



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



JUNE 12, 2016

What a wonderful week of celebrations of the life of St. Anthony of Padua and of our parish. As we were preparing for the illumination of the exterior and the ringing of the refurbished bells, I was reminded of what Msgr. Burke, our first pastor, envisioned this church to be. The year was 1916, one hundred years ago. The basement church (Fatima Hall) was no longer big enough for the growing parish. This is how a parish historian described his vision for the new church:

"The beloved Msgr. Burke, of happy memory, determined to build in honor of the Blessed Mother of God, a church most majestic. It would be one wherein it would only be necessary to enter the door to have one's thoughts directed heavenward. It would be a sanctuary and a home for the souls of Mt. Carmel Parish, where they could go and kneel in peace and pray, where they could forget the cares and troubles and trials of life."

His vision was realized.

One hundred years later, we can celebrate another small milestone. Due to the generosity of so many of you, and people from outside this neighborhood too, our beloved church has been fortified and beautified in its external structure. We have more work to do, including the refurbishing of the organ, new central flooring, painting of the sanctuary, and more. But we are on our way, as we move toward the 100th anniversary of the first mass in this church, celebrated on September 2nd, 1917 by Msgr. Caffuzzi.

Church structures only matter if they draw us closer to God. I have every confidence that this is what is happening to you and to me.

God bless
Father Jonathan

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