



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



MAY 31, 2015

The more I study the history of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the more I am in awe of the faith and fortitude of the immigrants who built this wonderful parish. At great personal cost, the brave Italians who left their beloved homeland and settled in this neighborhood, beat the odds and built a vibrant community of faith and a stellar edifice of worship, which we still enjoy today. Those were not easy times to accomplish such a vision. World War I was raging and many of these very immigrants and their children were heading off to war. Many people tried to dissuade them from building such a majestic church because building materials were expensive and because they were mostly poor. But nothing deterred them! Imagine the joy and pride of the parishioners during the first mass in the new church in December of 1917, almost 100 years ago! In just over two and a half years we will celebrate here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel the 100th anniversary of this first mass in the very church that these immigrants built. I'm thinking that such an anniversary is not one that we should let pass by without a major celebration.

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I invite you to dream with me that in December of 2017, 100 years after the first mass, this church edifice will be in tip top shape, and more importantly, our faith community will be thriving, even more than it is today! For that dream to become reality, we have a lot of work to do. We have nearly 2 million dollars in debt and we have about a million dollars' worth of urgent repairs and important improvements, in our various buildings (church, school, convent, rectory, office). Sound impossible?! It's nothing compared to what our forefathers did! If they could do it in the early 1900's, we can do it today. In the coming months, I will propose a plan to you, with the help of our Parish Council and Finance Council. When you see me, let me know if you are ready to be a part of fulfilling this dream!

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