



## “FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

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**OCTOBER 9, 2016**

You know how much I love living and serving in this parish, but there is one aspect of life in Belmont with which I have not grown comfortable....the amount of garbage (and other things!) on our streets and sidewalks. Maybe it is something I just need to get used to as part of living in close quarters with so many people in large apartment buildings. But maybe there are things we can do as residents to make things better.

As a parish we are spending significant resources to keep our properties spotless clean. This includes picking up garbage first thing in the morning on all of our sidewalks, and power-washing them at least once a week. We have purchased a machine to help us with the deep cleaning that is needed with so much daily traffic. We are also giving priority to cleanliness inside the church and in Fatima Hall. I know many other merchants and landowners are doing the same. It's a constant challenge to stay ahead of the dirt.

I think cleanliness is not just pleasant, it is also good for the human soul. You have heard the saying, "cleanliness is next to Godliness". Yes, it is easier for us to connect with God when things around us are clean and in their proper place. Have you noticed that when we do a Spring cleaning of our apartments, for example, or just spend a morning cleaning out our closets or ordering our things, that we feel better about life in general? I know I do.

The other day I saw a man stop and pick up a plastic bag on the street and throw it in the trash can. A small gesture, but one that encouraged me to write this column. If we all go the extra mile to encourage cleanliness in our buildings and in our streets, we can make Belmont an even better place to live and to encounter God!

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P.S. Next week I will write about the door-to-door mission we have begun in the parish. This week, I walked the streets with over twenty parishioners and had a wonderful time meeting people, praying with them, and letting them know about our parish. If you would like to join us, call the parish office! More about this next week....

**God bless,  
Father Jonathan**