



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. 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 contribution 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 the virtue of their being baptized. Many come in to church for the various sacraments due them, like Baptism, 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 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. 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 Apostle Thomas? We see him, like so many of us, was absent from “Sunday service” and missed the blessing and presence of the resurrected Lord. The Church needs our participation and needs us to contribute—please do.

*Send in your bottle of wine, in this case, your very SELF. Do not go with the idea that someone is doing so on your 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



Easter blessings to all,

Fr. Peter