



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



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This week a reputable organization called "Pew Research" released its findings about religious practice in the United States. Some activist atheist groups, like the "Secular Coalition", showed delight that, according to the study, more and more people now identify themselves as "atheists" or "agnostics". The Pew study reported that today 3% of Americans self-identify as atheists and 4% as agnostics. But, unlike the activist atheists, I was actually surprised by what a SMALL group of Americans say they don't believe in God or aren't sure. Let's look at it from the reverse angle. To think that 93% of Americans believe in the existence of God, and are willing to say so to a pollster, is truly amazing. Try getting 93% of Americans to agree about anything else! Of course, this does not mean that all believers are practicing their faith. In fact, the same Pew study showed that more and more people are also unaffiliated with any church or denomination. What this tells me is that there are MANY people in our neighborhood who believe deeply in God but who are not coming to our parish or any church.

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Does our parish help you? Is it a blessing in your life? Do you feel closer to God when you make the sacrifice to get out of your house and work and come here to worship God? I know the answer is "yes". So let's get out and start inviting our neighbors and friends whom we don't see here to come with us to a mass or even just to stop in and pray with us for a few minutes. Perhaps they are just waiting for a kind invitation from someone they trust....like you! I'm walking the neighborhood inviting people back, and I have received such a warm response from many people who have promised they will give the church another try. I know Fr. Urbano does this too. But we need your help. Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus to bring the love of God into the lives of so many people who believe in Him...but who do not practice their faith.