



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

February 12, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***“Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord” Psalm 119: 1***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

This weekend’s Liturgical Readings are filled with words reminding us to live our lives for God. It is centered on the theme of following the commands of the Lord. And to follow or abide by the laws of the Lord, we receive blessings from Him. As such, we become blessed and share in the goodness of God.

Experience tells us that many in our world today do not live their lives for God. They move away from Him and contend to live their lives in their way. Though this is possible, we need God’s commands or laws to live righteously and devoutly as sons and daughters of a loving Father.

Imagine ourselves without our basic traffic laws. Can we do whatever we want to do while we drive? Do you think we will be safe throughout driving if we do things independently? I do not think so. Along the way, accidents can happen and may cause our lives or someone else’s life because of our own doing. But if we know that these laws can guide us to safety and the assurance of reaching our destination, we need to abide. These laws are being taught to us through the Church, whom Jesus entrusted His mission to guide and serve for the salvation of all. It goes the same thing with our lives for God. He has put laws for us to follow. These laws guide us to reach our destination and the fullness of life God offers to all.

We may not know it well, but one of God’s greatest gifts to humanity is free will. Man can choose between doing good or evil, or knowing right from wrong. It could have been easier that God created us to control us, but that is not His nature. He wants all of us to exercise this great gift, but in reality, our choices are geared more toward what I desire, what I want, what I do even when it becomes detrimental to others’ freedom, rights, and more to lives of others. As such, we live a life of selfishness and pride that it is so dangerous that we cannot see God’s goodness.

May these Readings call us back to realize that God’s laws are spirit and life. Abiding in them makes our lives worthy of living in this world in peace and joy. But we also need to work on making His laws present in our world. By living faithfully to God’s commands, people can experience through us that following His laws can bear goodness and a sense of direction in life. God’s laws are directives that make lives meaningful and fruitful. God calls us to live His commands. May we have an open heart and right mind to be faithful and abide in Him!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual