



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 10, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Generosity, a Mark of a Disciple”

A widow during Jesus’ time is nobody. She is not allowed to do any work or earn a living. She will rely on the goodness or generosity of family members or strangers for food, or anything needed to keep her alive. The Gospel does not mention any son who can earn a living for the mother. There is no one to rely on except her two small coins, maybe to buy something for just a little. But surprisingly, she dropped those two coins into the treasury to give them away as an offering. Jesus noticed this and remarked that she gave more than any other contributors to the treasury. Jesus says, “For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, had contributed all she had her whole livelihood.”

Jesus used this opportunity to teach His disciples, and most especially for us, to trust in His providence and be generous in turn. Jesus presents a heartbreaking point: the widow gave more than the other contributors. Why? Because she gave all her livelihood. She manifested faith in God, knowing the treasury would be offered to Him. Indeed, her sacrifice paved the way for Jesus’ recognition, a model to follow.

If we are to look at the world and even within our community, many people are in dire need of assistance. Prices for our daily commodities are getting higher. Food, clothing, and shelter are difficult for an average family to meet. When sickness or viruses strike, it can cause more suffering to many. We look back to the pandemic days when many of our brothers and sisters suffered severely and relied on government support, private sectors, charity organizations, and even personal aid.

In a culture where self-preservation is highlighted, we often think about our welfare before others. It is natural, but we need to go beyond our own and be concerned with the needs of others, especially the poor and the needy. When we know that we are gifted with time, talent, and treasure, let us not hesitate to share it whenever given the opportunity. Through our generous hearts, we can make people feel that they are loved and cared for. It shows how much you care for the good of others rather than your own.

There is no better way to illustrate generosity than looking at Jesus, suffering, and dying on the cross. Just as He did this for us, may it also remind us that being called disciples or followers, we need to be self-giving, especially with our time, talent, and treasure. With deep faith and trust, we know God will always take care of us.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual