



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

If I'm not mistaken, this is one of the first full weekends that I am outside the parish since moving here to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. I am away on vacation with family and friends in the great country of Ireland! Although my parents and even grandparents were born here in the United States, I have Irish blood on both sides of my family. In fact, I have several relatives who still live on the Isle whom I hope to see during our short stay.

There is something very spiritual about going back to our ethnic homeland.

The Gospels go to great length to show the lineage of Jesus...that he was a man born of flesh and blood and belonging to a particular Davidic lineage. Likewise, you and I are who we are, to a great extent, based on people who have gone before us and contributed to our DNA and shaped our personalities. When I am in Ireland, I am sure I will see people who look like, sound like, and act much like my grandparents...and like me!

We also have the experience, however, that although we are influenced by our origins, we are not determined by them. For example, I much prefer Italian and Mexican food to Irish fair! But more significantly, I know too that I can't point to anything in my background as an excuse for not doing God's will in my life.

No matter what my heritage, or the influences in my life I have to stand alone before God and give account for what he has given me and what he asks of me.

I hope to come back from vacation as a better man...more relaxed, more centered on my mission, and kinder to all of you! See you next weekend!

Father Jonathan

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