



From the Desk of Father Peter

How to Take Care of One Another



FREE WILL, THOUGH
IT MAKES EVIL POSSIBLE,
IS ALSO THE ONLY THING
THAT MAKES POSSIBLE
ANY LOVE OR GOODNESS
OR JOY WORTH HAVING.
—C.S. LEWIS

Jesus teaches us so many important lessons in the sacred scriptures. The core message being that God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son to be our savior and because of this he wants each of us to take care of the other. Our obligation to take care of one another can be fulfilled through service to God's creation—our brothers and sisters.

God will never be absent from our lives but we can choose to move away from God when we alienate ourselves from him for whatever reason, especially when we neglect those in need.

*The Christian faith teaches that the human ability to make choices is a gift from God called **free will**. Free will alone may not give us the power to determine the course of our life as life is extremely complex and filled with a myriad of things that are beyond our control. However, **free will** does give each of us the ability to choose how we will respond to the events that happen in our life shaping the kind of person we become.*

*We are to strive to love God with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves. We do this by using the **gift of free will** to make good choices, reflecting and deepening our love for God and expressing love, care, and compassion for others. Here are **10 ways** that will enhance our relationship with each other.*

***Be positive:** When a person talks about the moral failings of*

another person turn the conversation around and think of something positive to say about that person. **Look before you leap:** Carefully consider your words before you speak.

Avoid idle banter: Ask yourself, “What are you accomplishing by this conversation?”

Beware of the “News Flash”: Don’t let juicy news eat you up. Just bite your lip and prayerfully challenge yourself to be strong in resisting the temptation to gossip.

Question the source: When you hear something that sounds unreasonable, say so. Speak up.

Change the subject: Find a reasonable way to steer the conversation to something edifying

Avoid gossip: If you know that a person has the propensity to gossip, avoid that person or suggest he or she thinks about the harm he or she is causing others.

Give people the benefit of the doubt: Go out of your way to think the best of others.

Turn to prayer: Suggest that those gossiping about someone turn their attention to praying for the other person rather than just talking about them.

The buck stops here: When you hear gossip, make a commitment to stop it, not to spread it.

The better course would be to take the advice of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta who said, “If you judge people, you have no time to love them.” When we die God will ask, “How much love did you put into what you did?”



*Peace and my God bless all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*