



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“A Heart that Discerns”

If God were to ask you today, “What do you truly need?” how would you answer? Would your mind turn to riches, long life, good health, or good fortune? Perhaps to a new home, a winning lottery ticket, professional success, or a life of comfort? These desires are understandable. We all hope for security and happiness. Yet deep down, we know none of them guarantee peace of mind. Wealth can bring complications, success can stir jealousy, and comfort can vanish in an instant.

So what would you say if God asked you what you need right now? This question invites us to pause, reflect, and search our hearts for what truly sustains us in life and in faith.

Human beings carry many desires. Often, our hearts first reach for material things, possessions, achievements, or experiences that promise satisfaction. Yet we eventually discover that these things fade. They cannot carry us through every trial, nor can they satisfy the soul's deepest longing. In pursuing what is temporary, we sometimes lose sight of what is eternal, the Kingdom of God, the life of grace, and the peace that comes from walking closely with the Lord.

In today's Scriptures, Solomon stands before God as a new leader, aware of the responsibility entrusted to him. When God invites him to ask for anything, he does not choose wealth, power, or victory. He asks for an understanding heart, the wisdom to discern right from wrong and to guide God's people faithfully. Solomon seeks what will help him live his vocation well.

How timely this is for us. We live in a world where right and wrong are often confused and where truth is obscured by noise, ideology, and misinformation. Without wisdom, we can easily lose our bearings and drift with the currents of the moment. Wisdom is not merely knowledge. It is the grace to see as God sees, to choose what leads to life, and to remain anchored in truth.

We have all made decisions we regret, choices that left us anxious, weary, or uncertain. Yet we also know the peace that comes when we choose rightly, when our decisions reflect the Gospel, and when they bring joy to our families, workplaces, and communities.

Today, let us ask God for what Solomon asked, a wise and understanding heart. Wisdom will help us recognize the true treasure and the pearl of great price, the Kingdom of God. It will guide us through confusion, strengthen us in trials, and enable us to live with clarity, compassion, and courage.

May the Lord grant us the wisdom we need to walk faithfully in this moment, discern His will, and choose what leads to lasting peace and eternal life.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual