

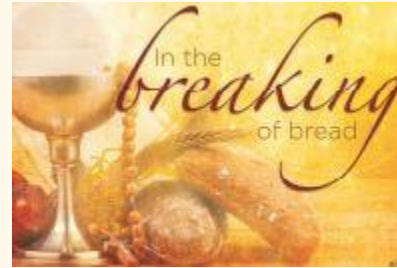


From the Desk of Father Peter

This is the Springtime of Prayer and Grace

God's love is a transforming love and it must change and renew us as the springtime of grace unfolds. It is a time when we prune our flowers of faith and make it grow in service to one another. To encourage our children and relatives to have faith in Jesus is the best answer to life's uncertainties.

Faith in Jesus surmounts our trials and hardships. Faith calls for a complete conversion of our values. Sometimes we have flashbacks in our life with the Lord. A line of Scripture may leap out at us and our hearts thrill as we remember how that very word came alive to us at an earlier time. When such moments do occur we look around and remember earlier gatherings or the scenario where it took place. Perhaps, thoughts of sadness may come to mind because a loved one has gone to heaven. We may even think of how a friend or relative suffered and remember how God has healed or brought us through a dark valley. It is good to remember what God has done for us in the past but let us not limit him. Let us open our hearts to the present and the future possibilities of his grace in prayer, remembering how God's love for us endures forever.



Cleopas and another disciple were heading home sad because Jesus had been crucified. They did not recognize Jesus as he walked with them along the way. Then at dinner, when Jesus blessed and broke the bread, "their eyes were opened and they recognized him." Luke 24:31. Over and over we hear of people who have stopped going to Mass because they don't feel they get anything out of it. Often, however, this happens when the outer "form" of the Mass—the quality of the music, the appearance of the Church, the homily and the various words and gestures of the liturgy—become more important than the inner "substance" of what is actually going on. The Liturgy is the celebration of our lives in Christ.

Form is when we say, "I confess." Substance is our experience of God washing us clean. Form is the lector proclaiming the readings. Substance is God's Word coming alive in our hearts. In short, form focuses on what we do but substance focuses on who we are meeting, the Lord.

Soon the month of May will be upon us, a time dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May we pray the Rosary and through doing so, may Mary draw us closer to her Son and let us thank God for the wonders of His love.



*With peace and love to all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*