

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – From Bishop Gerard Bergie

During the celebration of Mass, just prior to the reception of Holy Communion, the rubric states, “The priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” The scriptural reference for this text is found in the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. St. John the Baptist sees Jesus coming and exclaims, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” He then states at the end of the passage, “And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” Like Isaiah of the First Reading, John, was formed to be a prophet to bring people back to God. Are we not called to do the same? We are God’s humble servants who should make the words of the psalmist our own: “Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.” It is God’s will that, like John the Baptist and Isaiah, we should draw all people to God. We do this by our witness to Christ. The more that people see Christ in each one of us, the more they are drawn to him in humility and love. Despite our own weakness and sinfulness we can still proclaim Christ. We see this clearly in the words that are said after the priest states, “Behold the Lamb of God”; our response is, “Lord, I am not worthy that you would enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” The Lord heals us so that we can heal others by bringing them to Christ.