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**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN**

**February 3, 2019**

One of the great joys I have as a priest is visiting parishioners in the hospital. I don't know if it was the cold weather or just coincidence, but this week we had many hospitalized parishioners. On one occasion, I visited three parishioners on the same floor in the same hospital. We had a little family reunion of sort. As difficult as a hospital stay is for the patient, I always find the pastoral visit to be joyful. The Lord brings us hope! The Lord brings us light! The Lord heals us, especially our soul!

During one of the hospital visits this week, a parishioner told me, "After being in here for so many days, Fr. Jonathan, things get put into perspective. Not one of us in this hospital is taking any money with him or her when we die!" He said it in a very serious and deeply spiritual way. It took me by surprise. But it is so true. When we are healthy, it is easy to live for things that are here today but that won't help us in the life to come. We are so easily tempted to live as if we will be here forever. Sickness and age are brutal, but healthy reminders, that what matters most in life is not money or comfort, but rather FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE!

Are we investing wisely in our eternity by living with integrity today? Are we investing in building up our faith, hope, and love?

I thank you all for daily teaching me by example how to live with your eyes fixed on heaven, while keeping your feet firmly planted on earth.

**God bless, Father Jonathan**