



Dear Easter Sunday Mass-goers,

Greetings to you in the Real Presence of Christ Jesus, Risen from the Dead! In that Real Presence we find the Power to walk by faith in His footsteps through the joyful, luminous, and sorrowful moments leading through Good Friday into the glorious moments of new Life on Easter Sunday. Alleluia!



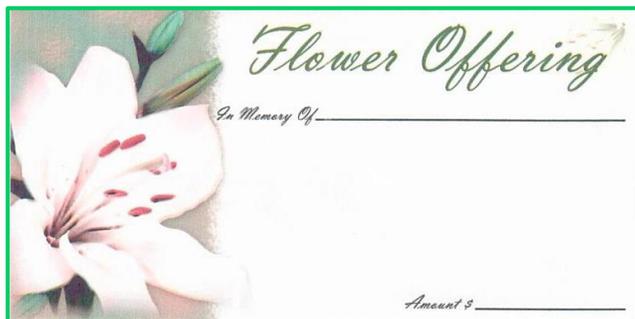
Next Sunday, 23 April 2017, the *Second Sunday of Easter* (or *Sunday of Divine Mercy*) those of you who “heed the word of God” (please visit the *Message of Pope Francis* for Lent 2017 at www.vatican.va) and “return to the Power of the Catholic Mass” (please visit the *Message of Bishop Barres* for Lent 2017 at www.drvc.org), will hear how on the “evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them: “Peace be with you”(Saint John XX:19). *Peace be with you who denied Me. Peace be with you who betrayed Me. Peace be with you who abandoned Me.*

It is because the disciples returned to the place where they had last gathered with Jesus on the night He was betrayed, that they were able to find that Peace; **the Peace that**, even in the midst of the challenges they would face as His disciples (even when they themselves were denied, betrayed, and abandoned): **never left them.**

Face to face with that Peace the disciples asked: “What return can I make to the Lord?” Interiorly they heard the same response that made them disciples of Christ three years earlier: “follow Me”. Follow Me and *forgive seventy-seven times* (Saint Matthew XVIII:22). Follow Me and “love your enemies, pray for your persecutors, and do good to those who hate you” (Saint Luke VI:27-28). Follow Me and “love one another as I have loved you” (Saint John XIII:34).

Face to face encounters with the Peace of Christ, have led many men through those returns of discipleship, to return as “fishers of men” (Saint Matthew IV:19) in the Priesthood; Consecrated women and men embracing the vows of *chastity, obedience and poverty* in Religious Life (pray for Meaghan and Brother Pierre); husbands and wives who *love one another in good times and bad, sickness and health, for better or for worse* in Married Life; and single men and women committed to laying down their lives in service to others!

“What return will *you* make to the Lord after *your* face to face encounter with Him on Easter Sunday?” Why not return to Him at Mass next Sunday and hear Him say: “Peace be with you”!



Parishioners of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport are blessed to experience the Peace of Christ in an absolutely beautiful church: a church made *absolutely beautiful* because of Christ. The Real Presence of Christ not only inspires returns as described above, but over the past year (perhaps since *your* last return), that Real Presence has inspired disciples overjoyed at *His* return, to offer the time, talent, and treasure that helps keep our church absolutely beautiful *every* Sunday of the year! Please join me in thanking God for

the gift of those men and women who return every Sunday to keep our church absolutely beautiful every day of the year. It is their offering that helps people experience the Peace of Christ in church, in Religious Education, at Outreach/Human Services, in the Rectory, every day of the year. It is their return that has helped you experience Peace today! Easter Blessings!