



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Let the Lord Cultivate the Ground of Faith*

*We need to know that our God is a God of consolation and love. He is always encouraging us. God never gives up on us. He never condemns or rejects us. The Church is for all of us. We are called to be the everyday Christian as we make the effort to renew our relationship with God. Researchers tell us that in our society*

*today, about three out of every ten people who were baptized Catholic go to Mass weekly. If we count those who go twice or three times a month, the number increases, but the reality is that about half the people baptized into our faith no longer attend Mass. Some still consider themselves Catholic, and some do not. Many have drifted away from the church for so long that they seem lost. Like recently, a person asked me, "Father, I have not been to church for so long; I am Catholic. Would God forgive me?" God never forgets anyone, and welcomes all at any moment into His presence. Maybe for our Regional Retreat, try to invite someone to come and listen to Fr. Bob Kennedy. Invite a friend or family member. Show them some kindness. A loving person tries to always be kind. A true Christian is open and honest and does not judge the heart intentions of the other. There is no doubt that one of the challenges facing the Church is that in our world today, people do not believe much in anything. There is too much selfsufficiency; too much "I am not interested;" and those in power have structured society in such a way as to make it very difficult to live humanely; let alone*



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*in a Christian way. So let us not be afraid to be ourselves with God. Today's society faces a crisis of faith that can only be solved by responding to the personal call to conversion. Let us have time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to experience the compassion of our God, and let it move us to share this compassion with everyone we meet. Victory belongs to God's anointed. In the end, we become a sign of the way things will be in heaven, "when every tear will be wiped away," and everyone will be treated with respect and as equals. Even now, Jesus is waiting to talk with us about everything and anything. Why wait? Let us seek Him, hear His word and fall in love with Him again.*



*God bless us all.*

*Fr. Peter*