



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

## *You Make A Difference*



*A certain king was to visit a village under his rule, and the villagers each decided to contribute a jar of wine for the royal feast. All the wine was to be poured into a big barrel from which it could be served. One person thought to himself: With all the people in the village each pouring a jar of wine into the barrel, what difference would it make if I poured in a jar of water and saved my wine? A jar of water among so much wine would hardly make any difference. Unfortunately, this person was not the only one in the village who thought that way. When the king arrived and the barrel of wine was ready to be served, it was discovered to be full of water and very little wine. **Many other people in the village too had contributed water instead of wine, thinking that it did not matter, since other people's contributions would make up for their not contributing. It did matter. It does matter.***

*A great number of people benefit from the services of our Catholic faith and tradition by virtue of their being baptized. Many come in to church for the various sacraments due them, like First Communion, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage, to name just a few. Some of these people live and work in situations that make it impossible for them to contribute financially, but it is important that they participate in the community for their faith to grow.*

*Church is not all about money; it is about the presence and*

*participation of each one of us. It is unfortunate that many a time we have a full house of people for either a Funeral Mass or even sometimes Weddings where the people in attendance do not know the responses to the parts of the Eucharistic prayer that should be part of our every day Christian Catholic life. No matter how often we call ourselves Catholics, by the grace of God, we need to go to Mass and participate in the church community that nourishes us. It makes us who we are, members of the family of God.*

*Remember, the Gospel of the 2nd Sunday of Easter? Remember, the Apostle Thomas and what happened to him? We see Thomas like so many of us was absent from “Sunday service” and so missed the blessing and presence of the resurrected Lord. So why do we stay away if we are able to participate at Mass? The Church needs our participation and needs us to contribute—please do.*

*Send in your bottle of wine, in this case our very SELF. Do not go with the idea that someone is doing so on our behalf. Our presence and participation make a difference. No matter how many times we can come to Church in any given month, IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Many of us are already good witnesses. We’re trying to grow in virtue, raise our families, and be of service to others. Others can see that, too. But they need to know who is behind it all. Jesus is standing with us, his hand on our shoulder like an advocate, praying not only for us but with us! Jesus takes to himself all of our confusion, our pain, our needs, and transforms them. Miraculously, Jesus even dissipates some of them. He makes a difference in our lives to hope and participate in Church. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35*



*Blessings and peace to all,*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*

*“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” — Edmund Burke*