



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

“Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Living the Gospel”

In today's Gospel, a scholar of the law approaches Jesus with a question: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" As a scholar, he knew the many laws that guided Israel's religious and social life. He knew the Ten Commandments, the regulations governing worship, purification, and the Sabbath, and the countless traditions that shaped daily life. Yet he wanted to hear Jesus' answer.

Jesus responds with remarkable simplicity and clarity: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." He then adds: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Finally, He declares that the entire law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.

In those few words, Jesus reveals the heart of our faith. All the commandments, teachings, and practices of religion find their meaning in love. God's law is not meant to burden people but to lead them into a loving relationship with God and with one another.

At times, however, religion can be reduced to rules and obligations. We can become so focused on what is required that we forget why it matters. Jesus reminds us that every act of worship, every prayer we offer, every ministry we undertake, and every sacrifice we make should flow from love. We come to Mass not simply because it is an obligation but because we love God and desire to be in His presence. We care for the sick, the elderly, the homeless, and those who suffer because we recognize the face of Christ in them. We seek reconciliation in our families and communities because genuine love cannot flourish where resentment and division persist.

The Gospel challenges us to examine our hearts. Is love truly at the center of our lives? Do our words and actions reflect God's love for others? It is often easier to talk about love than to live it. Yet Jesus calls us beyond good intentions, inviting us to make love our way of life.

This message is especially important in our own time. We live in a world where division, anger, and distrust seem to grow each day. Communities are fractured, families face tension, and many people struggle to find peace and hope. Too often, society teaches us to put ourselves first, to seek power rather than service, and to value success over compassion. The Gospel offers a different path. Jesus teaches us that authentic love begins with God. Only when we place God first in our hearts can we truly learn to love others rightly and generously.

The first commandment must guide the second. As we grow in our love for God, our hearts are transformed. We become more patient, forgiving, understanding, and willing to serve. Our love for our neighbor ceases to be selective or conditional; instead, it reflects the boundless love God continually shows us.

As one spiritual writer observed, "The Gospel is not an ideal to be admired but a way of life to be lived." The Lord invites each of us not merely to appreciate His teaching but to embody it in the ordinary moments of daily life: at home, at work, in school, and in our parish community.

As we gather at the Eucharistic table today, let us ask the Lord to renew our hearts. May He teach us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors with the same compassion He has shown us. May our parish community be a living witness to God's love, a place where all people encounter welcome, mercy, peace, joy, and hope.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual