



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## **Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

August 25, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

### ***“The Words of Eternal Life!”***

We come to the last part of the Bread of Life Discourse of Jesus. After all the people’s desires to come closer to Jesus because He provides food for them to the point where He explains the true Bread from heaven, many of His disciples return to their former way of life. They decide to leave Him since it is difficult to accept what Jesus presents to them; that is, He is the Bread that came down from heaven, His flesh to be real food, and His blood to be real drink. Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks if they also want to leave. Peter responds, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

Those who left had a hard time believing in Jesus. His testimonies and teachings were difficult for them to grasp because His words were not appealing to their hearing. It was incomprehensible and absurd, as they understood. These were their reactions because they did not see in Him the Truth of His word as the Son of God. They could not understand that He came down from heaven, His flesh to be real food and His blood to be real drink. Their eyes were shut because they did not have faith in Him. Their hearts were so hardened that they only saw Him as an ordinary man like anybody else. The doors of their minds and hearts were closed that whatever He would teach them about His Father, Heaven, Bread, Blood, and Him being the Son of God, they would not grasp at all.

If we are to reflect on their reactions to Jesus, we often do not realize as well that their reactions are ours. Our lack of faith in Him results in not accepting the Truth of His teachings. We, like those who left, only want to believe what we want to believe, not according to His Truth but according to our Truth. This results in relativism, such as, “That is your truth, not mine.” If the Bread of Life Discourse of Jesus had impacted such difficulties for His listeners, it could also influence our understanding of who He is.

Despite the many who abandoned Him, His disciples remained steadfast in their commitment to follow Him, NO MATTER WHAT! They were there for their Master because they had accepted Jesus in their hearts. They continued to testify to the Truth as He had commanded them, teaching everything He had taught them.

Suppose we are to ponder our faith and respond to all of Jesus’ teachings. Do we have the spirit of Peter and His disciples convinced and continue to follow Him? Are we, like them, ready to profess our faith in words and deeds? Let us take a moment to re-examine the kind of discipleship we manifest. If we find difficulty understanding, let us open our hearts and minds to know Him well and listen to what He taught. We pray that the Lord will increase our faith to open ourselves to the Truth.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual