



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 30, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Healing Power of God”

The Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace continues to be blessed with priests coming to serve our Ohana. As we bid Mahalo to Fr. Cipriano Alnas, we express our warmest Aloha to Fr. Lazarus Anondee. Fr. Lazarus as he prefers to be called, comes from the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana. He will celebrate his 33 years of priestly life and ministry on July 20. I may be miles away to greet him in person, but you can join me in saying E Komo Mai to Fr. Lazarus. May you find your ministry spirit filled with the inspiration of our Blessed Mother and our Beloved Saints, Damien, and Marianne.

Every day, we experience a lot of choices to make. From the moment we get out of bed in the morning till we sleep at night, we make choices that could enable or spoil the beginning or end of our day. Yet, as much as we know how things would flow when we make good decisions that demand great responsibility, we still choose the other option that results in a minimal outcome or nothing. This is because fear gets in the way and stifles our motivation to do something more and better. When we are overwhelmed with fear, it stops us from living our lives fruitfully and meaningfully. But when we have the leap of faith, life becomes different from how we look at it.

Our Gospel this Sunday is about the healing of the woman afflicted with hemorrhage for twelve years and the rising from the dead of the daughter of Jairus, a synagogue official. We are probably amazed at how the miracles happened. First, the woman with the illness touched the cloak of Jesus and was healed. Then, the girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around after Jesus uttered the words, “*Talitha Koum,*” which means “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

If we read through the story of these miracles, there is one common word that Jesus uttered: Faith. It was through faith that all became possible. Both the woman and the official act out of faith. They believed that Jesus had the power over sickness and death. They approached Jesus with sincere and open hearts. They had their trust in Him. The miracle could not have happened if the woman had not had the leap of faith to touch Jesus’ cloak or if Jairus had not approached Him for his daughter’s healing.

Jesus cares for all of us. He is open to helping us go through life’s challenges and pains. The Lord Jesus is concerned for our well-being. He is open to life and restores life in all its aspects. Jesus does not want us to be overwhelmed with our fears. If we do, we will never experience the transforming effect of Jesus’ words and deeds in our daily lives. Allowing ourselves to listen to Him and open our hearts to trusting Him can bring us wonderful changes in our lives. He restores everything, for He is the Son of God, who desires only the good of every human person and even the world we live in. This is why we call Him the Redeemer.

Having that leap of faith allows God to be in control. When we do that, we will certainly experience great miracles every single day. So let us all keep this in mind: Have Faith!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual