



Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

September 2, 2018

Admittedly, these weeks have been rather intense and draining for me. As some of you know, besides my work in the parish (which is always my priority!), I am involved in other areas of ministry in the Archdiocese and the wider Church. I do work in communications and in the administration of the fourteen Catholic schools in this area of the Bronx.

But this is not what has been hard. I am sure many of you have heard of the news of clerical child abuse and coverup of the abuse by some bishops and the Vatican. The mere thought of this sickens me. I don't understand it. I will not defend it. But I will speak out about how disgusting it is and how we must get to the bottom of how this happened.

I don't pretend to have all the answers. But I do know that in all of this, the Holy Spirit will be our greatest teacher and the passing of time will allow the Spirit to imbue us with this truth. Until then, we need to be fearless in pursuing the truth, holding our leaders accountable, and to not lose HOPE, FAITH, or CHARITY as we wait.

What has kept me sane in all of this is YOU. You, the laity, are "the faithful" and the Church calls you this for a very good reason. In these few weeks I have celebrated so many wakes, weddings, funerals, quinceañeras, masses, hospital visits, home visits, and family celebrations with YOU. In all of these ecclesial moments you have been instruments of the Holy Spirit for me, because your faith is strong. As one of you told me just today, "Father, we are with you, one for all and all for one".

I pray for you. Please pray for me.

And thankfully, the heat wave of the last few days is over!!

Amen!

God bless, Father Jonathan