

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”, John’s full awareness of his role.

When people asked him who he was, John answered with striking brevity: “I am not the Christ” (John 1:20). He could have claimed a throne or a new kingly name, but he named himself simply as the one who prepares the way. Throughout these verses, we glimpse a man utterly clear about his mission. He knows his identity is derivative—he is not the Messiah, not the One to be adored or worshiped—but a herald, a voice calling in the wilderness.

John’s self-understanding flows from divine vocation, not personal ambition. He recognizes that his work is to prepare the people for the arrival of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. When asked who he is, he quotes Scripture and bears witness to what he has seen and heard from heaven: I saw the Spirit descend and remain, and I bore witness that this is the Son of God. His authority comes from his relationship to Christ, not from his own charisma or influence.

John's entire ministry—his preaching of repentance, his baptism, and his statements about Jesus—unfailingly leads others to Christ. The famous declaration, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29) is not a personal achievement but a Christ-centered proclamation. John's joy is complete when he sees Jesus increase and himself decrease. He must decrease so that the Word may increase.

This is the pattern for every follower of Christ: true Christian mission always directs the gaze of others to Jesus. We are witnesses, not celebrities. Our authority rests in our fidelity to the truth about Christ, our readiness to confess our need for grace, and our willingness to lay aside our own prestige for the sake of the Word made flesh.

May we, like John, be faithful custodians of the good news, so that, in all we do, Christ may be formed in the lives of others.