



## “FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



**MAY 1, 2016**

I'm happy to be back home in Belmont after a few wonderful days in Rome for a wedding and a few days of vacation. Being there made me appreciate even more the cultural and spiritual heritage of Mt Carmel. Viva l'Italia! Viva il Papa!

In honor of this "Jubilee Year of Mercy", the Archdiocese of New York has established "Holy Doors" at the shrine church of Most Precious Blood (St Gennaro) on Mulberry St in lower Manhattan. Anyone who goes through these doors and completes the normal spiritual requisites will receive a plenary indulgence.

With this purpose, and to visit another Little Italy parish, our parish will make a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors on Sunday afternoon, May 22nd. The Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral / Most Precious Blood Parish will be our host.

Built in 1809 and located in the heart of "Old New York", Old St. Pat's was the city's first cathedral. Today it is renewing itself through an historic restoration as well as evangelizing many young people who live or visit this vibrant community. The Old Cathedral was the home of the leaders of early American Catholicism many of whom are buried in the catacombs below the church. The Old Cathedral was recently merged with the Shrine Church of the Most Precious Blood located five blocks south on Mulberry Street, home to the Holy Doors of Mercy and other attractions, including the National Shrine of St. Gennaro and a display of Neapolitan presepio (finely crafted figurines).

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### *Pilgrimage Schedule:*

- 2:45pm – Departure in chartered bus from Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 4:00pm – Arrival at The Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral
- Tour of The Old Cathedral and Catacombs
- 4:30pm – “Pilgrimage Walk” to The Shrine Church of the Most Precious Blood
- 4:45pm – Enter the Holy Doors and gain a plenary indulgence
- Visit Shrine of St. Gennaro and Neapolitan presepio
- 5:00pm – Enjoy the food and ambiance of Mulberry Street’s Little Italy
- 6:30pm – Leave Mulberry St. for Return to Belmont

Tickets will be free, but we recommend a \$10 donation to defray the cost of the buses. Tickets will be available after all Masses next Sunday.

I'm looking forward to being on the bus with you!!

God bless,

**Father Jonathan**