



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



JULY 19, 2015

Happy Feast Day! Today we celebrate the patroness of our beloved parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It's inspiring to know that still today, in the year 2015, we continue to walk spiritually in the footsteps of the early Carmelite hermits of the late 12th century who lived on "Mount Carmel" in the Holy Land. As I walk the streets of our neighborhood and hear you speak of your love for our church and for our patroness, I am in awe of the fact that the faith and devotion of these Carmelites of a different age and continent, is still alive and well here in Belmont of the Bronx! This can only be explained by the power of God's grace and the intercession of the mother of Jesus and the mother of us all. Like every good mother, Our Lady encourages us and corrects us. She points us to Jesus and says, "Do whatever he tells you." As you know, this year we are having a small family gathering after the 12:15pm mass on Hughes Ave, celebrated by our friend and mentor, Archbishop Antonio Ciliberti. Let's have a great time together, as family but let's not forget the reason for our joy.

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Mary, our mother, loves us, and points us to her soon, the source of all real happiness, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. One way we could make this feast day a spiritual success, would be to ask Jesus if there is any way that he wants us to change, to become more like him. Take a few minutes today, if you will (I promise to do so too), to pray for the grace to "do whatever he tells you." Mary will be there to support us all the way!

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!