



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“Listening to the Voice of the Lord”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Our First Reading on this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time narrates the calling of Samuel. Samuel, so young and innocent, was living at the temple of the Lord with the High Priest, Eli. One night, Samuel woke up because a voice called out to him. He thought it was Eli calling out, so he approached him and said, “Here I am, you called me.” Eli was unaware of the voice calling out to Samuel; not until it happened the third time that he realized that it was God calling out to Samuel. Eli sent Samuel to go back to sleep, and if he ever heard the voice again, he said to respond this way, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Indeed, the voice of God called out Samuel, and this time, he responded with the words that Eli told him to say. And the Lord made His presence revealed. From then on, Samuel lived and grew up and became a man of God and served Him with faithfulness and zeal.

What a way to grow when someone listens to the Word of God. What a life that could become when someone responds to God’s call? We have become more unaware in our current culture and world that God constantly calls each of us. A call to live like His Son, our Lord, whose great mysteries of His birth we celebrated with great jubilation days ago. Our world has become noisier with overwhelming situations that we can no longer hear or see God’s presence as much as He makes His presence every time.

God’s invitation to listen to His Son, Jesus Christ, is more pressing now as we observe what is happening around us. We draw our thoughts from our call as Christians. We are called to carry out the task of giving testimony to Christ to all people. By virtue of our Baptism, we carry the name of Christ. In Christ Jesus, we lead and bring people to Him. We can start fulfilling this call by leading our children to the Lord, especially on Sundays. Parents testify to Christ by leading good and holy lives and becoming examples to their children. In so doing, children see Christ in them. In the larger context of the community, our vocation can be realized by our concern for truth, justice, peace, and life, just as Jesus did. By doing this, we lead people to realize the true Messiah. God has called us to be His heralds today. May we indeed fulfill our vocation in life? Our vocation starts if we start listening to the Voice of the Lord. Where? In Sacred Scriptures, in the celebration of the Sacraments especially at the Holy Mass, and even in our prayers where God speaks to our inner consciences.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual