



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 17, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

***“Jesus, Who Is He in Your Life?”***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Knowing someone through one’s achievements, family background, referrals of other people, and self-revelation can give us a glimpse of who the person is. It gives us an idea of who might be this person and how one can relate to them. But knowing someone by heart does not only give us an idea of the person. It also enables the person to be engaged and enter a relationship with them.

Jesus had been known by many. They were His disciples, people whom He performed miracles, and those who listened to His teachings in the synagogues, mountains, and roads. The account of the Gospel of John that we hear or read on this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent tells us that some Greeks went to Philip, who in turn asked the assistance of Andrew if they would like to see Jesus. What is there to see from Jesus? Would it be His physical appearance, stature, clothes, and things that may be seen with the sense of sight? It may be so, but in the Gospel of John, “to see” means more, and that is “to know Jesus in-depth” or to “discover His identity.”

Jesus answered their desire to see Him differently. He manifested Himself as grain that falls to the ground and dies to bear much fruit. Someone to be lifted from the earth and people would draw everyone to Himself. Thus, it came true through His crucifixion.

It is sad to think that many of those who wanted to see and follow Him abandoned Him in the end. Only a few were left behind. Why? Because they did not see in Jesus what they were looking for. But the few did see, know, and believe in Him as the Son of God who manifested the greatest love of offering one’s life for the salvation of all—salvation from sin, grace, and becoming true sons and daughters of God.

As we are in the remaining days of Lent, let us continue to search for Jesus and know Him truly well by heart. Let us aim that when we celebrate Easter, we have grown deeper in our relationship with Him. So, knowing Him, we will be able to give witness to Him to the people around us and eventually change our world into a community of Disciples of Christ.

Knowing Him by heart can help us understand and deepen our love for our brothers and sisters regardless of what faith they embrace or what culture they have. It will also stir us to serve those who are in need just as Jesus served everyone.

As we spend these remaining days of this season of grace, let us ask ourselves who Jesus really is in our lives. When we can find the answer, let us be His witnesses in the world we live in, at home, at work, in church, and wherever we are. Let us grow in faith, hope, and love in Him, through Him, and with Him.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual