

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, January 14, 2024
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B

“Behold, the Lamb of God”. These familiar words of John the Baptist offer us a beautiful meditation. They are spoken every time we celebrate the Mass when the priest holds up the Sacred Host. According to John Paul Thomas’ commentary on this passage, these words, spoken first by John as Jesus came to him to be baptized, are words that can be prayerfully meditated upon throughout our lives.

Think about this profound statement: “Behold, the Lamb of God...” It is good to start by imagining John the Baptist speaking these words pertaining to Jesus. And from there, we apply them to the Eucharist and to countless other moments in our daily lives. When John first spoke these words, the “Lamb of God” was seen in a very ordinary way. The eyes of all present saw only an ordinary man approaching the scene. But the *eyes of faith* saw “that Lamb of God” who would give his life for the salvation of the world.

The *Sacrificial Lamb* was seen by the eyes of faith. Do we have the eyes of faith to see and recognize *the Lamb of God*. When we look at the Consecrated Host, as it is held up at Mass for all to see, we see Jesus, the Sacrificial Lamb, in an even more veiled way. We see, with our physical eyes, a piece of bread. But with the *eyes of faith*, we behold the Savior.

The Sacrificial Lamb of God is continually coming to us. He is all around us, coming to us in a veiled form, constantly revealing himself to us in faith. The question is, do we see him? Do we recognize him?

Let us constantly pray that we may have *the eyes of faith* – to see and experience God’s love as manifested in many ways; to see and admire the goodness and beauty of life;

to see and recognize Jesus in the person of our brethren; to see and respond accordingly to the needs of our neighbor.

If we were only to learn to see things, not with the eyes of our senses, but with the eyes of faith, we will come to the wonderful realization that everything is a sacrament of God's presence...that God is just there – hidden, unnoticed.

God's *hidden* presence is there all around us, every single moment, and yet we often fail to pay attention to it. We are blessed if we see, with the eyes of faith, what God has in store for us, what the Lord is doing for us. We are blessed if we recognize, with the eyes of faith, how God reveals himself in ordinary things. Faith enables us to look beyond and see something more. It means looking beyond appearances and looks, and see God's enchanting beauty. It means looking beyond limitations and weaknesses, and see God's forgiveness and mercy. It means looking beyond hardships and difficulties, and see God's guidance and providence. It means looking beyond all the good things that we receive and discover the goodness and love of God.

“Behold, the Lamb of God...”

The great theologian, Karl Rahner, said, “What is central to all Theology and Spirituality is that the three Persons of the Trinity want to reveal themselves to you”.