



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



MAY 29, 2016

During my nine years in Rome, my absolute favorite day of the year was Corpus Christi. On this day I would make my way over the Tiber River to the great Archbasilica of St. John Lateran where the Holy Father would celebrate the solemn mass. You may remember that St. John Lateran is actually the official papal cathedral, since, up until the year 1309 this was the pope's residence and cathedra, before it was moved temporarily to Avignon, and eventually to St. Peter's Basilica. Each year, after the mass of Corpus Christi the pope would go in procession with the Blessed Sacrament down a long and wide beautiful road that leads to another basilica named St. Mary Major. There, in the open air, in front of the basilica dedicated to Our Lady, the Holy Father would offer benediction to the people gathered in the plaza. Compared to the massive gatherings in St. Peter's Square, the Corpus Christi mass and procession were small and intimate. Anyone could get within feet of the Holy Father as he worshiped Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist. Amazing!

This weekend, in Mount Carmel, we will begin again the tradition of the Corpus Christi procession through the neighborhood, beginning at 5:00pm. The children who will receive their First Holy Communion this weekend will lead our procession in their First Communion dresses and suits. It too will be a small and intimate gathering. And there present among us will be the same Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist! I hope all of you will join us for at least part of the procession.

God Bless
Father Jonathan

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