



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

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This week most children in New York City have begun school. On Wednesday I had the pleasure of being at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel school on the first day of classes and was able to witness the high emotions of the children as they entered the school building and lined up with their respective classmates and teachers. The emotions were a mix of excitement, nervousness, and for some of the new children, a bit of fear. You can imagine how some of the new pre-k and kindergarten students stayed close to their parents and didn't want to see them leave.

As an adult looking on, all of this--even the fear and nervousness among the little ones--was beautiful because we know this is part of growing up. Overcoming their fear is necessary for their human maturity.

That same Wednesday morning during my regular parish mass, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit (I think!) that God sees our adult fears in a similar way as I had seen the simple fears of these children. Our fears and worries can seem big, important, and even overwhelming. For God, our fears are opportunities for spiritual maturity, especially maturing in our trust in Him. There is no obstacle we face that God can't turn into victory. There is no fear or anxiety that God can't replace with peace and joy.

This will be my prayer for all of you this week, that the Lord may make known to you his presence, power, and love in the face of every obstacle and fear that comes your way. Please pray for me as well.

God bless, Father Jonathan