



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Nurturing Our Faith in Jesus”

We are familiar with the expression, “Familiarity breeds contempt.” It means that the more acquainted one becomes with a person, the more one knows about his or her shortcomings and, hence, the easier it is to dislike that person. In our Gospel Reading this Sunday, Jesus experienced the truth. Thus, He said, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” People around him were talking about His family, trade, and whereabouts; more so, they took offense at Him. Just imagine how difficult it must have been for Jesus to experience such resistance and rejection. The words “took offense at him” are so strong to express that “even though we are astonished at your words, we just don’t care about it because we know who you are.” Consequently, He could not perform any mighty deed there apart from curing a few sick people. Jesus could have done nothing at all. But He is who He is. He cares, and He persists in doing the will of His Father. He must have felt sorry for them but was amazed by their lack of faith.

Lack of faith brings about nothing at all. The lack of faith in Jesus results in not recognizing the truth about Him, His works, and His teachings. Also, if there is a lack of faith in Him, minds are redirected to accepting and even believing relative truths of the world. Rejection and resistance of Jesus come in the form of laws and principles relative to everyone’s whims and caprices. Often, these are regulated so everyone can accept them no matter what. It will result in not having a firm relationship with Jesus and not being convinced of the truths in Sacred Scripture. As such, we can become like atheists, not believing in God at all.

Last weekend, I reflected on my article about the healing power of God with you. Having faith in God enables us to see things that keep our journey going. However, oftentimes, we are controlled by our fear, which stifles us from taking that leap to see what God has in store for us. We bind our hands and just do not do anything at all, which eventually results in nothing.

Like Jesus, though He may have experienced such resistance and rejection from His people, kin, and family, His mission will never be stopped. He continued doing what He was called to do, even to the point of being crucified, which was the ultimate way of rejection by those who did not believe in Him. He entrusted this mission to the Church. Through the Church, we can nurture our faith in Jesus.

The Church will always be a herald of God’s message of salvation. The difference now is how open we are to receive the message of Christ and live it. Is our faith in Him motivating us to a life of conversion and action to participate in His mission? Or is our faith in Him limited to simply knowing Him and waiting for things to happen? Are we lacking in faith? If we say Yes or Maybe, we must do something about it. If we say No, then let us continue nurturing it!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual