and then, after you have gotten to know them, begin to invite them. That is what Jesus did. Pray for them, sacrifice for them, that is what Jesus did; then, invite them to mass show them how to worship in the Mass. That's what Jesus did! Begin to take seriously our mission to proclaim the Good News- Jesus is the Good News!