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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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Earlier this Summer I encouraged all of you to take some time away from your ordinary places of living and work, or if that's not possible, at least to change up your daily routine for a few days. Our souls, minds, and bodies need rest and restoration!

That's what I'm doing this week, and it's glorious!! I am spending some time in God's country—as they call it here—in the Aspen mountains of Colorado. I'm not much of an outdoorsman, but I do love to fish, hunt, and camp when I can.

My Dad loved fly fishing and passed that love on to my brothers and me. Yesterday, as I stood in a cold river, waist high, with the mountains behind me, and all alone, I pulled out my cell phone from a waterproof sack and called my Dad. I told him I had my fly rod in hand and was trying to bait a beautiful brook or rainbow trout to jump on my line....just as he taught us. And that's what happened! It was a moment when I also experienced God's presence and a reminder that the universe does not revolve around Washington DC politics, NYC media, Vatican intrigue, my personal challenges....or anything other than God himself.

As much as I am loving it here, I'm sure I will soon be ready to come back to our beloved Bronx, where, happily, God has called me to work and live alongside of all of you.

If I don't return....don't take it personally...it only means I ran into a big Black Bear!!!

You can be sure of my many prayers for you and your family. I count on yours.

God bless, Father Jonathan