



## “FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

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**SEPTEMBER 11, 2016**

**I**m writing this week's column from a bus in Ireland. I'm with family and friends....and I'm loving it...but I can't wait to get back to my parish family...to be with all of you.

We have spent most of our time by the sea. Mist, fog, rain, and cold that's an ordinary day in Ireland.

But there is a warmth about the people. In many of the small towns we met people who just wanted to talk about America. They see it as a promised land...a place of dreams, a place of hope. They also know...because they have relatives who have immigrated here.... that America has a way of changing us.... we can forget where we came from and what we are all about. Good people can become cold and cynical. That's not necessary, but I think we can say, that it does happen. I come home now with great gratitude for what America is. I think of the diversity that we live every day. I think of the incredible values of our foundations. But I'm also inspired to never allow the circumstances of my birthplace or my place of residence to determine who I am as a person. No circumstance can change me for the bad.

Bronx, I love you! Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, I love you! Because it is here where God has called me. It is with all of you, that God has placed me.

And I am happy. Thank you.

**God Bless you,**

**Father Jonathan**

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