



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

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

November 3, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

### ***“With All Your Heart”***

If I may ask, what is your favorite love song? I would like to make a good guess. Most of us have one, or maybe all of us. In grade school, the first love song I learned was the song by Elvis Presley, *Wooden Heart*. The song expresses that the heart is not made of wood and can hurt and wishes to be treated like one is treated with love.

How wonderful it is to hear someone saying “with all my heart” to you. It connotes deep love and affection. It expresses a profound feeling of kind-heartedness, care, concern, and fondness for the beloved. If true love exists, reciprocity can take place. When this happens, the lover and the beloved will deepen their understanding of each other, and commitments can occur. When there is commitment, sacrifices can be made, thus enabling each other to share their responsibilities.

God’s love for us is so immense and profound. In His faithfulness, He sent His Son into the world. Jesus Christ is the expression of His love, precisely when He offered His own life for our sake and salvation. We are the beloved of God. We are so much loved that we cannot just ignore it. Instead, we do as best as possible to love God in return by keeping His Commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.” And He goes on to say, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Every single day of our lives is a moment to show that love. As we wake up in the morning till the end of the day, our minds and hearts are focused on the things that can manifest such love. We are all given responsibilities in life. As human beings, we are here to take care of everything God has given us, our world, our lives, and our care for our brothers and sisters. Love of God and Neighbor motivate us to be faithful to our calling as sons and daughters of the Father, disciples of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit. We are gifted with the precepts of our Church that leads us to a life of righteousness and faithfulness. The sad reality is that we continue to impose our own will and not the will of our Father in Heaven. Jesus exemplified how to submit everything to His Father because that is how much He loves and trusts Him. More often than not, we have a wooden heart that does not know that we are hurting the ones we love, especially our good and faithful God.

When true love exists, there is beauty in life. When there is beauty, there is joy. When there is joy, there is peace. All these come from loving with all your heart.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual