



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

JULY 9, 2017

The other night I came back to the rectory late after a dinner event in Manhattan. On the steps of the church sleeping was a homeless man, his face covered with a blanket. I decided to let him stay on the steps and I would check on him in the morning. At 5:30am I went out for a morning walk and this person was just waking up. As it turns out, it was a young woman...sober, well dressed, and embarrassed to be seen in such a lowly state. I told her not to worry and I invited her for coffee. She explained to me that just three months ago she lost her job, was evicted from her apartment, and this was her first week ever on the streets. She was in awe of just how quickly she had fallen to a condition she never imagined for herself.

With the help of some very good people, we were able to find temporary housing for this woman and she is now connected to an organization that will work with her to make the next steps toward mental and physical health.

I tell you this story as a reminder that people around us may be more vulnerable than we might think. Perhaps your neighbor, friend, or fellow parishioner needs someone with whom to talk and share their struggles. If we open our eyes and hearts, we will see that the poor are among us, even if they are not yet desperate. All of us are called by God to be his hands and feet to his most vulnerable children. Let's work together to find these people most in need.

**God Bless,
Father Jonathan**

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