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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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There may no longer be signs of Easter in the stores or on television, but as Catholics we are just beginning our Easter celebration!

Proclaiming together and in our personal prayer that “The Lord is risen; he is risen indeed”, will be our liturgical focus for the next six weeks. You will notice this resurrection proclamation in our readings, music, and homilies. I would encourage you to be especially attentive to how the resurrection transformed the mentality of the first Christians. Because they had witnessed the crucifixion and experienced the shame of their sin as the principle cause of Jesus’ suffering, the fact of the resurrection was life-changing. They knew that Jesus had taken their place on the cross and released them from the just consequences of sin.

In grateful recognition of such great love from their redeemer, they loved each other in a way that distinguished themselves from their contemporaries. They were known for how they loved each other!! We can ask ourselves, if we also can be distinguished from our neighbors by the charity and love with which we live each moment of our lives. When people hear us talk, are they moved to love God more? When they see the way we treat each other, are they inspired to consider becoming a more committed Christian? Or do we sound very similar to the rest of the people in our buildings or on our block?

In closing, I want to thank you all for your participation in our Holy Week liturgies and other events. I am not sure why, but we had many more people this year than in the recent past. Maybe you have been inviting your friends. Whatever the reason, it was a blessing to see such great attendance and to pray along with you. Numbers for the sake of numbers, don’t matter a bit, but every individual does. If we can bring one more person back to God through the sacraments we are doing what Jesus has told us to do.

God bless and Happy Easter!!!

Fr. Jonathan