

## Number Sixteen: “Behold the Lamb of God”

In the New Missal, we will see more clearly the close connection between many of the prayers at Mass and Sacred Scripture. At the “Invitation to Communion,” the priest shows the consecrated host to the people and says: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.” These words echo the words of John the Baptist to his disciples when he identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1: 29 and see also John 1:36). These words also remind us of the Book of Revelation where John reports the angel saying to him: “Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb” (Rev: 19:9). The people’s response repeats, with one change, the words of the Roman centurion in Luke’s Gospel when he asked Jesus to cure his servant: “Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my servant [we will say instead “*my soul*”] shall be healed” (cf. Luke 7: 6-7). The Lord, the Lamb of God who takes away our sin, does truly come to us because of His great love.