



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world” Matthew 5: 13; 14

Jesus uses two images to convey His teachings to His disciples and us living in the present generation. These images are salt and light. Salt, as we know, gives taste to any food preparation. It adds flavor so that one may enjoy the meal. Light dispels darkness. It brightens the surroundings for one to see what is around. These images are very symbolic in that they present powerful messages to reflect on and live by when it comes to our witnessing of faith in the Lord.

Witness to Jesus calls us to a life where we can bring a difference not only to our own but to the lives of others. A man or a woman of faith can bring not taste but a life full of meaning and purpose. Often, we search for happiness in material things only to find out that they do not last. Once gone, everything seems to be lost. It isn't. When Jesus teaches that we are the salt of the earth, He calls every one of us so that life's meaning and purpose can be found in Him. Through our good works in His name, we can bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the downtrodden, and peace to an angry heart.

Not only that Jesus teaches about being salt but also about being a light of the world. Especially in the darkened world we live in, when there is so much hatred and division among families and institutions and so much evil, and the truth is stifled, Jesus calls each one of us to bring light to the world. He is the light. As the evangelist John says, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. That through Him and with Him, we may find our path toward goodness and life. But these can only be realized if we carry the light of Christ in us and stand as a witness.

Let it be a moment now to ask ourselves, have we responded to Jesus' call to be a salt of the earth and a light of the world? Have we ever shared life's meaning with the people closest to us and become a beacon of light to a wandering soul? May we realize Jesus' invitation and respond to Him so we can become the salt and the light of the world.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual