

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A –
14/15 January 2017 – Beginning of a period of “Ordinary”
Time; (Prior to beginning of) Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity – In anticipation of: MLK Day; Roe v. Wade and
Defense of the Unborn 22 January 2017 –
Our Lady of Victory Parish Community
HOMILY

First Reading:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

- “The Lord said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. . . . who formed me as his servant from the womb, . . . and I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength! . . . I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 40 – *Sung*

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

- “Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, . . . to the church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere . . . Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

GOSPEL:

JOHN 1:29-34

- “John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.” John testified further . . . “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. . . . ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain he

Page 2 - *The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A - 14/15 January 2017 - Beginning of a period of "Ordinary" Time; (Prior to beginning of) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - In anticipation of: MLK Day; Roe v. Wade and Defense of the Unborn 22 January 2017 - Our Lady of Victory Parish Community - HOMILY*

is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."'''

Steel Magnolias –

Six women come together in this hilarious and heartwarming story of life, love and loss in a small Louisiana parish. At the center of the group is Shelby Eatenton, newly married and joyfully pregnant, despite the fact that her diabetes could make childbirth life-threatening. Terrified and angry at the possibility of losing her only daughter, M'Lynn Eatenton looks to her four closest friends for strength and laughter as she battles her deepest fear of death in order to join Shelby in celebrating the miracle of new life. - **1989**

Shelby – Julia Roberts

M'Lynn – Sally Fields

Truvy – Dolly Parton

Ouiser – Shirley McClaine

Clairee – Olympia Dukakis

Annelle – Daryl Hannah

I. The scene we are given in the brief passage we hear in John's Gospel this weekend is the evangelist's version of the Baptism of the Lord . . . something celebrated earlier this week . . .

In John's version, he has John the Baptist . . . cousin of Jesus . . . saying **boldly** and without hesitation . . . "**Behold . . . the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world . . . **He** is the one . . . **I have seen and testified . . . He IS** the Son of God!" . . .

Imagine that scene . . . imagine John the Baptist saying these words . . . in the midst of continuing to baptize others . . . in the midst of doing what God had sent him to do . . . he stops . . . stops and calls attention to Jesus . . . "**Look . . . look . . . there . . . the Lamb of God**" . . .

Now, perhaps we may find it difficult to see how anyone could get excited and stop what they were doing just to take in some **lamb** . . . or, in this case . . . some person who is not known by the crowd . . . not famous . . . not dressed in fine clothes . . . but . . . that did not deter John and the image . . . that image of the **Lamb of God** was astounding to those who heard his bold proclamation . . . after all . . . in the Jewish tradition . . . lambs were

sacrificed . . . their lives taken in the Jewish temple at Passover . . . a rightful sacrifice to God . . . and somehow . . . understood to be something of a "bridge" between the people on earth and the God they believed in in heaven . . .

But now . . . **NOW** . . . John the Baptist is telling folks . . . you have a **NEW** bridge . . . one with flesh and bone . . . and this new bridge is the **ONLY** bridge you will ever need . . .

ii. Perhaps you and I cannot make the same connection our Jewish ancestors did and continue to make . . . but think about that **BRIDGE** . . . that, I would suggest, most all of us can relate to since often times we cross bridges to get from one location to the next . . . bridges, without which, traveling to different locations would be difficult . . .

But, **Jesus** . . . **Jesus** . . . the **Lamb of God** . . . provides us with **the** connection . . . **Jesus** joins us not only to God . . . but to one another . . . He did that from the moment he became flesh in Mary's womb, and He has not stopped, nor will He ever . . .

*Page 5 - The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A - 14/15 January 2017 -
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**Behold Him . . . behold Him in the Word you hear . .
. in the very Body and Blood you receive . . . and be
connected . . . connected to God in a way we cannot do
on our own . . .**