



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“The Quiet Work of God, From Small Beginnings to Sacred Transformation”

On this Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Lord invites us once again to enter the mystery of His Kingdom. Last week, we heard the Parable of the Sower, and this Sunday, Jesus teaches us through three more parables, the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast mixed with flour. Each image reveals something essential about God’s reign, His patience, His hidden work, and His desire to transform the world through small beginnings. Together, they draw our hearts toward the themes of harvest, growth, and transformation.

We hear God’s Word often, yet in our modern world, with its noise, distractions, and constant demands, we can hesitate to respond with the wholehearted commitment Jesus asks of His disciples. When we delay, our spiritual growth slows. The Gospel values we long to live out remain seeds that never quite take root. And the transformation we pray for in our lives, our nation, and our world feels distant and difficult. God is patient, yes, but His call is not casual. It is urgent, loving, and meant to be answered now. Faith cannot remain idle until the last moment.

We also cannot ignore the weeds growing around us today. Our world is burdened by division, violence, and the distortion of truth. We see anger replacing dialogue, fear overshadowing compassion, and ideologies that deny the human person’s dignity. These weeds are real. They darken our common life. They grow stronger when people of faith remain silent or discouraged. If we simply “wait to see what tomorrow brings,” we risk losing our direction and forgetting who we are called to be.

This is precisely why Jesus speaks of seeds, yeast, and patient tending. God desires to take hold of our hearts, plant His grace within us, and nurture it until it becomes life-giving for others. When we allow His grace to grow, when we choose prayer over despair, mercy over resentment, and truth over confusion, our lives begin to change. As our lives change, the world around us is touched by unity, peace, and joy.

Let us remember, God cares for every person. He desires that all of us be gathered into His Kingdom, not only at the end of time, but even now, as we live our daily lives. There is nothing to fear when we allow the seed of faith to grow within us. As Jesus says, even the smallest seed becomes a great tree. Even a little yeast transforms the whole batch. Likewise, even the smallest act of faith can open the door to God’s transforming grace.

As we continue our journey, we may seek the Lord’s ways with renewed courage. May we allow ourselves to be shaped by Jesus, who is gentle and humble of heart. And may the Holy Spirit inspire us to be signs of hope in a world longing for light.

May God bless our harvest, strengthen our growth, and transform our hearts.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual