

WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME? FRIDAY, 6TH MAY, 2022, WEEK III, EASTER.

ACTS 9:1-20; PSALM 117; JOHN 6:52-59

The First Reading of today gives an account of how Saul, the fierce persecutor of Christians, was arrested by Jesus whilst on his way to arrest and persecute Christians, especially in Damascus.

At another time, I would like to reflect on "Ananias, the rare disciple on a rare mission." However today, let us focus on the voice that Saul heard. The Lord spoke to Saul, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" By persecuting the Church, Saul was invariably persecuting the Lord, the bridegroom of the Church.

What Jesus said to Saul is what He is saying to many believers today. Like Saul, instead of building the Church, some of us are persecuting the Church of Christ.

A priest/shepherd who doesn't tend the sheep of Christ with love and gentleness, who doesn't lead the flock by word and example, who exploits the flock, is a persecutor of Christ. Any priest that the flock cannot describe as a blessing, is a persecutor of Christ.

A Christian whose life runs contrary to the Gospel values, who claims to be a believer but brings disgrace to the Christian identity and values, who brings disrepute to the name of Christ, is a persecutor of Christ.

The Gospel of today continues Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. A Christian who receives the Body of Christ with dishonour and irreverence, whose life contradicts the meaning of the Eucharist as a sacrament of love and unity, persecutes the body of Christ and by valid extension, persecutes Christ.

We pray that the light of God may shine upon us as it did on Saul, so that we may see the dark areas of our lives. We pray that we may hear the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us to reexamine our lives and repent from any way we are subtly persecuting the Lord.