



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

Dedication Anniversary of Our Lady of Peace

August 16, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Where Faith Endures, and Mission Continues”

This Sunday is truly a day of grace for us. We gather in gratitude to celebrate the 183rd anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace. When this church was dedicated in 1843, it was not only a milestone for a building, but also a profound moment for the people of God on these islands. For nearly two centuries, this Mother Church of our Diocese has stood firm through storms, trials, and seasons of change. Her endurance is not merely architectural. It is spiritual. She stands because her foundation is Christ Himself and because she has been lovingly entrusted to His Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Peace.

Generations of priests, religious, and lay faithful have prayed and served here, carrying Christ's mission from this very place. Today, we inherit their legacy. We are blessed to worship in this sacred space and are called to celebrate this anniversary with hearts full of gratitude.

As we look forward to the completion of our restoration and renovation, we recognize that this moment is a gift entrusted to us, the present generation. We are stewards of a history that began long before us, and we are responsible for ensuring that faith remains vibrant for those who will come after us. The Church has always been, first and foremost, the people of God.

I clearly remember that right after Divine Mercy Sunday in 2025, the restoration began and the cathedral doors closed. Yet our worship never ceased. We became a pilgrim Church in a very real way, moving from place to place, gathering wherever we could to celebrate the Eucharist. In those months, I often thought of the early Christian community, meeting in the upper room, gathering in homes, breaking bread, and singing praises as St. Paul described. Their faith blossomed and eventually reached these islands, carried by missionaries who sacrificed much so the Gospel could take root here.

Our history reminds us that the Catholic faith in Hawai'i has not always been easy. At times, the practice of our faith was hindered, and no priests were available to celebrate Mass. Yet the people continued to pray, gather, and live their Catholic identity as best they could. This is why our bicentennial celebration is so important. We honor the gift of faith that sustained our ancestors and renew our mission to pass this gift on to future generations.

Over the past 200 years of Christianity in Hawai'i, our Cathedral was built, dedicated, and eventually elevated to the dignity of a minor basilica. It is the church where St. Damien was ordained and where St. Marianne and her sisters were welcomed as they began their mission of mercy. Our history is holy ground.

To my Cathedral Basilica Ohana, I extend our new Bishop of Honolulu's warm greetings, Most Reverend Michael Castori, SJ. He expresses his deep gratitude for the sacrifices we continue to make during this time of transition. He is committed to carrying forward the Church's mission on these beautiful islands and to helping us live the hope expressed in his motto, “E Hiki Mai Kou Auponi”, “Thy Kingdom Come.”

As we celebrate the 183rd anniversary of our Cathedral Basilica's dedication, may our hearts be filled with gratitude, joy, and renewed purpose. May Our Lady of Peace intercede for us, embrace us with her motherly care, and lead us ever closer to her Son, the Prince of Peace.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual