



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 12, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“The Life of a Disciple”

When I used to address you all in my letter, “Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,” I reflected further on what could be more fitting to address you all. The thought of discipleship came into my mind, and thus, I started expressing “Beloved Disciples of Christ.” In this way, we become more aware of our calling as followers of Jesus and share His message with our family, co-workers, relatives, friends, and strangers, which is our mission: Evangelization.

The Gospel of Mark ended with the Ascension of Jesus and took His seat at the right hand of God. He presented Jesus’ departure from His disciples and highlighted His glorification as He sits on the right hand of God. Interpreting this mystery literally may lead us to a different conclusion and misunderstanding of this event in the life of Jesus. If we think of heaven as a geographical place, we may be asking where heaven is. Is it in the sky? Is it beyond the Milky Way? Where? If it is somewhere out there and cannot find it, is Jesus no longer present with us?

The mystery of the Ascension is more than that. It is in the presence of God, that is, being with the Father. The Ascension event draws us to understand Jesus’ words in the Gospel of John, “*I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” It makes us understand that our life is moving toward the Father, and our way to Him is through Jesus. And all these must take place to complete the journey towards our salvation through Him.

In the Ascension account, what is also noticeable is Jesus’ command to His disciples to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. He entrusted His mission to them so that all generations would hear His message of salvation to come. Though afraid that things might happen to them what their Master experienced, they took it by heart and went out boldly to continue Jesus’ mission. They were promised that He would be with them through the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to guide and lead them to fulfill their tasks.

The Feast of the Ascension invites us to realize our goal in life, that is, to be with God. It makes us also aware that God is always with us. It reminds us also to look deeper into ourselves if we are living rightly and justly as children of God. It invites us also to continue the mission He has entrusted to us. To do our mission is to make known to more people in the world that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Eventually, we glory in the Lord when He comes to rule and judge the world. Mindful of these thoughts, this is what the life of a disciple would be.

Our Easter Season is ending. As much as we can, let us always celebrate God’s abundant blessings upon all of us with great joy. He gave us His Son, our Redeemer, to bring light and life to our world. He is the source of our peace, love, and joy. Through Him, With Him, and In Him, we have everything that we need in life. Let us trust in His goodness, for He is with us always!

May God continue to protect you and care for you. May our Blessed Mother, Our Lady Queen of Peace, intercede and embrace you and your family with her maternal love, always.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual