

HOMILY FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME 2017

1. John says behold the lamb of God
 - a. This is sort of a pun that John is using
 - b. Lambs often referred to as kids
 - c. So John points to Jesus as God's kid
 - d. Another way of saying that Jesus is Son of God
2. Another image to consider for the Lamb of God
 - a. Many lambs were sacrificed in temple as sin offerings
 - b. People had an awareness that the world is not right
 - c. The world is a sinful place
 - d. Recognize in their own weaknesses they are contributing to this sinfulness of the world
 - e. Want to reestablish a good relationship with God, to receive His forgiveness
 - f. So they sacrifice lambs as their prayer that sins may be taken away
3. John says something more Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
 - a. Important says sin in singular not in plural
 - b. The hope of the sacrifices of ordinary lambs is forgiveness of sins of one sacrificing
 - c. Jesus has come to do something much more
 - d. Not just achieve individual sins but to begin setting the world right side up
4. Cause of world not being right is ultimately sin, sin divides us but often in petty ways
 - a. Book of Judges in Bible provides an illustration
 - b. 2 tribes: Ephraim invaded Gilead but lost
 - c. Ephraimite had invaded Gillead but had lost the war
 - d. Trying to escape across river, Gileadites would challenge a man
 - i. If he denied being Ephraimite, tell him then say word shibboleth
 - ii. Ephraemite dialect did not have "sh" sound, could only say "sibboleth"
 - e. Gileadites recognize him as enemy tribe and kill him
 - f. Only real difference between two tribes is sound of "sh"
5. most divisions and anger are sourced in very petty issues
 - a. Power of sin is that sin isolates people
 - b. Every sin is an attempt to put ourselves ahead of others
 - c. When others respond in same way, world becomes divided
 - d. John the Baptist announces that Jesus is fulfillment of Isaiah's dream
 - e. God speaks to his servant: it is not enough for you to be my servant to Israel

- f. I will make you a light to the nations
 - g. Jesus comes not just to save Israel but the whole world
6. What kind of salvation is Jesus offering
 - a. John says that Jesus is the one who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit
 - i. When John baptizes with water, it symbolizes a desire be holy
 - ii. A desire to be connected with God once again
 - b. When Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit, God is becoming part of us
 - i. He is sanctifying us, making us holy
 - ii. Being holy according to St. Paul is being united with everyone who believes in the name of Jesus Christ
 7. First step in becoming holy is accepting the gift of holiness
 - a. If we are truly holy, there will not be divisions or separations between us
 - i. Rather than dividing ourselves as us and them, in Jesus we are all we believers in love Jesus showed us in his death for us
 - b. Even though Jesus has sanctified us, made us holy, we are never free from temptation
 - i. We always have to choose
 - c. The power of the devil is to hint that God may be pulling the wool over our eyes
 - d. Would we have more fun or be ahead if we followed the devil
 - i. Pornography and sexual sins may seem exciting
 - ii. Anger feels like it gives us energy
 - iii. Greed, power and pride tell us each of us should come first, not God
 8. During season of Ordinary Time we will be reminded of eternal struggle between love and sin
 - a. Jesus has given His life to remind us of God's love
 - b. Sin tries to distract us, telling us we do not need God
 - c. We are part of an eternal drama, where we must decide is God the central character or are we
 9. If God is the center, we will see the world is being put into the right place
 - a. If we remain the center, like will be like being Alice in Wonderland, nothing seems right