Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"Called to Correct, Called to Love: Building God's Ohana"

At one point or another, each of us has experienced disagreements or misunderstandings with someone close to us. When these wounds occur, they leave rifts that can deepen into divisions. Hatred takes root. Relationships fractured. Friendships fade. Spouses separate. Families grow indifferent to one another. These are not minor wounds. They weigh heavily on the heart, leaving us burdened, saddened, and wishing things had unfolded differently.

We often try to mend what is broken. We reach out, seek reconciliation, and hope for healing. Yet our efforts do not always bear fruit. Sometimes we are ignored, dismissed, or ridiculed. Sometimes time softens the pain, but sometimes the hurt remains and the distance grows.

Conflict is part of the human condition. We do not desire it, especially not with family, coworkers, or friends, yet we cannot fully avoid it. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, professions, and beliefs. We see the world through different lenses.

But Jesus offers us a different way, one that fosters communion rather than division. His teaching is the path of Reconciliation. Reconciliation is not passive. It is not pretending nothing happened. It is not allowing someone to drift further into harmful choices. Jesus teaches that when a brother or sister wrongs us, we must speak the truth in love. If they do not listen, we seek help from others. If they still refuse, we turn to the Church. The goal is never to shame, but to restore, never to condemn, but to heal, never to win an argument, but to win back a heart.

Correction is an act of love. It is not fault-finding. It is not moral superiority. It is the humble recognition that we all fail, fall short, and need help returning to the path of goodness. Remaining silent when someone is harming themselves or others is not kindness, it is indifference. And indifference is one of the great wounds of our age.

We live in a culture that often tells us: Protect yourself. Defend your pride. Do not let anyone challenge you. Do what feels right for you. But the Gospel calls us to something far more demanding. Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Love your neighbor. Seek unity. Forgive seventy times seven.

Jesus desires that none of His brothers or sisters be lost. His prayer is that all may be one, as He and the Father are one (John 17:21). This unity is not sentimental, it is sacrificial. It requires humility, courage, and the willingness to confront egoism with Christ's self-giving love.

We call ourselves brothers and sisters in Christ. That identity carries a mission, to live in love, truth, and harmony. When someone is walking a path that leads away from God, we cannot simply watch from a distance. We must help one another, admonish one another, and encourage one another. Yes, it requires sensitivity. Yes, it requires tact and charity. But it also requires boldness, the boldness of love.

When we embrace this mission, we build the "Ohana of God". We heal wounds caused by sin and division. We become instruments of reconciliation in a world fractured by selfishness or self-interest. And we show that the love of Christ is stronger than pride, stronger than hurt, and stronger than anything that would tear us apart.

May the Lord give us the humility to listen, the courage to speak truth, and the charity to seek reconciliation always.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual