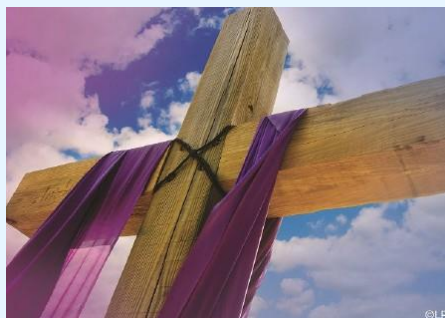




*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Prayer and the Cross*

*As Christians we believe firmly that the Lord always listens to us and wants to give us what we ask for. Scriptures invite us to pray unceasingly to the Lord. We are told by the psalmist that: "Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Unfortunately, some people do not believe in the power of prayer. We know this because sometimes we hear them say, "I do not pray to God. Why should I? He never listens to my prayer! Anyway, he knows what I need, and I do not get it." It is, certainly, a great mistake to perceive God this way. The Lord is always attentive to our prayers and petitions. We know that when we persevere in prayer as our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to do, we encounter more peace and calmness in our lives. Against prayer nothing can stand up, not even the power of Satan.*



*More than sixteen years ago, a friend of mine sent me this story about the CROSS. It is thought-provoking as it presents us with God's grace which is free. The story goes like this:*

*A young man, at the end of his rope and seeing no way out, dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then open that other door and pick out any cross you wish." The man was filled with relief and said, "Thank you Lord," and did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so*

*large the tops were not even visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."*

*When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined. YOUR CROSS, whatever your cross, whatever your pain, will always be followed by sunshine after the rain. Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps you may even fall, but God is always there to help you through it all in PRAYER. May God give you the strength to bear whatever Cross is yours in prayer. According to St Paul, faith creates a desire for God and a longing to be with him. This desire for God is the reason why people choose to "walk by faith, not by sight," even when walking by "sight" seems so much easier. 2 Corinthians 5:27.*



*Blessing and peace to all.*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*