



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“Planning for the Future”

One of the fundamental things people do these days is to plan for the future. Parents work so hard to support their children and their lives. Many work so hard so that when retirement comes, they can get their benefits and enjoy life. If we are so concerned about our worldly life, how much more about our eternal life?

The Gospel from Mark this Sunday, specifically verse 32, states, “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken,” may cause us to be alarmed. We may even be overwhelmed with fear if we are to think about it thoroughly. Often, we hear so much of the coming of the end of the world. We were alarmed; we prepared and waited. Here we are in 2024, and the year is almost over; what we had been waiting for has not yet been fulfilled, and there is no end of the world. The question is, should we feel relaxed about it? Should we just let it go and live our lives how we would like it to be? Since it did not come in 1990 or 2000, or who knows when, can we conclude that it will never come? Will it come, or will it not?

The beauty of these Readings on this Sunday, despite their terrifying tone, enables us to ponder what we must do with our present way of life and our lives to come. As we live in this world and plan for the future, we do as much as possible to prepare ourselves to reach our goals, so much so with the future of our souls. Eternal life is real, and salvation is imminent. Christ showed us the reality of eternal life and salvation through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the Paschal Mystery. Our lives here on this earth are temporary, awaiting eternal life. Scripture teaches us that everything in the present order of this world will pass away and that God will establish something new and definite.

At the end of our life’s journey, we hope that our lives will end, sharing in the joy of our Father. Jesus’ words give us an invitation to ponder on the things that we need to do. Preparing and being ready when that day and time come is called upon us. Let us not be idle but always be prepared, for God’s reign can come anytime. Let us heed Jesus’ words to live our lives for God. To act accordingly as sons and daughters of the Father. To be faithful to Him and our faith. In this manner, we truly are prepared when He comes to rule the world.

May we embrace Christ to discern the best way to prepare for His coming. And to live every day of our lives as best as possible to manifest God’s goodness so we can change our broken world. 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