



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 14, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Our Task as Disciples”

Our Gospel this Sunday tells us about Jesus sending the Twelve to go two by two for missionary work. They were sent to preach and perform works of charity. Their master instructed them not to take anything for the journey but just a walking stick and to wear sandals and a tunic. They were even told not to bring food, sacks, or money. It will make us wonder how these Twelve will survive with the demands of their missionary work. It will make us aware of what the evangelist Mark would tell us about when He sent His disciples.

We have reflected on last Sunday’s Readings about our call as prophets by virtue of our baptism. We are called to witness to the Word and live the Word in our lives. To fulfill this mission, like the disciples of the Lord, we need to deepen our faith in Him. We need to nourish our minds by learning, reflecting, praying with Sacred Scriptures, the teachings of our Catholic Faith, and meaningful celebration of the liturgy, especially the Holy Eucharist.

This Sunday, Jesus tells us to share the Word with everyone. We don’t keep His Word in our lives but must share it, too. Sharing does not mean we have to convert people. It is not our task to convert people. Conversion is a gift of the Holy Spirit, whoever would listen to the Word. We must understand that people can only listen to the Word if someone shares His Word. When Jesus told them not to bring anything with them, this act calls us to reflect on our total dependence upon God. We might struggle to complete the task, but the Lord will help us. He provides for whatever we need for the mission. Trust, confidence, and courage are needed to complete the work faithfully.

As we look around us, our world is in danger of losing the values of the Gospel. More and more people are inclined to live the values of the world. There is so much hatred, division, discrimination, and no respect for human life and death. The world we live in is in danger of destruction because we do not simply care for the earth. Thus, we need to rekindle our mission to share the Good News of Jesus to restore peace, joy, harmony, love, truth, and justice. Why do we do this? It is because it is our task as disciples of the Lord in our world, nation, family, and places where we go, even at work.

It is never too late or too early to participate in the Lord's mission. May we indeed be missionaries to the world! We are all entrusted to carry on the task of being Jesus’ disciples today!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual