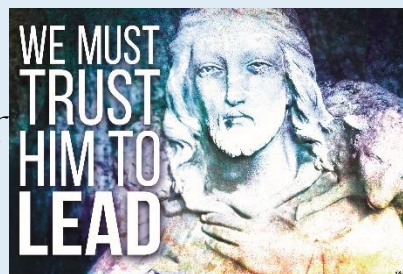




From the Desk of Father Peter

It is I, the Shepherd

*Can you imagine being caught in the path of volcanic ash in some far away country in Italy's Mount Etna? The sky is dark and threatening, the winds of dust are blowing and you want to get home or to your destination. How frightening it can be to feel completely helpless and fearful of circumstances beyond our control! Would anything seem normal? In this kind of situation we might not know how to keep our composure and instead become frantic and even start to panic. We could blow our difficulties out of proportion. We could surrender and allow anguish and depression to overwhelm us. However, there is another choice: **CONTEMPLATE**. Ask for guidance and strength. Rather than throwing our hands up in despair, **LIFT** them in **PRAYER**. Jesus the sheep-gatekeeper will answer. He will provide **COURAGE**, **PATIENCE**, and **SUPPORT**. Jesus helps us see the hidden secrets within our traumas and the promised blessings yet to come. Ask yourself, what lesson am I learning from this? Even if it is a difficult lesson, consider what it has taught you and how much you have grown.*



This is what is happening during the Easter Season; we, like the Apostles have seen the resurrected Christ, struggle to grasp his presence in our lives. Like the Apostles who did not trust what they were seeing, we fail to trust in the midst of a storm that shakes our faith because we are afraid to believe that Jesus our Good Shepherd could get us to the shore safely.

Many times we react in a way that may seem to show that we have been saved by the Christ-Light at Easter, then life's terrible experiences have the triple whammy effect of pain, worry, and self-doubt. They can leave us feeling desolate and wondering if we will ever see the Christ-Light. We sometimes feel that Jesus is far away and that we are in a dark space without any light to guide us, but with faith, we know that Jesus the Good Shepherd is always present and will help us in times of trouble. He is always with us even if we are not aware of his presence.

How often do we rely on Jesus and put our trust in him? Some of us only CALL on Jesus when a situation is so dire that we finally give up all other remedies and ask him to lead us out of the darkness. Those who call on Jesus only as a last resort miss out on so much. When we recognize that he is always present in our lives, we can be more peaceful and often more fulfilled. Let us live now glorifying God in all we do so that one day we may inherit eternal life.



With Peace and love to all,

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu