



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 23, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Holding On to Jesus”

When you read this week’s letter from me, I will be already in the Philippines with my mom. We left Thursday at noon and expected to arrive Friday evening, as the time difference is about 18 hours. Our flight was at least 10 hours. I will be taking my vacation and coming back in July. However, I want to emphasize that even though I am physically away, my prayers and thoughts are with you all, especially when I celebrate Masses in my home parish. I will also continue to reach out to you through this letter in our parish bulletin. As we delightfully say, A Hui Hou!

As we look around us, locally, nationally, and worldwide, we are in a very turbulent situation caused by natural and, sad to say, man-made calamities. We are being tossed and torn by the circumstances that surround us. We have wars, violence, economic and moral crises that threaten our lives and our community. We also see that more and more people are becoming hopeless and find life burdensome. Children are abandoned, and families have broken apart. We could hardly find peace and unity in any corner of the world. We ask when these things will stop. It brings us so many anxieties and uncertainties. We ask ourselves, what do we need to do?

We find the answer in Jesus from our Gospel today. He is our beacon of hope, our source of strength, and our guide in this turbulent world. Through Him, we can live in a world where there is peace and harmony. With Him, we can savor the goodness of life God has bestowed in the world. But this can only happen when we allow ourselves to carry on what He taught and showed us. We need to continue His mission and proclaim His word to everyone and anyone. We need to make Him known. And it takes faith and openness to recognize Him as the one true leader and servant who can even calm a storm. Evil exists globally, but it can be defeated when we have faith and trust in Him. Amid the storms in our lives and our world, we have the Lord Jesus to hold on to.

Our journey in this life can be enriched by our journey of faith in Jesus. Holding on to Jesus would be our driving force to keep things going in the midst of the many storms in life that come our way. The testimonies of life that our beloved Saints Damien and Marianne manifest as such what it means to hold on to the Lord. Their faith in Him and together with the many saints all over the world are living witnesses of the greatness of God.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual