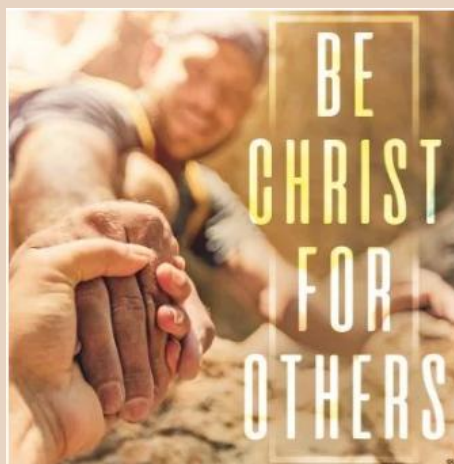




From the Desk of Father Peter

Carrying the Cross and Reaching Out

Sometimes in Scriptures we come across certain passages that are as relevant and practical in our lives today as they were thousands of years ago when they were first written, like 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15. These passages sometimes remind us that as faithful Christians it is our responsibility to reach out to our not-faithful sisters and brothers and bring them back to the fold.



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A young lady, Gretchen, strayed from the church as a teenager. After nearly ten years of experimenting with atheism, spiritism, and new age, she found herself back to the Catholic Church by the grace of God. Relating her story to me, Gretchen said what hurt her the most in all her nearly ten years of spiritual exile, was that nobody missed her. Nobody phoned or visited to find out what was wrong. "I got the impression that the church does not want me," she said. Of course the Church wants her, but the question today is what are we doing to help the many men and women in her situation find their way back into full communion with the Church? Today invites us to review our "I don't care" attitude toward fallen and lax members of the Church, reminding us that yes, it should be our business as baptized disciples of Jesus to reach out to them.

We have been blessed by the sacrifices of others and it is our turn to give back. In the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians that I mentioned earlier, Paul writes not to boast or to shame the Corinthians, but to call on them to humbly acknowledge these blessings that God has brought them through others. St Paul's example and words of challenge to the people of Corinth are extended to us. We need to grow our St John's Church family. As Catholics, we are encouraged to follow the examples of the Apostles and other holy men and women by embracing the life of Christ as our own, including a firm resolve to sacrifice in order that others may receive the gift of faith and salvation.



*Peace and love to all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*