



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Faithful Life to Faith-filled Life”

We hear or read in the news about stories of many farmers having a hard time planting due to the El Niño effect. Droughts are affecting plantations, and often, we experience that too in our islands. We are glad at times because the rain comes now and then, but when summer comes, the land becomes dry. When such things happen, planted seeds or plants cannot grow well, wither, die, and eventually burn for no use. No fruits to pick or crops to harvest because the seeds did not grow. For farmers, it would just be a waste of time and money. Feelings of frustration or disappointment emerge. But hope still flourishes for the next planting and harvest season. In as much as they may experience unproductiveness from all their labors and sacrifices, farmers still have a way to get things through.

Jesus’ parables this Sunday enable us to ponder more deeply about the seed of faith planted in our souls. These parables that He used, the Parable of the Seed Sown and the Parable of the Mustard Seed, convey a deep sense of understanding of how things work out for faith to grow in our daily lives. Seeds are sown, and their growth may not be that impressive from the beginning, but they grow eventually and become fruitful. That goes the same thing with our faith. Once we embrace our faith in Jesus and allow Him to take hold of our lives, this little seed of faith can grow wonderfully and amazingly that it affects our way of life, our way of thinking, our way of relating with others, people, and with our God tremendously.

As the Father had planted the seed of faith in us, it is expected of us that we also have to cultivate it. This can be done if we allow ourselves to be molded by God’s Word and the teachings of our Catholic Faith and carry them out every day of our lives. Suppose we carry out God’s Word daily; we reap a harvest of a faithful, loving relationship among family members, honesty and dedication to our work, authentic reception, and worship of receiving the Lord in the Eucharist. Not only that we become Faithful in all His ways, but our lives become Faith-filled where Jesus becomes the center of our minds and hearts.

Growth in our spiritual life is essential. It needs improvement and extra care. Like a seed, when nurtured and taken care of, it brings about goodness and immensity. Our lives will be filled with grace and virtue. It compels us to act truthfully, justly, and morally. Our human actions are geared toward respect and charity, forgiveness and humility, faithfulness and kindness. Jesus showed us how. Now, it is just a matter of living and reliving the way He lived. Every word He spoke and every action He did were all the seeds sown in each one of us. And when we live up to it, then we can grow spiritually. And when that day and time comes, God will certainly treat us the way how we live our life and faith.

Let us nurture our lives to be faithful into becoming faith-filled life.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual