



## “FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

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**MARCH 22, 2015**

Perhaps the most incredible aspect of Christianity, in relation to all other religions, is that we don't have to wonder what God thinks about most of our human activities. Since God became human, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and endured all that we endure, we can look to him for very practical guidance for our daily life. In Jesus' times, as in ours, there was a lot of division within the community. The Pharisees didn't get along with the Sadducees; the Sadducees were harsh on almost everyone; and almost all of the Jews despised the Romans. Sound a little bit like us sometimes? People naturally take sides. And when someone hurts us, we can even get to the point of considering them rivals or enemies. Jesus hated that. "Love your enemies", he demanded. And in one of his longest and most passionate prayers, he prayed for unity: "Father, may they be one, even as you and I are one!" At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, we can have that unity that Jesus so desired. It requires that you and I leave aside juvenile attitudes of rivalry, jealousy, or rancor. It means making a decision to love the people we most dislike. It means rejecting gossip and slander. It means working through disagreements in a transparent, Christian spirit. Amen.

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