

Behold the Lamb 2

In this second reflection on the “*the dangerous connection between our Christian religious language and imagery and the use of violence to solve problems,*” which was the focus of a retreat I did last June, we recall our fundamental Catholic understanding of Sacred Scripture (our foundational religious language) as *the words of God, expressed in human language...made like human discourse* (Vatican Council II: *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, n.13). Whenever we read the Bible, it is important that we understand and keep in mind the fact that the eternal word and unchanging truth of God, which words can never fully express, depend upon ever changing human words and language for its expression. The challenge in reading, interpreting, and properly understanding Sacred Scripture is the challenge of discerning what is the enduring word of God in the midst of the ever varying words of men and women, recognizing which is which. Some approaches to Scripture don’t make this kind of distinction, and take each and every word as coming directly and authoritatively from God, even what is merely the product of passing human ways of thinking and believing. Jesus himself spoke of this when he charged the religious leaders of his day *with teaching as doctrines mere human precepts and nullifying the word of God for the sake of your tradition* (Matthew 15:6-9). It is against this background that we will study further our religious language about Jesus as *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29).

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.
Contact Fr. Dan Krettek at dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org.