



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

## *Be Touched by God*

*After the GREETING and the PENITENTIAL RITE, the presider says, “Let us pray.” What do you do then? “Let us pray” is an invitation to take a moment of silence to realize that you are in God’s presence and to make a silent prayer to Him. Then the priest prays aloud. This prayer is called the “COLLECT” because it collects all the silent private prayers of everyone who is in church and makes them aloud to God. Often this opening prayer helps us to focus on a specific experience of God—it is based on the readings, the liturgical season, and an aspect of faith, etc. This prayer helps us to move from our own personal thoughts and needs to the thoughts and prayers of the whole church. This prayer unites us.*

*Therefore, we are to be active when the presider invites “Let us pray.” Do not just stand there waiting for the prayer to*



*be over. Pray. First pray silently, then listen to the prayer of the priest and make it your own prayer. At the end of the prayer, the response of the people is “AMEN!” The word “Amen” means “YES!” It is our way of affirming that we believe in what was just said. It is our way of joining in the prayer and making it our own. The COLLECT is filled with*

*beautiful words that help us grow closer to God. Let us open our hearts and minds to be touched by God through this prayer.*



*Peace and love to all.*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*