



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 21, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

### ***“Shepherding and Leadership”***

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

As we journey through these Easter days, I wonder, how has this season of renewal and rebirth been for you? Have you found solace in celebrating God’s gift of salvation through Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection? Have you felt the joy of being embraced as a beloved child of God? Is Alleluia still your song?

We celebrate the Sundays of Easter and are invited to ponder God's goodness for all of us. It was not easy for Jesus' disciples to believe in the resurrection from the dead, but He proved the truth about it through His appearances. He fulfilled His promise, especially that of being with them for all times, not in the manner that they used to be with Him, but with the eyes of faith that would carry them through the thick and thin of their lives and ministry.

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we hear Jesus' beautiful and profound teaching of being the Good Shepherd. This is why this Sunday is called Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus presents Himself as One who would tend to His sheep and lay down His life for them. These words were concretely manifested when Jesus sacrificed and died for His disciples then and for every one of us. He manifested what true loving and caring were by offering His life to save us—the sacrifice of utmost service.

Compared to bad shepherds, who work only for pay and maybe for good reputations, good shepherds dedicate their time and lead their sheep to green pastures. They allow their sheep to grow and be filled. They protect and are ready to give their lives from prey and not endanger the sheep by placing them in the sheepfold.

In all aspects of our lives, we are entrusted with responsibilities to tend and care for one another. Parents to their children. Managers to their employees. Presidents and governors to the citizens. And yes, Pastors to their flock. Should there be an image and model to follow, it is through the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who manifested what true leadership, service, and sacrifice are. He served and was not being served. He died for the sake of us all.

Shepherding and leadership are the same. We, who are being shepherded and led, must certainly know whose voice we need to listen to. If the voice we listen to leads us to only what matters here on earth, then we shift our listening ears to the voice calling us to those things that really matter in life and lead us to salvation. And this voice is the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

Continued blessings to you and your family this Easter Season!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual