



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Carrying the Cross and Reaching Out*

*Sometimes in Scriptures we come across certain passages that are as relevant and practical in our lives today as they were thousands of years ago when they were first written, like 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15.*



*These passages sometimes remind us that as faithful Christians it is our responsibility to reach out to our not-so faithful sisters and brothers and bring them back to the fold.*

*As we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross this Tuesday, September 14, I wonder how we can lift high the cross of Christ and carry it on to bring our sisters and brothers into the fold. They are our family and they are us.*

*A young lady, Gretchen, strayed from the church as a teenager. After tens years of experimenting with atheism, Spiritism, and new age, she found her way back to the Catholic Church by the grace of God. Relating her story to me, Gretchen said what hurt her the most in all her nearly ten years of spiritual exile, was that nobody in the Church missed her. Nobody phoned or visited to find out what was wrong. "I got the impression that the church does not want me," she said. Of course the Church wants her, but the question today is: what are we doing to help the many men and women in her situation find their way back into full communion with the Church?*

*Tuesday's Feast of the Cross invites us to review our *I don't care attitude* toward fallen and lax members of the Church, reminding us that yes, it should be our business as baptized disciples of Jesus*

*to reach out to them. By so doing, we exalt the cross of Christ. We have been invited to get involved in our Church. We should take the invitation seriously and try to step up to the plate. In a very small way, we too can start by inviting one another to share in our story of St John's. We have been blessed by the sacrifices of others and it is our turn to give back. In the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians that I mentioned earlier, Paul writes not to boast or to shame the Corinthians, but to call on them to humbly acknowledge these blessings that God has brought them through others. St Paul's example and words challenge to the people of Corinth are extended to us. We need to grow our St John's family. As Catholics, we're encouraged to follow the examples of the Apostles and other holy men and women by embracing the life of Christ as our own, including a firm resolve to sacrifice in order that others may receive the gift of faith and salvation.*



*Peace and love to all,*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*