



Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

November 4, 2018

This week I received a call from Cardinal Dolan asking me to serve as Temporary Administrator of Our Lady of Refuge parish, on Bainbridge Ave in the Bronx. This does not mean I am leaving Mt. Carmel. The cardinal has asked me to serve both parishes until a new pastor of Our Lady of Refuge can be named.

You have probably seen in the news that the long-time pastor of Our Lady of Refuge, Bishop John Jenik, has been removed from public ministry because of an accusation of inappropriate sexual behavior with a minor. Bishop Jenik has denied the accusations and maintains his innocence. The District Attorney has reviewed the case and has decided not to move forward with prosecution because the case happened many years ago and beyond the statute of limitations.

We may never know with certainty what happened in this particular case, but we do know such despicable behavior has happened in the Church many times in the past. For this reason, when a credible and substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a child is made, swift action must be taken. And it has.

Please pray for me as I seek to bring the peace and love of Christ to the parishioners of Our Lady of Refuge in these times of great pain. And let's pray too that another pastor may be assigned to them quickly so that I can return to dedicating all of my time to you and our beloved Mt. Carmel.

God bless, Father Jonathan