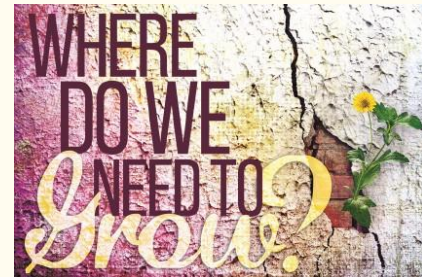




From the Desk of Father Peter

Believing and Belonging

*As I grow in these years, I have come across some wonderful priests, bishops, and laity who have taught and helped me serve in the Rochester area. They continue to be an inspiration to me. There are also enormous challenges to overcome as our faith is becoming so secularized, and people have a different connection with God, unlike what it used to be. For me, as the priest in charge of St. John's parish for nearly 13 years, I see hope and joy amid the many challenges present in the parish. I see a tremendous display of faith in those who make it to Mass every week. I also see some old and new challenges that need to be addressed in time. During this Lenten season of faith renewal, what comes to my questioning mind is, what does believing and belonging mean in our lives as Christians? Doesn't believing and belonging go hand in hand? Are we at the crossroads of faith? How do we invite others to worship with us? Who will build our church? Is it the priest, the nun, the religious, the teacher or the parents? **All** of us are needed and called forth to build the Church.*



There is a story told about Alfred Nobel reading his own obituary because the people at the newspaper mistakenly thought he'd died. This gave him the opportunity to see how he would be remembered. The article described Mr. Nobel as a brilliant chemist who made a great fortune as the inventor of dynamite. For lots of people, being remembered as brilliant and rich would be quite enough, but it

wasn't for Nobel.

After significant reflection, he desired to leave a more positive legacy. He bequeathed his considerable wealth to establish the Nobel Prizes to acknowledge great human achievements. Few of us can create something as momentous as the Nobel Prize, but we can all live lives that would earn a eulogy that our family, parents, and friends would be proud of.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday living, it's hard to keep perspective. Money, position, pride, and power, priest, bishop, and pope seem so important —until they're not. What matters is how long we will be remembered, by whom, and for what. Our Christian call is to love one another and do the best we can gracefully to accomplish the mission of Christ here on earth.

Lent and our journey of faith in this time of our Church's history should challenge us all. We need a new "us" to grow together in Christ. Believing means belonging together in Jesus.



Reawaken Your Heart with Hope.

Rev. Peter Enyan-Boadu