



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2025

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Living Faithfully: Law, Freedom, and the Common Good”

This weekend’s liturgical Readings gently remind us that our lives find their deepest meaning when lived for God. At the heart of these Readings is an invitation to follow the Lord’s command not as burdens but as gifts. When we strive to live according to God’s ways, we open ourselves to His blessings and share more fully in His goodness. In this way, obedience to God becomes a path to true freedom and joy.

We recognize that many in our world struggle to keep God at the center of their lives. It is easy to be drawn toward independence that places personal preference above divine wisdom. Yet God’s commands are not meant to limit us; rather, they guide us to live righteously and lovingly as sons and daughters of a caring Father who desires our flourishing.

A simple example can help us see this truth. Consider the basic rules of the road. Traffic laws are not obstacles to our freedom; they exist to protect life and ensure safe travel for everyone. When these rules are respected, they foster order, mutual respect, and the common good. Similarly, when rooted in justice and dignity, the rule of law in society serves as a safeguard that promotes peace and harmony. God’s law works in our hearts in much the same way: it guides us toward choices that protect life, honor others, and lead us safely toward the fullness of life He promises.

One of God’s greatest gifts to humanity is free will. He created us with the dignity to choose and embrace what is good, true, and beautiful. This freedom is a sign of His trust in us. Yet it is at its best when exercised responsibly, with concern for others’ well-being. When our choices center only on ourselves, we risk harming relationships and losing sight of God’s goodness. God’s law and the just laws that govern our communities remind us that authentic freedom is always connected to responsibility, compassion, and respect for others.

May these readings call us back to the life-giving wisdom of God’s commands. His law is spirit and life, shaping hearts that seek peace, justice, and joy. As we strive to live faithfully, we also help build a world where respect for rightful authority and the rule of law upholds the dignity of every person. By embodying God’s teachings in our daily lives, we become witnesses that His ways bring direction, meaning, and hope.

May God grant us open hearts and clear minds to walk faithfully in His ways, trusting that His commands, when lived with love, lead us to a truly abundant life.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual