



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Be Prepared! Be Still!*

*No one needs to tell us when seasons change. We just know it. We just feel it. We can feel the signs in the trees, the bushes, the lawns and in the temperature. We all know nature moves through its cycles and seasons. Instinctively, the animals, fish, and birds migrate so that each species survives.*



*As human beings—rational animals—we do not have to rely on instinct; we can logically reach conclusions. Hence, in the Gospel this weekend, John the Baptist goes throughout the whole territory of Judea Isaiah, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path.” Repentance means others. As a people of faith, we are prone to limit repentance to a change of heart. We tend to see it as our personal relationship with God, but in a way that abstracts God as not really an “other.” Somehow we are not prepared to include others in our acts of contrition. We’d rather say a prayer to ourselves than involve anyone else. But is this what John the Baptist meant when he wandered the Judean desert, proclaiming the need to repent? No, as we hear in our readings today, repentance means others.*

*John the Baptist’s words about the Kingdom of God referred to God’s presence and care of his people. Repentance implied the reversal of human standards and the adoption of divine standards.*

*Advent is a time of expectation. Already since celebrating Thanksgiving Day, our world is ablaze with lights and noisy with the clamor of commercialism. Stores and malls ring with the fervor of the busy. Our Advent, to the contrary, is calling us to BE STILL, as we wait in the darkness of the early dawn for the coming of the light of NEW HOPE.*

*As a cloistered nun, Therese Martin knew that she would never be a missionary. Still, she wanted to do something great for God, so she decided to devote herself to loving other people as Jesus loved them. In the simplest ways, she found opportunities to love—from smiling at a cranky nun to silently forbearing when another sister splashed her with laundry water. Love became her “little way” to God. There is no doubt that loving one another can be demanding, but when we try to love as Jesus loves, we are blessed. Our actions not only please God, but they heal relationships, foster family unity, and even lead others to Christ.*



*Blessing and peace to all.*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*