



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

The other day I caught myself complaining to one of our parishioners about the nasty month of February...."Even though it only has twenty-eight days", I told her, "it seems to be the longest month...like it never ends!" Her response was much more positive and holier than mine, "Oh, no, Fr. Jonathan", she said. "February is a great month. It means we have already made it through most of the cold months. Spring is closer to us now than it was in November!".

That kind of positive perspective can change the way we experience life's challenges. This last week was rather cold, but because of what this good woman taught me, I lived the cold days with hope rather than dread.

The same thing is true for more serious challenges. On one of my hospital visits this week, I brought with me three members of our high school youth group (with permission from their parents). We visited a young woman who was suffering depression. These three young people talked to her openly about their own struggles. They told her she was not alone. I watched in happy awe from just outside the hospital room as they also laughed and joked with her and listened together to their favorite songs from their phones. The young woman didn't get all better that day, but she sure was better than when we arrived. She had hope. She had perspective.

As we move toward the Spring, let's not forget that just as we know that warmer weather is on its way, so also we know that God will be with us during our other hardships. We have no reason to fear; God is with us and has already won the victory.

**God Bless,
Father Jonathan**

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