



From the Desk of Father Peter

How Often Do We Fail the Demands of Discipleship?

In my forty-two years as an ordained priest, I have heard it all with countless advice and suggestions as to how this could be done or done better. I have even had people tell me how to celebrate the Eucharist, simply because this was how Father Y or Z did it.

I learned a great lesson in a defensive driving course that I took years ago. The instructor had each of us participants in the class introduce ourselves and say what brought us to the class—or why we got a ticket. At the end of the introductions she commented that many said it was NOT FAIR that they were ticketed. She went on to say that whenever her children complained that life was not fair, she would have them read their birth certificate...every word of it. Then she would ask them, “Does the word ‘fair’ appear anywhere on that piece of paper?” Of course, it does not.

Fairness aside, the fact is we would prefer mercy. Yes, my classmates and I wished the police had had mercy on us but instead, we were facing the consequences of our actions; which we should. Mercy is a hard thing for many of us to accept and embrace. We like to “do our own thing,” not be inconvenienced and “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.” However, our lives are formed by the choices we make each day. When we make those choices, do we think about others around us? Do we choose to stay in our parish or take the path of least resistance to our convenience? Do we choose to save money or spend it lavishly? Do we choose to be defeated by a challenge or try to rise above it? Do

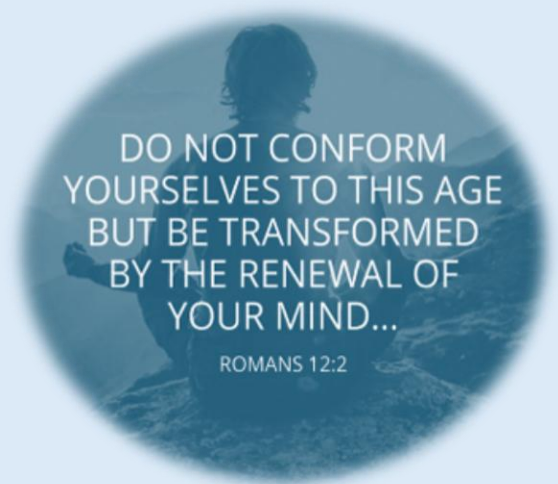
we choose to see the reality of the Parish Mass today or gloss over it for the sake of “my time schedule?” The same is true of our spiritual lives. Each day we are confronted by many choices; good and evil, values and vices. Each day we Christians are called to make choices—should we live as God has commanded or as changing societal norms dictate? But we cannot become “Consumer Catholics” or “Cafeteria Catholics” moving from parish to parish. St John’s needs your participation in shaping the future of our parish life.

I would welcome any suggestions that can help us to grow our parish as a faith community. What can we do to attract the young people to Church instead of seeing them only at weddings and at baptisms? What can we do better for them so that the cornerstone of St John’s will remain strong? What can we do to show

fellowship and solidarity to our fellow parishioners instead of only in time of sickness or at a funeral? How many people do we know who should be here with us at Mass but are not? How many people do not want to be bothered by their inner call to be with us? How many people do we know feel abandoned because no one from our Church has checked on them be it you or the priest?

In the Scriptures, God tells that he will never leave or forsake us. Hang on to that when hard times hit. There may be some people who will simply wonder where God is in all these decisions.

Remember, the teacher is usually quiet during the test. He is here for you all of the time. Here in the Mass.





Peace and love,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu