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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"The Freedom Found in Forgiveness"

Forgiveness often arises from moments of hurt. Some wounds may be minor and easily forgotten, while others run deep, leaving pain, resentment, and even anger. Whether the offense is minor or severe, the Lord's invitation remains the same: to forgive not merely with our lips but from the depths of our hearts. As Jesus reminds us in the Gospel, true forgiveness comes from within and reflects the mercy we have received from God.

We live in a world marked by brokenness, where misunderstanding, pain, and division are part of human experience. Because of our weaknesses and limitations, we can easily be hurt by others' words or actions. A family member, a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker may say or do something that causes disappointment or sorrow. What may begin as a simple disagreement can grow into resentment and separation if left unattended.

Yet amid our human frailty, God's grace is always at work. There comes a moment when a person recognizes their mistakes and finds the courage to seek forgiveness. This is never easy. It requires humility, honesty, and a sincere desire for reconciliation. Likewise, for the person who has been hurt, extending forgiveness can be just as difficult. It calls for generosity of spirit, humility of heart, and trust in God's healing power.

When these moments arise, we are called to open our minds and hearts to the grace of forgiveness. Forgiving from the heart does not instantly erase the pain, but it allows God to begin healing the wounds caused by anger, bitterness, and hatred. Through forgiveness, we participate in Christ's very mercy, who, from the Cross, forgave those who crucified Him. His mercy becomes the source of our own.

Forgiveness lies at the heart of Christian discipleship. As followers of Christ and stewards of His gifts, we are challenged daily to imitate His compassion and love. Forgiveness is not always easy, especially when the hurt runs deep. Yet Jesus continues to invite us to choose the path of peace and reconciliation. He knows that forgiveness frees not only the offender but also the one who has been offended.

We must also be careful not to let pride take root in our hearts. Pride can keep us from seeing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. It can blind us to our faults and weaknesses and lead us to believe we are always right. Humility, on the other hand, opens us to God's grace and helps us recognize our shared need for mercy.

Perhaps today we need to ask ourselves: Am I holding a grudge against someone? Is there a wound in my heart I have not allowed God to heal? Have I been carrying anger or resentment for far too long? If so, let us listen carefully to the words of Jesus: "Forgive seventy-seven times" and "from the heart." The Lord invites us to let go of the burdens of the past so we may experience the freedom and joy that come from His love.

Forgiveness is a profoundly divine act. It brings peace to the mind, healing to the heart, and restoration to relationships. To forgive is to show mercy, and to show mercy is to love as God loves.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual