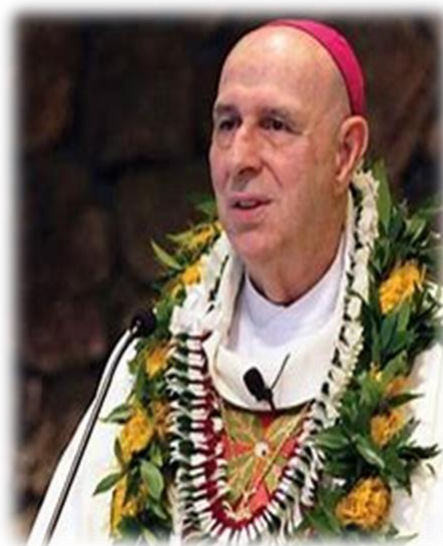


## ***The Reading of the Canonical Resignation of the Bishop Larry Silva***

*by Fr John Molina*

On July 9, 2024, the Solemnity of Mary, Our Lady of Peace, the Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Honolulu, our dear Bishop Larry Silva has read his letter of obligatory resignation as Bishop of Honolulu.

Pursuant to *Canon 401 §1* of the Code of Canon Law, every bishop must render his resignation from the Office of Bishop having reached the age of 75. Bishop Larry is turning 75 on August 6, 2024. At the beginning of his letter addressed to Pope Francis, through the Apostolic Nuncio to USA, Christophe Cardinal Pierre, Bishop Larry remembers that *“Pope Benedict XVI appointed me Bishop of Honolulu and I was ordained and installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop of this Diocese on July 21, 2005.”*



Bishop Larry states that even if he was originally ordained as priest for the Diocese of Oakland, he was born in Honolulu and his ancestors lived here in Hawai'i since the 1870's. *“It has been a great blessing,”* he continues, *“to be the Bishop of this beautiful diocese where my own family has such a long and rich history.”*

During his tenure, the Bishop considers as blessings to have wonderful clergy, religious and faithful from all the six islands which composed the diocese. He likewise deems himself *“doubly blessed and privileged”* to have celebrated the canonizations of the two saints, St Damien (in 2009) and St Marianne (in 2012). These two great saints ministered to those who were sick of leprosy at the Kalaupapa Peninsula at the Island of Molokai where, as the Bishop added, *“my own great grandfather and great aunt died of leprosy there.”*

*“While I am ready and willing to retire when you decide the time is right,”* Bishop Larry requests the Pope to consider extending his tenure for other two years for the main reason of finishing the important project: *“the renovation of the historic Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace on Downtown Honolulu.”* The Bishop later on delineates how important this Cathedral Basilica is in the history of Catholic Hawai'i and also of the United States as one of the oldest Cathedrals being used as such. At the same time, the Cathedral is also sentimentally linked to the Bishop being the church where his own maternal grandmother and father were baptized *“and both sets of my grandparents were married there,”* the Bishop writes.

*“It is my hope to be able to complete this important renovation project and to preside at the rededication of the Cathedral, we hope, sometime in 2026,”* is the prayer of Bishop Larry and ours, too.

To Bishop Clarence Richard “Larry” Silva goes the unique filial love of every parishioner of Sacred Heart Church – Pāhoa.