



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Echoes of Hope, a Journey Through the Jubilee Year”

These past days have been overwhelming with sadness and pain, marked by the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the loss of my dear mother. The death of a loved one can surely create grief and pain that is so difficult to bear. Yet, amidst these human experiences, the gift of the Resurrection of Jesus offers us a profound assurance of hope and life. Jesus’ Passion, Death, and Resurrection illuminate a new way of living, promising that the Lord will be with us here on earth and in the life to come.

In my homily on Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Jesus took on a deeper, more meaningful significance for me. It became a poignant reminder that my mother now rests in Jesus’ eternal peace. Though embracing this reality is challenging, my faith in Him gives me hope that she is enveloped in the grace of our Loving Father, just as all of us who have lost loved ones, both recently and in the past. The Resurrection of Jesus reassures us that death will never have the final say. With our faith and hope in the Risen Lord, we will share in the new life He offers us. I do not dismiss the feelings of sadness or the tears that flow, for as human beings, we long for the physical presence of those we love and hold dear in our hearts. This must have been the feeling of Jesus’ disciples and His mother when He ascended into heaven. But Jesus promised that He would be with them and with all of us until the end of time.

This second Sunday of Easter presents to us a story of faith—the faith of the apostles in the Risen Lord. How fortunate were the disciples to see Him after His Passion and Death. Thomas missed the first opportunity to witness the Risen Lord. When the other disciples told him they had seen Him, he was skeptical. He claimed he would only believe if he could see and touch Him. A week later, the disciples gathered again, and this time Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared, and in all humility, Thomas dismissed his unbelief and proclaimed his faith, exclaiming, “My Lord and my God.”

The celebration of Easter is a celebration of faith and life. Our joyful celebration of Easter Sunday last week does not imply that the celebration is over. We continue to cherish the gift the Lord has given us. His act of great sacrifice calls each one of us to nurture our faith. It is this faith that moves us to carry on the task of bearing witness to Him. Today, people may not see the Lord as He appeared to His disciples, but they can come to believe in Him through those who faithfully carry out His teachings. We come to believe in Him through the sacraments we celebrate, especially the Holy Eucharist, which He instituted at the Last Supper, instructing us to do this in remembrance of Him.

As we embrace the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us be reminded that hope is the anchor of our souls. It is the light that guides us through the darkest times and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. May this Jubilee Year inspire us to live out our faith with renewed vigor, to be beacons of hope to those around us, and to trust in the everlasting love and mercy of our Risen Lord.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual