ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 19, 2020
**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.** Why did John call his cousin Jesus Lamb of God? John was the son of Zechariah who was a priest of the Temple. Every day one of the priests would beg God’s pardon for his sins and the sins of the people by sacrificing a lamb and burning it up on the altar. John knew that Jesus would be sacrificed to take away our sins. Jesus is the Victim without defect. In the Roman Canon the Catholic priest prays to the Father: “we, Your servants and Your holy people, offer to Your glorious majesty from the gifts that You have given us, this Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this spotless Victim, the Holy Bread of eternal Life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.”

In our hymn, Glory to God in the Highest, we pray, “Lord God, Lamb of God Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.” This short Gospel tells us a lot about Jesus and John’s knowledge of Jesus. John says, “He is the One of Whom I said, a man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because He existed before me.” John was born six months before his cousin, but John knew Christ, as Son of God, existed before him.

John did not say that his baptism would change people or deliver them from sin but, “the reason why I came baptizing with water was that He might be known to Israel...I saw the Spirit come down like a Dove from Heaven and remain upon Him”. John’s work was to prepare sincere seekers for the long awaited Christ. John’s baptism came to an end. Jesus took over. John knew it would happen. He had said I must decrease. He must increase. John says; “I saw the Spirit come down like a Dove from Heaven and remain on Him”. The Holy Spirit had always been with the Son of God, but here the Dove Spirit came down on Jesus to indicate he was the Messiah.

Today’s first reading from Isaiah was chosen to go with this Gospel because it describes God’s servant Who is so ready and willing to serve. He is made glorious in the sight of the Lord. This Sunday we are following up on the Baptism of the Lord. “Now the Lord has spoken Who formed Me as His servant in the womb...I will make You a light to the nations.” It reminds us of Simeon’s canticle.

Psalm 40 responds to the reading: “Sacrifice or offering You wished not but ears open to obedience”, Father, You don’t want animal sacrifice, “Behold, I come...It is prescribed for Me, to do Your will O my God is My delight.” Jesus does not offer animal sacrifices as the priests of old. He offers Himself! “This Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this spotless Victim, the Holy Bread of eternal Life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.”

Remember the Hebrews in Egypt smeared lamb’s blood on their doors to protect their first born from death. They were saved by the blood of lambs. That incident was a prefiguring of Christ, the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. St. Paul wrote, “Christ our Pascal Lamb has been sacrificed” (1Cor. 5:7). For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

John the Evangelist wrote about his vision of Heaven. The Angels worshiped Jesus and sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

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**Reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

_by Fr. James Doran, OMV_
The Friends of God: St. Marianne Cope

Feast Day: January 23  
Patron of: Lepers, Outcasts, HIV-Patients

Born in Germany in 1838, Marianne emigrated with her family to Central New York when she was two years old. In 1862 she became a Franciscan sister. In her years in Syracuse, NY she established two hospitals and served as both a teacher and principal. In 1883 St. Marianne accepted an invitation to serve as a missionary in Hawaii to the poor and to people suffering from leprosy. She established hospitals and schools and cared for vulnerable girls. Marianne also helped to care for St. Damien of Molokai in his final days. Marianne never returned to live in the United States. She remained in Hawaii carrying on her work for the poor and suffering until her death in 1918. She was granted a royal award for all of her work with the suffering and vulnerable. In 2011 she was canonized thus becoming the first saint from the Diocese of Syracuse, NY.

Mass Intentions This Week

Sun., Jan. 19
8:00 AM + Betty Coory & Maggie Alonge
9:15 AM + Joseph & + Florence Dimaina
10:30 AM + John Keefe
11:45 AM John Aherne
1:15 PM (esp.) + Maria Johnson
4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
5:30 PM + Dr. Renato Ticzon

Mon., Jan. 20 – St. Fabian, St. Sebastian
8:00 AM Mary Miley
12:05 PM Donald Trump
4:45 PM Luz Marina Wartski & + Josefina Troncoso

Tues., Jan. 21 – St. Agnes
8:00 AM Emma Feitelberg
12:05 PM James F. Corr
4:45 PM + Justin Carr

8:00 AM Christine Hanley
12:05 PM Catherine Morrissey — health
4:45 PM Mary & Ricky — in thanksgiving

Thurs., Jan. 23 – St. Marianne Cope, St. Vincent
8:00 AM + Eduardo Anzola & Nohora Parra
12:05 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
4:45 PM + Joseph Timilty

Fri., Jan. 24 – St. Francis de Sales
8:00 AM Souls of Purgatory
12:05 PM + Ruth Dwyer
4:45 PM Nelson Lopez & Fernando Montoya

Sat., Jan. 25 – Conversion of St. Paul
9:00 AM + Bernard Sova and + Brisciliano & + Lourdes Teleron
12:00 PM Jose Javier Oviedo — conversion
4:00 PM + Tim & + Ann Murphy Callahan
5:30 PM + Clara Ines Wartski & Julio Silva
7:00 PM (esp.) + Amanda Ramirez

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to recognize, honor and glorify your infinite greatness and the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance, I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with so many praises, with so many wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love.

Amen.

Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement: The Power and Spiritual Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri  
A Seminar by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV  
February 8 - 9, 2020  
at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St.

To register, email OMVUSA@gmail.com or call (617) 982-7264

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Amen.
Lectio Divina

"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will." — Psalm 40

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the word of God with reverence and joy.

Notice the thoughts and emotions within you. As you prayerfully consider this passage, are you able to identify what thoughts and feelings are generated?

This is the word of God. Take time to consider it carefully. Clear from your mind all distractions. Does it bring you hope or frustration? Is this a refrain you are able to say for yourself? How do you know what is the will of God? What would it be like if someone was able to say this with confidence? Do you know anyone who consistently performs the will of God? Take time right now to let these words touch your heart. Might you ask Mary to help you listen with confidence to the Lord?

Ask the Holy Spirit, in your heart, to help you to apply this to your life.

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Paul tells us that eventually every knee shall bend at the name of Jesus. Holy Name Societies used to flourish in the parishes of the United States. These pious societies of lay people were initiated to promote the devout utterance of the name of God and to combat blasphemy. At the beginning of the New Year of Grace now is a good time to renew a commitment to keep the Third Commandment, which forbids using the Holy Name in vain. The name of God, of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary and the saints should always be kept in reverence. The tradition was always to make a slight bow of the head whenever the name of Jesus was uttered.

O sweet Name of Jesus, holy above all names in heaven and on earth, and to which every knee, both of men and of angels in heaven, on earth and in hell bends. You are the way of the just, the glory of the saints, the hope of those in need, the balm of the sick, the love of the devout and the consolation of those that suffer.

O, Jesus be to me a help and a protector so that your Name may be blessed for all times…

by Thomas a Kempis

To most modern people the idea of a lamb is of something soft, cuddly, white and fluffy. To the ears of those who heard John the Baptist this was farthest from the truth. To the Jews of the first century lamb of God referred to sacrifice. It was a lamb that was sacrificed and eaten for the Passover. John does not simply refer to Jesus as a lamb but as the Lamb of God. This title means that Jesus is the one, true sacrificial lamb of the Passover. This is how Jesus will have mercy on us. He will be our paschal sacrifice and by following him and partaking of his sacrificial meal (the Eucharist) we shall pass over the curse of everlasting death. This is the perfection of the Passover of the Exodus at the time of Moses, which was a foreshadowing of Christ.

Participation in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God at the Mass is the means by which we may come to final and everlasting peace.

Estem, therefore, and love the will of God in all things, and above all things, and bring yourself with high ardor to accomplishing it. Detest having not done it in the past, and ask pardon of God for it humbly and with faith.

Decide to want to do it in every way in the future.

Observe that which could impede the execution of the will of God, or diminish fervor for it, that is:

The temptations of the Devil, and human respect; The allurements of the flesh and of worldly goods; The fear of losing some worldly goods; The fear of inconveniencing the body.

Scorn similar impediments. Observe that love must be as strong as death, that it breaks down every obstacle, and that no one tribulation must diminish it. Say with St. Paul: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" etc., rousing oneself to heroic acts like the Saints.

Reflect on how you might think, speak, work, if you would truly love God: "Truly love is never idle, for it is busy with great things, if it is love. If however it refuses to labor, it is not love."