



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

### *“Transforming Hearts Through Lent”*

We are about to enter the Season of Lent. With the reception of Ashes on Wednesday, we begin this Season of Grace. The Season reminds us of God’s unconditional love through the celebration of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Our Readings this Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time are very appropriate for hearing or reading and drawing the message of how we can faithfully practice the spirit of Lent. The call is to look deeply into our souls or our hearts so that whatever comes out in words or actions is true and authentic. There will always be a tendency for us to appear good outside, but interiorly, we realize our blemishes and deeds that are not pleasing to the Lord.

Being aware of who we are enables us to live a life of humility and calls us to mutual respect for others. In doing so, we create a place where we can find love and joy that will bring about peace and harmony. If we really are sincere in aspiring to live as such, then transformation or conversion starts from within.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we can aspire to do better not outwardly but inwardly through a life of conversion and receiving God’s mercy and forgiveness. His mercy and forgiveness will give us hope for change in our lives and the lives of others.

I encourage you all to take part in this Season of Lent. As much as we consider how important it is to receive the ashes this Wednesday, the more we focus on the spirit of conversion that it calls us to do. Through the power of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection, death has no control over every one of us. We become victorious through Christ.

The disciplines of Lent help us grow in this victory. Through Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving, we become fully aware of our dependence on God’s grace and providence. Our sacrifices are worth offering to the Lord, especially to offer to God our sinfulness, seek His mercy, and be renewed in life. When we anchor ourselves on Jesus, we live a blessed life, and to live this way, we bear fruit that we not only benefit from but for the lives of others that we encounter.

Let us all journey together in the spirit of the Lord and be renewed in life and faith for the glory of God.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual