



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

December 29, 2024

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### ***“Nurturing Hope in the Family”***

The Opening Prayer in the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph beautifully states, “O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life, and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.” These words resonate deeply as we pray and hope for their fulfillment in our lives.

In reality, not all families experience harmony and peace. Joy and gladness can be elusive. Relationships may be strained, divorce rates are high, many babies are unborn, children are abandoned, and sibling rivalries often arise from property disputes. When families are weak, society and the Church are weakened as well. The family is the basic unit of society and the domestic Church, where values are formed, futures are shaped, and life is nurtured.

As the scriptures remind us, “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.” This child, whose birth we celebrated just days ago, did not grow up alone. He had a “mákuakane” who cared deeply for the welfare of his Son and wife, protecting them with love and care and always listening to God’s voice to keep his family together. He also had a nurturing “mákuahine” who experienced the pangs of birth, nursed Him, and remained with Him even until His last days on earth. He had a “Mákua” who were so loving and self-giving.

This feast, as part of the Christmas celebration, inspires us to dream and aspire to live in families where love and comfort abound. It calls us to pray fervently that God may bring light and peace to troubled families. It invites us to strengthen our family bonds in the love and example of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In doing so, we transform our houses into homes, dwelling places of goodness. Let us remember that charity, the crown of all virtues, begins at home.

As we embrace the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us commit to actively nurturing our families. In the spirit of hope, in as much as we realize that our families are not perfect, instilling in us this virtue brings to light what we can do to experience the richness of family. Reach out to a family member you haven’t spoken to in a while, offer forgiveness where there has been hurt, and create moments of togetherness and joy. Let us be the light that brings hope and renewal to our homes and communities. Together, we can build a future filled with love, peace, and the grace of God.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual