On Sundays in Ordinary Time, the Church remembers the public ministry of Jesus. During this season, we are reminded by the Church of our baptismal commitment in participating in the mission of Christ.

When the Gospel of Matthew was written, the Christian communities were already experiencing misunderstandings and persecutions. This is why Jesus said: “... do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna” (Mt 10:28). We read this line from the missionary discourse of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, sandwiched in the Jesus’ public ministry in Galilee. The whole discourse is full of encouragement from Jesus to his disciples. This is why after commissioning the Twelve (Mt 10:5–15), Jesus warned them of the coming persecutions in the missions entrusted to them (Mt 10:16–25).

The persecutions that happened in the lives of the Twelve were not new. In the Old Testament, even prophets, like Jeremiah, experienced persecution in fulfilling their mission.

Jeremiah represents the people who suffer in this life, but nevertheless have placed their trust in God. Like Jeremiah, they confidently say: “But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion; my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph” (Jer 20:11); and as the psalm says: “For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I pray to you, O Lord, for the time of your favour” (Ps 69:8, 14).

Jesus is the model who excelled in facing persecutions.

His teachings and deeds caused contradiction to the sinful society he lived in, and his faithfulness and perseverance led him even unto the death on the cross. Jesus was never discouraged by the sufferings he was surrounded by. His prophetic voice was heard by all—announcing and denouncing the sins of this world. In the end, his resurrection showed the world that the victory is his, and such will be given to us as well.

Indeed, trials and difficulties should not frighten us. We have to stand strong like Christ. The Christ that we preach is a contradiction to this sinful world, and so persecution should be expected. However, we should neither get tired nor be ashamed with our testimony of Christ.

It is not easy to be a committed Christian. There would always be contradictions and persecutions when we witness to the words and deeds of Christ. We should persevere in faithfulness because God will not abandon us for we are worth “more than many sparrows” (Mt 10:31).

— Sr. Cecilia M. Payawal, PDDM

**Pastoral Catechesis for the Year of Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue, and Indigenous People**

**Guiding Our Dialogue Engagement**

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

As already noted, various groups of Catholic authors have proposed a “Dialogue Decalogue” (the “Ten Commandments of Dialogue”). Realizing that the purpose of interfaith dialogue is to learn, build relationships, and move together in solidarity and service, two additional guidelines are presented for our reflection.

**RULE FIVE:** In interreligious dialogue we must not compare our ideals with our partner’s practice, but rather our ideals with our partner’s ideals, our practice with our partner’s practice. Yes, every faith tradition propounds lofty ideals (e.g., genuine love of God and neighbor); however, many religious adherents often fail to live by these ideals. One consciously avoids judging another’s actions as not living up to the lofty ideals found in all religions. All can be enriched by other’s ideals as well as their struggle to translate them into daily life.

**RULE THREE:** Each participant must come to the dialogue with complete honesty and sincerity; false fronts have no place in dialogue. Each person sincerely strives to be a person of integrity; genuine openness fosters authentic relationships and thus promotes understanding. Conversely, each participant must always assume complete honesty and sincerity in the other partners. In a word, if there is no trust and mutual respect, then no true dialogue will occur.

**RULE FOUR:** In interreligious dialogue we must not compare our ideals with our partner’s practice, but rather our ideals with our partner’s ideals, our practice with our partner’s practice. Yes, every faith tradition propounds lofty ideals (e.g., genuine love of God and neighbor); however, many religious adherents often fail to live by these ideals. One consciously avoids judging another’s actions as not living up to the lofty ideals found in all religions. All can be enriched by other’s ideals as well as their struggle to translate them into daily life.
INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon
(Cf. Ps 28 [27]:8–9)  
(Recited when there is no opening song.)

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

Greeting
(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.

Introduction
(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P — Dear brothers and sisters: By his passion, death, and resurrection, the Lord Jesus has overcome the power of sin and death. In the Eucharist, he has left us a living memorial of his saving mystery. He has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always. Indeed, the Lord strengthens his disciples for the task of spreading the Gospel because it is not without problems and difficulties.

This, too, is the experience of Jeremiah. Beset by terror and persecution, the prophet entrusts his cause to the Lord who rescues “the life of the poor from the power of the wicked.”

Penitential Rite

P — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (Pause)

P — You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
All — Lord, have mercy.

P — You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.
All — Christ, have mercy.

P — You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.
All — Lord, have mercy.

P — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
All — Amen.

Gloria

All — Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P — Let us pray (Pause)

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All — Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Jer 20:10–13)  
(Sil)

Faced with internal crisis and external danger, Jeremiah nearly despair in his calling as a prophet. But in faith he hangs on to the promises of the Lord who, in turn, ultimately vindicates the prophet.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

JEREMIAH SAID: “I hear the whisperings of many: ‘Terror on every side! Denounce! Let us denounce him!’ All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.’ But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O Lord of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!”

— The word of the Lord.
All — Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 69)

R — Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Sr. M. C. A. Paro, FSP

1. For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children, because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me. (R)

2. I pray to you, O Lord, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me: with your constant help. Answer me, O Lord, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me. (R)

3. “See, you lowly ones, and be glad: you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the Lord hears the poor and his own who are in bonds he spurns not. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!” (R)

Second Reading  
(Rom 5:12–15)

We are justified, says Paul, by faith in Jesus Christ. Because
sin entered the world, we have been alienated from God. But Christ has restored us to a right relationship with God.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

—The word of the Lord.
All — Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Jn 15:26b, 27a)

All — Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 10:26–33)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All — Glory to you, Lord.

JESUS SAID to the Twelve: “Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

—The Gospel of the Lord.
All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Profession of Faith (Stand)

All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

P — In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled with the Father and made his adopted children. Confident of the Father’s love, let us raise our petitions for the needs of the Church, our nation, and the whole world. Let us pray:

R — Lord, hear our prayer.

C — For the Church, the people of God: may she persevere in proclaiming the Gospel and lead men and women to Christ, the true light that enlightens every human being, we pray: (R)

C — For Pope Francis, the bishops, priests, deacons, and all the baptized: may they witness to the saving power of the Gospel, even amid opposition, unbelief, and lukewarmness, we pray: (R)

C — For government and civil leaders: may they help safeguard human dignity, promote peace among people, and attend to the needs of the poor, the weak, and the voiceless in society, we pray: (R)

C — For the families of our nation and of the whole world: may the Lord inspire every family to embody the Good News of Jesus, we pray: (R)

C — For our sick brothers and sisters and all those who have gone ahead of us: may the Lord bring them the comfort they need and show them the hope of eternal life, we pray: (R)

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (pause). We pray: (R)

P — Almighty Father, hear the prayers of your people. Heal the wounds of sin that divide and confuse us. Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit and help us in our journey back to you.

Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.
Presentation of the Gifts (Stand)

P — Pray, brethren...
All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P — Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.

Preface II: The mystery of salvation

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.
P — Lift up your hearts.
All — We lift them up to the Lord.
P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All — It is right and just
P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
All — Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)
All — When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer
All — Our Father...
P — Deliver us...
All — for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (Kneel)
P — 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.
All — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Ps 145 [144]:15)
The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Prayer after Communion (Stand)
P — Let us pray. (Pause)
Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)
May almighty God bless you in his kindness and pour out saving wisdom upon you.
All — Amen.
May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith and make you persevere in holy deeds.
All — Amen.
May he turn your steps towards himself and show you the path of charity and peace.
All — Amen.
P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All — Amen.

Dismissal
P — Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
All — Thanks be to God.