



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Give me a drink.”

Are you thirsty? This a question we need to ponder on this Third Sunday of Lent. When we experience being thirsty, there is a deeper longing to be quenched so that the craving will be eased. Water will satisfy that thirst and eventually get fulfilled when taken. We all know the importance of water. It cleans, replenishes, it sustains, and, most of all it, gives life. It soothes our thirst and makes us feel satisfied. As our physical bodies need water, so is our soul. This water that nourishes our soul is no other than Jesus Himself, the Living Water.

Life these days have become so troubling. The respect for life and humanity is fading. Hopelessness and loss of life linger, brought about by men and women who don't have regard for faith and morals. So many confused ideologies and principles exist that many people feel uncertain about what to believe as true or false. The emphasis on “my” freedom has been regarded as a virtue rather than considering what good or bad it can bring to one's life. Certainly, such an attitude can impact people's lives, not only one's own. Our world is thirsty for peace, joy, life, and love. Who could quench that thirst if we are so thirsty for such things?

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well demonstrates how a simple request of the Lord for water became a teachable moment. Jesus knew who she was initially, but He made the woman realize what she had done and needed to do. Having met and known Jesus, what else could she ask for? In short, the conversation became a beautiful encounter of conversion and mission.

The conversion story of the Samaritan woman can also be our own story where we need to refocus our minds on what the Lord teaches us. He is the Living Water that satisfies our longing for a better, if not the best, life. He is the One whom we can seek to give us the water that nourishes our fulfillment in life, not what the world offers.

We know who Jesus is. We know what He did for us. We are very much aware of what He taught. But do all these enable us to have a genuine encounter with Him? We know in life that we desire good things, but we tend to satisfy these desires with pleasure and materialism. Our thirst is quenched by what the world offers us, only to discover that we thirst for more. But if we realize and accept that Jesus is the One who can quench our thirst, we know we can continue toward the Kingdom of God and live better here on earth.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual