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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"A Change of Heart, A Life of Faith"

Living our Christian faith is not always easy. If we think following Christ is simple and effortless, we may not yet fully grasp what it means to be His committed disciple. Through our Baptism, each of us has been called to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to embrace a life centered on Him. Following Christ requires more than words; it calls for a sincere commitment to His teachings and a willingness to shape our lives according to His example.

Jesus Himself showed us what true discipleship looks like. He listened attentively to His Father's will and remained faithful to it even unto death on the Cross. Though He possessed all power and authority, He chose the path of humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. In complete trust in His Father, He embraced suffering and carried the Cross for our sake and for the world's salvation. Through His loving obedience, we received the gift of redemption and the hope of eternal life.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the Parable of the Two Sons. A father asks both of his sons to work in his vineyard. Anyone familiar with vineyard work knows it requires dedication, effort, and perseverance. When asked, the first son initially refused but later changed his mind and went. The second son readily agreed but never followed through on his promise.

At first glance, the father would naturally be pleased with the son who said "yes" and disappointed in the one who said "no." Yet the parable takes an unexpected turn. The son who initially refused eventually obeyed his father and carried out the work entrusted to him. We can imagine the father's joy upon seeing his son's change of heart and willingness to do what was asked of him. The true measure of obedience was not found in words alone but in action.

This parable invites each of us to reflect honestly on our relationship with God. There are moments when we readily say "yes" to the Lord yet struggle to live out that commitment. We promise to forgive but hold on to resentment. We resolve to turn away from sinful habits yet find ourselves returning to them. We desire to live in God's grace, yet our human weakness often leads us astray.

The Good News is that God never gives up on us. Even when we have said "no" to His invitation, He continues to call us back with patience, mercy, and love. The son who first refused reminds us that conversion is always possible. God delights in a repentant heart and rejoices whenever we return to Him. His love is unwavering, and His mercy offers us countless opportunities to renew our commitment and begin again.

The Lord desires not merely a verbal profession of faith but a wholehearted response expressed in our lives. He calls us to make our "yes" sincere, faithful, and evident in our daily actions. True discipleship is shown not only in what we say but also in how we love, serve, forgive, and follow Him.

May the Lord grant us the grace to move beyond words and to respond to His call with faithful action. And like Mary, may we always trust that God's plans, though sometimes challenging, will lead us closer to Him and to the fullness of life He desires for us.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual