From the Desk of Father Peter

What is Usual and Unusual?

A quotation of our Bishop Salvatore Matano in his early familiarization of our diocese said: "I attended a regional meeting of priests. Seated around the table were priests enriching our presbyterate from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Vietnam, Springfield in Massachusetts and me, a transplant from Vermont/Rhode Island. Who was missing? A priest from the Diocese of Rochester! And yet when I visit parishes, so often the people ask me to send them a priest or plead that their priest will remain in the parish. The question I then ask is this: When was the last time this parish sent a young man to study for the priesthood?"

What Bishop Matano is saying here is that the Diocese of Rochester does not have enough home-grown vocations to fill the slots for our pastoral needs. So let us all be reminded that the "UNUSUAL" number of Diocesan priests in the past is not the "USUAL" in our present time. We, therefore, have to maximize our energy to give/do the best in our current circumstances. It means that as your Pastor I encourage all parishioners and fellow

Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester to pray and encourage vocations to the priesthood. Furthermore, we must support them in their ministry. All of us need to be active participants in the life of the church. We are all needed by our Mother Church to be witnesses to our baptismal call.
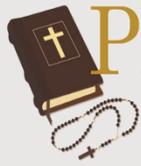
Priesthood

What lessons does Jesus provide us? He shows us that doing the Father's work may not be easy, comfortable or without obstacles. He shows us that the important thing is doing the work. He calls us to be dedicated, to be confident, to be high-minded but to also be realistic. We are to have our head in the clouds and our feet on the ground, as an old saying goes. We are to keep always before us the building up of the Kingdom of God. Our faith can lead us to the realization that Jesus is always here, willing to heal our wounds and constantly unfolding the fullness of life before our eyes.

Peace and love to all,

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu