

Easter Sunday April 16th 2017

Theme: EASTER FLOWERS

INTRODUCTION

The flowers! We come to church on Easter and are overwhelmed by the beauty and fragrance of flowers? Here is an obvious question: Why flowers. Why do we fill the Church with flowers? To celebrate Easter? Far more to the answer, Easter takes place in the Spring when the flowers begin to bloom. There is a deeper meaning than that .The flowers signify the beauty of a world renewed. Easter celebrates the beauty of renewed life in Christ.

John's Gospel tells us that the world was darkened when Jesus died on that hill. It also tells us that he was raised from the dead and walked out of the tomb into a garden , one so full of flowers that Mary Magdeline initially thought that Jesus was the gardener.

The flowers are a symbol of the new life that the Lord offers to those who will commit their

lives to him. We are called to be part of this beauty.

Many people have returned to their Catholic faith this Lent. Many have decided that they needed to conquer the past and take a serious look at their relationship with God. Many people who were not Catholic felt drawn to learn about Catholics. Some of them were attracted to Pope Francis and his humble ways, his embracing those shunned by society, his firm leadership in the direction of the Church. His determination to spread the Gospel of mercy

CONCLUSION

All of us here have been given this grace at various times in our lives. We are after all, a community of saints. And yes, there are very few people here who have always been saintly. Let me emphasize this: If you have just returned to the faith, know that the person sitting beside you who has come to church for years is most likely someone who had to re-evaluate his or her life and return to the Lord. Every one of us belongs here. This is

a church of saints but these saints are converted sinners. There are very few people here who have not at some point in their lives had to turn back to the Lord. We are all on the road to Emmaus, wondering about the Lord, and knowing that we needed to travel to Jerusalem and announce the Good News of a world transformed by the Risen Christ. AMEN.