



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Becoming Good Soil for God’s Word”

Our Gospel reading this Sunday comes from the thirteenth chapter of Matthew, where Jesus offers the beloved Parable of the Sower. He speaks of seed that falls on various kinds of soil, on the path, on rocky ground, and among thorns. None of these bears lasting fruit. Yet the seed that falls on rich, receptive soil produces fruit abundantly, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

This parable is more than a story about agriculture. It is a mirror held up to the human heart. The Father is the Sower, and Jesus Himself is the living Word. We are the soil that receives the seed. Each of us knows what it is like to be hardened ground at times, distracted ground at others, or thorny ground where worries and fears choke what God desires to grow. Yet Jesus reminds us that, by grace, we are also capable of becoming good soil, open and ready to receive His Word deeply.

The Lord invites us not only to listen to His teachings but also to let them take root and transform us. Faith is never passive. It is a living, growing reality. We are called to be doers of the Word and witnesses of His love in the ordinary moments of our lives.

Jesus has sown the seed of love, so we are called to love generously. He has sown the seed of kindness, so we must treat everyone with dignity and respect. He has sown the seed of mercy, so we extend forgiveness and compassion. He has sown the seed of truth and justice, so we strive to live uprightly and courageously.

These are the seeds entrusted to us. When we welcome them into the rich soil of a receptive heart, they bear fruit that blesses not only our lives but also the world around us.

Our world and nation continue to bear the weight of the pain of social unrest, moral depravity, natural disasters, and evil seems to prevail. Many are weary, anxious, or discouraged. Yet even in these difficult times, the Gospel assures us that God is still sowing seeds of hope. When we receive His Word and let it shape our actions, we become signs of His presence, beacons of light for those who feel lost or burdened.

If we live our call as disciples, serving others, seeking the good, and remaining faithful, then God’s Word truly finds rich soil within us. And from that soil, abundant fruit will grow, fruit of healing, fruit of unity, fruit of hope. This is the harvest our world longs for, and it begins in the quiet openness of each heart willing to receive the Sower’s gift.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual