



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“My Lord and My God!”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Our hearts continue to exult and are filled with the goodness of the Risen Lord. So appropriate to say with gladness, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.” I extend my Easter greetings to all, and I hope and pray that you had a great celebration with your family, friends, and co-workers.

We are on the Second Sunday of Easter, and we are presented with an amazing story of Jesus’ appearance to His disciples. Thomas, one of the Twelve, only came to believe that Jesus rose from the dead when he touched Him and saw the marks on His hands. He remarked the words ***“my Lord and my God”*** to claim his belief in the Lord. Jesus said to him, ***“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”***

The story of Thomas and his fellow disciples is a story of faith. It is the faith of the apostles believing in the Risen Lord. How blessed were the disciples, for they could see Him in person after all the things that happened to their Master? He endured so much pain despite the many good works He had done.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples for the first time, Thomas missed the opportunity to witness the Risen Lord narrated by the evangelist John. When the other disciples told him that they had seen Him, he became skeptical about the news. He claimed that he would only believe if he could see and touch Him. When the disciples gathered again after a week, and Thomas was with them, Jesus appeared. In all humility, he dismissed his unbelief and claimed his belief in the Lord.

Easter is so much filled with mystery. The whole event in Jesus’ life had been enveloped with all goodness, including His suffering, death, and resurrection. We have so many questions to ask and answers to uncover. We may not be able to grasp all of them, but in the eyes of faith, we understand everything because of God’s immense love for all of us. He wanted us to reform our lives, turn hatred into love, sadness into joy, despair into hope, and suffering with Him into a means of salvation. These are all made possible when we bow down our heads and learn intently in and through Jesus. In one of his Easter messages, Pope Francis helps us understand that we can enter into the mystery of Easter through the virtue of humility. He said in his message, ***“The mystery of Easter cannot be understood – and the Christian faith cannot be lived fully – without humility.”***

The celebration of Easter is a celebration of faith and life. When we joyfully celebrated Easter Sunday last week, it does not imply that the celebration is over. We continue to cherish the gift that the Lord has given to us. Let us nurture our faith. Though we have not seen the Lord as the disciples did, let our faith be a living testimony that Jesus, indeed, is risen. Let this faith move us to continue spreading the Good News of the Lord, for as Jesus said, ***“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”***

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual