



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” Matthew 5: 12

We live in a world with a “reward” mentality. People can enjoy life and live to their satisfaction. Observing how people work, they do all what they can so that when energy wears out, they can be secured and be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. There is nothing wrong with it, especially when one uses their hard-earned labor. Everyone deserves to enjoy life and be fulfilled.

As much as this kind of mentality exists, there is far more rewarding than just enjoying life and being fulfilled. This comes true when we know how to use God’s gifts for the good of our souls. While it is true that material things can make one happy, spiritual things can make one blessed and joyful.

Jesus teaches His disciples how we can be blessed and receive a greater reward, if not the greatest, that awaits in heaven. His teachings on the mountain twist us for one to be truly rewarded not by human standards but by God’s. People who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, persecuted for the sake of righteousness, insulted and falsely accused and receive utter every kind of evil in His name, are rewarded with great happiness not of this world but that of heaven.

Living the Beatitudes is not easy, but it is everyone’s call how to live our lives. It takes a lot of faith, courage, and deep love for Jesus to be able to do so. It is attested that anyone can live this way. We have the saints. We have our very own Saint Damien and Saint Marianne, who carried out their blessings and shared them with the outcast, the sick, the poor, and all those seeking God’s mercy. Now they have been rewarded with so much goodness living with God.

If we can live our lives for God and be faithful to Him, we can be certain that heaven awaits us at the end of our hard labor. Be blessed and be a blessing to all!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual