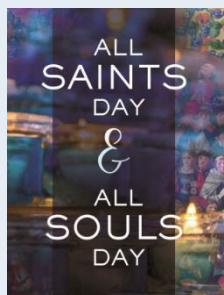




From the Desk of Father Peter

Dying You Restored Our Life



As we are in the month of November, we see the beauty of the month in its wonderful shades of color and events. Let's take notice of what the month presents us spiritually and incorporate it into our prayer life. In the month of November we are called in a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. In these past days of Eucharistic celebrations, we focused our attention on the communion of the saints. Almost everyone who has taught religion will tell you that sooner or later someone will ask why people suffer or die. To an eight year-old, and I guess even to an eighty year-old, it just doesn't seem fair that people who follow God's law and keep His commandments seem to undergo so many hardships in sickness and difficulties of death. Even Mary, the mother of Our Lord Jesus, honored as the highest of our race and preserved by God's grace and favor from sin, knew what it was like to have her heart pierced by the sword of sorrow. So in this month of November and beyond, let us remember in our prayers family and friends who have died. We know that God loves us and will take care of us despite the many challenges that confront us daily. November is simply a time to settle in and remember all that there is in our world. It is a time when the trees even give us the admiration of their changing colors in nature. The eleventh month as we know it is a time to simply remember the saints in our family of faith; the men and women who have died whom have been role models in our

lives. November is also a sobering month as we salute and pray for our Veterans; those men and women who have won our freedom through their commitment to God and country. November is the month of Thanksgiving to our Creator and to one another for the blessings received and shared thus far and we thank God for each other and for his goodness to us. It humbles us to look at a God who is greater than us but gives us an opportunity to celebrate each other. In gratitude, it is a good time, if you have not yet done so, to contribute to the CMA, our diocesan appeal. I personally encourage you to do so as together we work toward reaching our goal and Extending Christ's Mission. Your participation is important! We are called by the Church in a special way to pray for our loved ones who have gone before us. We are encouraged to visit the cemeteries where our loved ones are buried and pray for them. We are to thank God for them for their enrichment of our lives, and the difference they have made in our lives. We are called to rejoice in the fact that, as stated in the 2nd preface of our Mass for the Dead, "For as one alone he accepted death, so that we might all escape from dying; as one man he chose to die, so that in your sight we all might live for ever." We have life; we have victory. We have the grace to keep on trusting in the love and majesty of the Lord's triumph. The growth of our faith can be slow, almost painful at times, filled with stops and starts, turns and detours. The struggle to lean on faith when we are distressed is as much a part of our faith as those times when we are at a total peace within ourselves. We are reminded that God loves us, even if our faith is lacking or weak.



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