



Archdiocese of New York + 2011

"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD"

The Invitation to the Banquet of the Lord:

Following the Breaking of the Bread and the prayers the priest prays privately in preparation for Communion, the priest lifts up the host and the chalice and invites the members of the Assembly to take part in the Eucharistic Banquet. Both priest and faithful make an act of humility before the Body and Blood of the Lord raised before them. Their response uses words taken from the Gospel account of the Centurion who, with great humility, answers Jesus' offer to come to his house to heal his servant. It is significant that this response is made not just by the faithful, but by priest and faithful together, a clear sign they are part of the one Body of Christ, that together they form one community, joined in the same Eucharistic meal.

The Translation of these Prayers: The former translation of the invitation and response, rendered the Latin text freely, with the result that some of the Gospel references long associated with this rite were obscured. The present translation, in accord with the provisions of *Liturgiam Authenticam*, adheres more closely to the Latin original. The invitation now also

reflects more fully the transcendent and festive heavenly banquet described in the *Book of Revelation* and foreshadowed by our Communion in the Body and Blood of the Lord. Beginning with the proclamation of St. John the Baptist, the priest invites us with the words:

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 response made to the banquet invitation by all present quotes the words of the Centurion more directly. It now reads:

Lord, I am not worthy

that you should enter under my roof,

but only say the word

and my soul shall be healed.

With these words, all present are confronted with their fundamental unworthiness to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in Communion. But they are also a reminder of our need to trust that, no matter how great our unworthiness, the Lord can, and will heal us if we only seek his forgiveness.