



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

**August 5, 2018**

One of the takeaways from the brutal death of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman this Summer was the need for more safe and productive activities for our youth, especially during the several hours after school and before parents return from work. With this in mind, we have been working with local politicians and charitable individuals to find the funding and build the structure for this type of programming at Mt. Carmel.

I'm happy to say that we have secured initial funding for this project and will be moving forward in the Fall with an after-school pilot program. Catholic Charities of New York is partnering with us to manage this ministry. Over the next few weeks, Michelle Bialeck, a long-time organizer within our Bronx community, and Sofia Hernandez (the Assistant Director of Youth Ministry at Mt. Carmel) will be canvassing the community to determine the specific needs and interests of the families and young people. While the easiest program to fill-up and execute would be for young children, we want to focus on older kids, probably middle school and high school aged. These are critical years when our youth can either be directed toward the good or fall into the grips of evil.

Please pray for this ministry. We will keep everyone informed of ways you can contribute your time and talent to form our youth. Of course, the goal of all that we do at Mt. Carmel, for both adults and children, is the same as the Church's mission, to help us live in communion with God, to become the people he created us to be, and to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to our neighborhood.

*God bless, Fr. Jonathan*