



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Go the Extra Mile”

We often hear the expression, “go the extra mile.” As simple as it is, it allows the listener to do more than what is asked or expected. Simply put, to go beyond. We may have done such things as parents tending to the needs of their children when they are sick and giving up their personal time. Or an employer working more hours to tend to the needs of the family, especially when resources are limited.

As much as we attend to such needs, going the extra mile is even more important and required when it comes to living our call as disciples of Christ. Just like what we heard from last Sunday’s Beatitudes, which pose great challenges to attaining the Kingdom of Heaven, on this Sunday, we hear once again our Lord teaching and guiding all of us to carry on the mission as His followers. What does this entail? To love our enemies, do good to those who hate you, offer one’s cheek when one strikes you, not withhold your tunic if someone takes your cloak, give to everyone who asks, and not demand back if someone takes what is yours. Jesus also added that we should be merciful, stop judging and condemning, forgive, and give.

At times, we may wonder if we will ever be able to accomplish such, for doing these is beyond comprehension and application. The demands are overwhelming and difficult to meet. However, it is possible if we allow ourselves to focus on the one who said so, Jesus Himself. He did not only say these demands, but He lived them and even died for them. This is the reason why He is our Savior, who truly shows us the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. His life, His teachings, and His sacrifice are not just a set of rules, but a guide and an inspiration that we can always turn to in our journey.

In this path that we call life, we need to envision our goal with God and live with Him. We need to start this pilgrimage as we live here and now. Living with God has the power to transform us, empower us, and encourage us in our daily lives. It is not just a journey but a transformative experience that we can embark on each day.

No doubt, these demands of the Lord are difficult. This is why we need to seek His Spirit to give us the courage and inspiration to do so. We need His grace to keep us motivated and focused on doing what He calls us to do so that we may live in peace, joy, and love. Listening and abiding by His words will give us the hope to make things better for every one of us.

Are you ready to go the extra mile?

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual