



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



JULY 12, 2015

This week I had the blessing of spending a few days with my family in Ohio. I have two brothers, four sisters, and seventeen nieces and nephews. Whenever I have a chance to spend time with them, I am reminded of how special these family bonds are. Family reminds us of where we came from, and therefore, of who we are. Family members have a way of both accepting us with all of our weaknesses and keeping us humble. Sometimes they speak truth to us that nobody else would dare say! I know that many of you are far away from your families too. It can be a terrible suffering, I know, especially when circumstances make it impossible for you to return home for regular visits. Nobody can take the place of natural family, but if we work hard as a parish, we can build a spiritual family, based on bonds of friendship and service that will help us live the mission God has called each of us to here in New York City. Building family takes a lot of work. It requires all of us stepping out of our comfort zone and doing something concrete to make our parish family great.

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As I announced in most of the masses last week, I received a letter on July 2nd, appointing me pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the usual term of six years. This will be my first time as a pastor, the head of a parish family. I am so very much looking forward to being with you all for at least the next six years, and hopefully much longer. You are now my family. You are my brothers and sisters. You are my friends. Please forgive my faults. Tell me how I can lead you and love you better. Together we can build family!

God bless!!

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