



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN



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I write this column one day before the presidential election. I don't know who will win. There is tension on both sides. On television we hear dramatic warnings from each campaign that if the "other" candidate wins, it will be the end of democracy...or even the end of our nation...as we know it. But here we are.... five days after the election and the sun still rose. The trains are (mostly) running on time. And most importantly, you and I still have the freedom to make today and the coming week an investment in our eternity. We still have the gift of free will to love God and love our neighbor and to build a legacy of love and service in our families and parish. I don't think my optimism is naiveté. Elections have consequences and I am sure some of these consequences --regardless of who has won the presidency-- will be very damaging to our Catholic values. But my optimism is founded on hope in God's promises, that he is ultimately in control. We may go through a rough four years or even more, but God will be with us every step of the way. The Church and this parish will continue to preach the Gospel and defend the dignity of every human person, whether they are born or unborn, black or white, immigrants or natives. I think we can all agree that during this long election cycle we have witnessed the degradation of civility. Name calling, anger, lies, fear, corruption and so much more have filled the news cycle for way too long. Let's not let that get into our hearts. Our country's strength does not depend on perfect politicians; it depends on the virtue of its citizenry. Let us choose the way of civility. It's the Catholic way. It's the American way.

**God bless,
Father Jonathan**

FATHER JONATHAN MORRIS – 718-295-3770/ ILOVEOURPARISH@GMAIL.COM