



When you do extraordinary things, the most difficult people to impress are those close to you—your family, relatives, neighbors. They think they know you very well. Having prejudged you or put you in a box, they do not believe that you can do something greater. This is especially true when you belong to the lower class.

Thus, the saying, “Familiarity breeds contempt.” This can be frustrating for lay people who seriously live out the Church’s call to active participation in the mission of evangelization, formation of Basic Ecclesial Communities, in promoting justice, peace, and integrity of creation. Those who usually deride their efforts are their own family members or those in the same neighborhood community. This becomes more likely when they fulfill the prophetic mission that they have received by virtue of baptism. This mission involves sharing the Word of God, proclaiming the Good News, denouncing evil and all its manifestations—including the culture of death—and calling people to conversion.

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT



by Fr. Amado L. Picardal, CSsR

This is the experience of Jesus related in our Gospel. After preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God in the synagogues and performing miraculous deeds, his townmates and neighbors are astonished. “We know him,

he is just our neighbor, he is just a carpenter. We know his family.” Out of exasperation, Jesus says, “No prophet is without honor in his own place.” Those who think they knew Jesus ever since he was a little boy fail to recognize who he truly is—not a carpenter but the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lord and Savior.

There are things that we need to remember: God has given us gifts and talents that we need to discover, develop, and use to fulfill the mission given to us. We are capable of doing great things for the Lord. We have to be ready to accept rejection or disbelief from those who think they know us—our family, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers. We should not be discouraged or frustrated when we go through this experience. We continue our mission and make sure that what we proclaim and how we live should be consistent. We must be aware that the price we have to pay for being prophetic is not just rejection but also suffering, persecution, and even death. This is the cost of discipleship.

PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

Revitalizing Our Mission Initiatives

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

During this year (2021) dedicated to mission, we need to take stock of how we can reinvigorate our missionary dynamism. First, we recall several efforts in the post-Vatican II era to promote a dynamic commitment to evangelization. The overall theme of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-II) in 1991 was the mission of the local Church. Another pivotal event was the First National Mission Congress held in Cebu in 2000. Many dioceses have fostered various initiatives for evangelization. Yet, we ask: What is being required of us today?

The CBCP asserts that evangelization “calls us to continue more earnestly the initiatives and projects which have been ongoing under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are called to examine more deeply the pastoral situation that we all face together.... We are asked to explore and discover ‘the new methods and means for transmitting the Good News’ more effectively to our people, always under the guidance of the Spirit.”

The bishops continue: “Above all, we are challenged anew to foster in the Church in our country a renewed commitment and enthusiasm in living out the Gospel in all the diverse areas of our lives, in ‘real-life practice,’ challenged anew to become more and more authentic witnesses of our faith—especially to our Asian neighbors!” Whether times are difficult or more normal, Christ’s mission call echoes in our hearts!

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 48 [47]: 10–11)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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—We often seek God in the spectacular. The sun rises and sets every day, attesting to God's providential care, but we prefer to look for God in the "dancing sun." We pray for miracles of healing—all the while that God heals us of our bodily and spiritual ailments through the sacraments and the help of loving people.

Penitential Act

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

P—Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All—For we have sinned against you.

P—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All—And grant us your salvation.

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

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

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)*

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness.

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

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Ez 2:2–5) *(Sit)*

God does not give up on his rebellious people. He sends Ezekiel to call them to a change of heart.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

AS THE LORD spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate

of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD God! And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

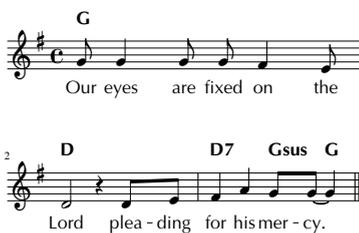
—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 123)

R—Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Marfori



1. To you I lift up my eyes/ who are enthroned in heaven—/ as the eyes of servants/ are on the hands of their masters. **(R)**

2. As the eyes of a maid/ are on the hands of her mistress,/ so are our eyes on the LORD, our God,/ till he have pity on us. **(R)**

3. Have pity on us, O LORD, have pity on us,/ for we are more than sated with contempt;/ our souls are more than sated/ with the mockery of the arrogant,/ with the contempt of the proud. **(R)**

Second Reading (2 Cor 12:7–10)

Paul is given extraordinary revelations, but he is content with weakness because in it, the power of Christ is made more manifest.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me,

but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Cf. Lk 4:18) (*Stand*)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mk 6:1–6)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

—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.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Let us pray to the heavenly Father that we may be open to his desire to commune always with us every day in our lives as we say:

R—Lord of life, be our strength.

C—May the Church become a channel of grace and strength

in times of weakness and tribulation. We pray: **(R)**

C—May all public servants in government promote human dignity in the policies they implement and the services they render. We pray: **(R)**

C—May all who experience all sorts of oppression and discrimination be consoled by your loving kindness through the people around them that they may find the justice they seek. We pray: **(R)**

C—May all who have gone before us, especially our loved ones who have recently died, be welcome into your promised paradise. We pray: **(R)**

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

P—Heavenly Father, in times of weakness, we find strength in you. Hear our humble petitions and help us become one another's strength as we journey back to you, our beginning and our end.

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 Offerings

P—May this oblation dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface I

(*Sundays in Ordinary Time*)

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 through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

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—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(*Kneel*)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed



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are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 34 [33]:9)

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Prayer after Communion

(*Stand*)

P—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

P—Bow down for the blessing. (*Pause*)

Look, O Lord, on the prayers of your family, and grant them the assistance they humbly implore, so that, strengthened

by the help they need, they may persevere in confessing your name.

Through Christ our Lord.

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—Our celebration is ended. Go in the peace of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

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