



From the Desk of Father Peter

Who Will Replace Them

I have celebrated so many pains in funerals as your Pastor. Sometimes I have felt the word “death” has been whispered through tears that never seem to end. It rises in our hearts as we sit with news of a loss; it grasps us by the throats as we weep at the graveside of one who died so soon or unexpectedly.



For us, people of faith, the word “death” strikes us at the very understanding of God, the mystery of it all. We ask “why?” It is important that we use great care in our thinking as we face these great mysteries. We all face the reality of life, birth, and death that comes our way. Then we grow in it through the challenges and struggles of human life. There is indeed a tragic element to human life and no one escapes suffering.

Yet sometimes when we experience a tragedy or loss and the pain seems almost unbearable, we yearn for those days that merely annoyed us, when it seemed that we were simply burning on the bottom of the pan. Some situations can come upon us with all the force of an unexpected and violent storm. These storms can be so powerful that we panic and forget who Jesus is. Even when he is right there with us, we may not recognize him because we are so caught up in everything around us. During this day, take some time to think about your own situation. Are we in any way in exile from God, estranged from our faith or from those who love us? Are we tormented by anxiety, fear, anger, doubt or sadness? If so, God is eager to restore us to joy and remove the things that torment us.

*How can we keep this from happening? One way is to get used to turning to Jesus frequently in prayer during the day even when everything is going fine. As we learn how to find Jesus in our everyday lives, we will know, almost by our trust and faith, to look for him when difficulties arise. There are times in life when people must be encouraged to do what is best for them including challenging them and bringing them up in the Catholic Faith. A young child is told to eat his vegetables. A youth is told to engage in his studies. A sick person is encouraged to take his medicine. An angry person who has been wronged is asked to forgive. These words are spoken so as to move us to do what will make our lives better. They must be spoken boldly, sometimes even harshly, but always backed with love and concern. My question is: **Who Will Replace Us in Our Church?** We all need to be proactive, young and old alike, to go forth enthusiastically knowing that God is always concerned about us. It is imperative for us to listen, to accept, receive, and be strengthened by the spiritual nourishment that God gives us.*



Blessings to all,

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu