



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“Listening...So Difficult to Do These Days!”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Whenever I go for my walk on my day off, I always put on my hearing piece to listen and join the app that offers prayers, like the Morning Praise, the Holy Rosary, and Gospel Reflections. After going through all these prayers, I start to listen to music, and it cuts me off from listening to the voices of people passing me by, the laughter and cheers of children along the shore, and even the sound of cars. What an incredible invention we have these days with technology. Often, I see so many using as such, and if that is the case, then we make these tools for listening, cutting us off from each other and minding our own business. The world becomes isolated, and our focus is on ourselves.

The danger of it all is that when we start to use these things even at home, listening can be very difficult to do, and we start not to know what our family members need or even what we truly need. Translating this into our spiritual lives, when we shut off our ears, we won't be able to listen to the voice of God, and we mind our own business, not knowing that the thread of life we are tracing is going awry.

These days of Lent are days meant to revive our God-given gift of listening. To use our ears to listen to God's voice especially His call for us to live our lives as His beloved sons and daughters. And this we can do if we deepen our loving relationship with Jesus, whom the voice that Peter, James, and John heard, “This is my beloved Son, listen to Him.”

We need to reflect on the words of the Father: *this is my beloved Son; listen to him* because Jesus sets an example of how we can be faithful to God. To listen to Him directs our path toward the things that would nourish our lives spiritually and motivates us to live in grace and not in sin. The Opening Prayer of this Sunday's Liturgy expresses this, “*O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased; we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight make pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.*”

Lent is a time given to us to examine how we are carrying out our call to be Jesus' disciples today. We ask ourselves if we have been faithful, turning away from our sin and listening and believing in the Good News of Christ as we had reflected on last Sunday's message. Lent is a moment to continue that journey of faith, reconciling ourselves to our God, with one another, and with ourselves. We can do this when we listen attentively to the voice of God and the longing of our world today for peace, joy, and love.

May the Lenten Season enrich your spiritual path!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual