



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Connecting Our Life to Jesus”

Jesus, the Bread of Life! Jesus, the Good Shepherd! Jesus, the Vine! These powerful descriptions not only apply to Jesus but also resonate with us, His beloved disciples. They symbolize an unbreakable bond between our Lord and us, inviting us to feel our unity with Him. The words *“Remain in Me, as I remain in you”* emphasize this connection.

When family members are closely connected, they work as one despite their differences, and conflict resolution becomes possible. Similarly, our relationship with God requires connection—knowing Him, loving Him, following His ways, and embracing His truth. Failing to connect leads not only to losing our way in this life but also to missing the path to His eternal Kingdom.

Discipleship with Jesus goes beyond mere words. It demands commitment, dedication, faithfulness, and trust. His invitation to *“Remain in me, as I remain in you”* underscores the need for a deep relationship—one that brings goodness to the world.

In our troubled world, where hatred, division, selfishness, and strife abound, Jesus’ challenge remains true discipleship. Living out Gospel values—love, kindness, selflessness, and truthfulness—becomes our mission. This mission is not just a duty but a transformative journey. It is a journey that can change us, change our communities, and change the world. Respect for one another, community building, spirit-filled purpose, and unwavering dedication bear fruit. Trials and hardships are part of this journey, but remaining in Him ensures the best outcomes.

Come to think of it, when this kind of relationship is established, we will be able to build families, communities, and nations to live in peace, love, and joy. As such, we can celebrate and enjoy the beauty and wonder of life God created from the beginning. We cherish moments day by day till we are in the presence of our Loving Father and our Vine, Jesus. This dream may sound ideal, but it may never be realized in our lifetime. But if we realize this now and connect our lives to Jesus, then we plant the seed in the vineyard and allow the vine grower and the vine, Jesus Himself, to let it grow.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual