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

Solemnity of All Saints

November 1, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"Ordinary People, Extraordinary Grace"

I still remember that whenever my grandmother asked me to do a task and I did it well, she rewarded me. Often, it was just a peso, but for a child, that was a treasure. With it, I could buy my favorite soda or a biscuit I wanted. The reward made me happy, but what stayed with me even more was knowing my grandmother noticed my effort and appreciated it.

Throughout life, we often work toward rewards. We study hard to earn good grades, work diligently to build a secure future, and strive to be recognized for our accomplishments. Athletes train tirelessly in hopes of winning championships. Employees dedicate themselves to their professions and are honored for their service. There is joy in seeing our sacrifices bear fruit and in knowing our efforts have made a difference.

Yet today, many people feel exhausted from constantly trying to prove their worth. We live in a culture that often measures success by achievements, possessions, popularity, or recognition. Social media can make us feel as though our value depends on how many people notice us. When our efforts go unnoticed or our plans fail, it is easy to become discouraged and wonder whether we matter at all.

The Good News of our faith reminds us that our worth comes not from what we accomplish but from who we are. From the beginning, we have been created in the image and likeness of God. Through Baptism, we have become beloved sons and daughters of the Father. Before we have done anything to earn it, we are already loved. This identity is the source of our dignity, purpose, and joy.

At the same time, we know how often we fall short of God's plan for us. Human weakness, sin, and life's many distractions can lead us away from Him. Yet God never stops seeking us. His mercy always outweighs our failures. He continually calls us back to Himself, inviting us to begin again. Every act of repentance, every effort to love more deeply, to forgive more freely, and to serve more generously helps restore us to the holiness for which we were created.

The Solemnity of All Saints invites us to lift our eyes beyond this world's concerns and remember our ultimate destination. Together with the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, it reminds us of life's fragility and the enduring reality of eternity. In a world marked by uncertainty, conflict, and rapid change, these celebrations reassure us that our true home is with God.

The late Holy Father, Pope Francis, beautifully reminded us that All Saints' Day is "our" feast, not because we are perfect, but because God's holiness has touched our lives. The saints were ordinary people who allowed God's grace to shine through them. They struggled, persevered, and trusted in the Lord. Like stained-glass windows, each reflected God's light in a unique way. Their lives show that holiness is not reserved for a chosen few. It is God's call to each of us.

As we honor all the saints and remember our departed loved ones, may their example encourage us. Let us continue to do good not merely for earthly rewards or recognition, but because we belong to God. May we strive each day to become more transparent to His light, allowing His love to shine through our words and actions. May we never lose sight of Christ's promise to His faithful disciples: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual