



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“To Be Healed from Brokenness”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

These past two weeks have been very overwhelming for me. A very close “Nana” passed away. One whom I admired for her love and support not only for me but for many priests whom she had known. Besides this incident, my sister-in-law had a stroke, and to this day, she remains in the hospital, unable to speak with my brother, my nephews, and my grand nephews. So often, when we speak through video calling, we cannot take hold of ourselves, and tears roll down our cheeks, most especially mom. Yes, as much as I can hold on, I try my best to be strong as a priest of the Lord for our family, but I am overcome by sadness. When many thought that we priests could be strong emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually, we, too, can be affected by brokenness and left with unanswered questions: why?

The beauty of having a community with much faith in Jesus can be a source of strength and courage because you know that many pray with you and drive you to be stronger. The love and care can continue to draw you more to Jesus and to keep trusting and believing in His great power and will.

There is no doubt that many of us, or even all of us, feel such brokenness. The many facets of life that we experience from day to day can cause this brokenness. Parents feel it when they see their children falling away from family. Children experience it when they lose their parents through sickness, falling away relationships, or death. Many experience it when sickness comes, losing a job, or an unexpected turn of events in life through calamities or harsh treatment from other people. Brokenness can indeed be overwhelming, but it should not control us or determine our future.

Jesus has shown us the way and assures us always that He is with us through thick and thin of life. Like Job, who expressed his brokenness to God because of the many disheartening situations he experienced in life, like the many people who had been longing for healing from different ailments, and all of us going through very challenging situations in life, we approach the Lord with our brokenness and allow Him to heal us, give us strength and purpose. And it may be difficult to do so but, like the Psalmist would say, we continue to give praise to God who heals the brokenhearted.

Our love for the Lord gives us hope. Our trust in Him gives us courage. Our faith in Him gives us purpose.

Journeying with you in the Lord,

Fr. Pascual