



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 21, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Standing Firm in Christ in a Challenging Time”

Before anything else, I want to extend a heartfelt greeting to all fathers as we celebrate Father’s Day. Today, we honor your quiet sacrifices, your daily perseverance, and the love you pour into your families, often without recognition and while carrying burdens no one else sees. Fatherhood in today’s world is not easy. The pressures are real, the expectations are high, and the challenges can feel overwhelming. Yet through your strengths and even your frailties, God continues to work.

May our Heavenly Father bless you abundantly, strengthen you in your vocation, and fill your homes with peace. To all our fathers, we thank you, honor you, and pray for you. Happy Father’s Day.

As we turn to the Word of God this Sunday, the Gospel reminds us that following Jesus requires a deep, unwavering commitment. His words are simple, yet they cut to the heart. In His Passion, Jesus shows us what true fidelity looks like, perseverance in suffering, trust in the Father’s will, and love that endures even unto death. He embraced the cross not because it was easy, but because His love for the Father and for us outweighed the pain.

Last Sunday, we were reminded to pray for laborers in the Lord’s harvest. We were also reminded that each of us is called to labor, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through our words, choices, and way of life. The world needs this witness now more than ever.

Because the truth is, commitment to Christ will always involve challenges. Our faith will be tested. There will be moments when the easier, quieter, more comfortable way will tempt us. But if we hold fast to Jesus, as the apostles did, our lives become a powerful testimony that He is real, that His love saves, and that His promise of eternal life is worth everything.

Our Psalm today reassures us that when we call upon the Lord in our trials, He hears us, strengthens us, and gives us the courage to continue the mission He has entrusted to us.

And we need that courage. We live in a time when many values once rooted in the Gospel, the dignity of life, the beauty of God’s design, and the sacredness of truth, are being questioned or discarded. Our culture often encourages a self-focused freedom that forgets responsibility, community, and reverence for God. We see a growing tendency to say, “I do what I want,” even when it contradicts the teachings of Christ or the natural law written into creation.

This is why we must remain strong in faith. Not harsh, not fearful, not combative, but steadfast, loving, and unashamed of the Gospel. The world needs Christians who live their faith with integrity. Families need fathers and mothers who anchor their homes in Christ. Our Church needs disciples willing to stand with Jesus, even when doing so is unpopular or misunderstood.

My dear parishioners, let us ask the Lord today for the grace to be faithful witnesses in our homes, workplaces, community, and Church. May our lives reflect the love of the One who carried the cross for us and still walks with us.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual