



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“One thing I do know is that I was blind, and now I see.”

Our Gospel story on this fourth Sunday of Lent is about the miracle of Jesus’ healing of a man born blind. The Pharisees find it difficult to accept the miracle that happened and point out that whoever made it possible is not from God. Despite the wonderful gift given to this blind man, the Pharisees blind themselves with their arrogance and self-righteousness. They do not see the goodness of having a sight given to the blind man by Jesus. This man suffered blindness throughout his life, and when he was cured, not an inch of recognition of Jesus came from the Pharisees. Instead of being happy for this man’s recovery of sight, they reprimanded Him all the more. While the man born blind sees, the Pharisees are blinded by Jesus’ good deeds, as a prophet and even as the Son of God.

Such blindness can also happen when we do not recognize our faults. We, like the Pharisees, are too focused on our “ego” and always want to be pleasant as we can be to others but not God. When this happens, Jesus is absent in our lives. We become so self-righteous that we only see the splinter in someone’s eye, not our own. (*Matthew 7: 3*)

As we get near the celebration of Jesus’ Paschal Mystery, will we rise with Him and be given new eyesight like how the Lord Jesus sees? Will a substantial change in our relationship with Him and others bring goodness, peace, and joy to our families, church, and world? Will we be like the blind man who can truly express the same words he said, “one thing I do know is that I was blind, and now I see?”

The days of Lent are days of enriching our relationship with Jesus. His love for us is so immense and powerful. If we allow Him to enter our lives, our perspectives can make a big difference by seeing what He sees. Our world is so blinded by too much materialism and emphasis on our egos. So many people are also causing blindness to us when they infuse their principles and laws into our families and societies rather than embracing the truth that Jesus preached and lived.

Our Lord desires that each one of us will be able to see the goodness God has done for us. Through Him, we have redemption and joy in life. Jesus desires the fullness of our lives in heaven and here and now. We need to step up to our faith and see beyond our physical eyes what we need to see through Jesus’ eyes.

May these remaining days during this Season of Grace allow us to focus more on Jesus and deepen our commitment to follow Him.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual