

Behold the Lamb 1

This past June I participated in a retreat titled *Behold the Lamb of God*. It was a “prayerful reflection on the dangerous connection between our Christian religious language and imagery and the use of violence to solve problems.” Just that description advertising the retreat intrigued and attracted me, and I was not at all disappointed by the new ideas and understanding about some of the most familiar and basic Catholic-Christian scripture texts and teachings I have known throughout my life. One of the other participants in the retreat, a Catholic woman who has even more years in the Church than me, said what she learned was “revolutionary” for her understanding of her faith. I would like to share what I learned on the retreat in a series of installments here over the next few weeks, or however many it takes. The retreat presentations were based on a scholarly article by a well known Catholic scripture scholar, Sandra Schneiders of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. At the beginning of her article she points to three main ideas or topics in St. John’s Gospel we will reflect upon, the understanding of ‘the sin of the world,’ the identity and role of Jesus as ‘the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,’ and the Christian Community’s participation in this liberation through ‘the forgiveness of sins,’ which is the work Jesus committed to his followers in his great commission: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven.” More to come!

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.

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