



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

January 22, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

*“The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light.*

*And for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned”. Matthew 4: 16*

Almost a month ago, our streets, houses, church, and everywhere we go were lit with radiant lights. Some even have a synchronized tune with the sounds of Christmas music. Our eyes may sometimes be fixed on it and wonder at the beauty and wonder of it. I would like to guess that every time we see the glimmering lights and happy tunes, our minds and hearts are lifted.

Time has passed, and those days are gone. Our world is not as bright as what we experienced in the past. Our minds are set once again on the usual things we do at home, work, school, and church. Although these days may look ordinary, I hope our lives may have changed because we have seen the light of life. Not the physical light that shines around us but the spiritual light that shines on our soul, Jesus Christ.

If we look around us, our world is darkened by sin and evil. Many around us are affected by it as we see the number of deaths, even of innocent children and unborn, and the growing conflict of nations triggered by war and killings of innocent men, women, and children. The growing problem of addiction and violence. The truth of Jesus Christ has been compromised with the principles of mediocrity and relativism. Freedom has been threatened by individualism and selfishness. Peace can only be restored through arms and violence. Families have broken apart. Such situations that we continue to experience today can pull down our spirits.

When all seem lost and dark, there is a glimmering hope that we who sit in darkness have seen a great light, Jesus Christ. He brought so much goodness that we can now see the darkness that needs to be changed and allow the light of Christ to shine. Like the disciples He called, we are empowered to continue brightening this world. This can only happen if we allow ourselves to be infused by the Holy Spirit to do our part in the name of the Lord.

As we celebrate the Eucharist, we physically receive the Lord in this great Sacrament. Listening to Him through His Word can help us think through what needs to be done and avoided. His Word enlightens our minds to come to the knowledge of truth and grace. His Word calls us to respond to carry on the mission of bringing light to the world. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we radiate Christ to the world.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual