

MESSAGE FROM THE LAP TOP

ALLELUIA, HE HAS RISEN AS HE SAID, ALLELUIA!

A blessed **Easter** to all:

My dear family, once again I settle in to produce this week's Lap Top message having just spent time sharing in the Easter Vigil our Holy Father, Pope Francis just celebrated within a very distinctively empty Basilica of St. Peter. As a matter of fact, all the liturgical celebrations that Pope Francis celebrated within the Basilica were eerily stark with only chosen attendees in place, socially distant from one another, at the Altar of the Chair rather than at the main papal altar that we have all become familiar with. This most certainly has been made necessary due to the present coronavirus pandemic that we have now been subjected to for the past several weeks. Still, the solemn nature of each of the Holy Week liturgies truly lent to me, and I pray for you who joined with me in viewing and sharing in the prayer of the liturgies, a unique sense of our Catholic faith since you were unable to join with me in the celebrations here at HNOJ.

Our Holy Week celebration began with Mass I offered on Palm Sunday. The palms that were procured for our use were blessed and are being stored in the refrigerator of the kitchen of Lower Brennan Hall for distribution once we get the all cleared to again gather for Mass. I pray that day will come soon. Holy Thursday was certainly simpler this year since there was no transfer of the Eucharist to our Altar of Repose in Lower Brennan Hall. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday was likewise simple, yet reverent, with the actions of the liturgy supported by a few souls who were at HNOJ when I planned to celebrate the liturgy. We all kept our social distance and I adapted the liturgical actions that called for veneration of the Cross and our reception of communion.

Now, I wait to head over to our beautiful church to in a short while to celebrate the great Easter Vigil, with all of its beautiful parts altered a bit this year due to the lack of people attending, but still sacred and special none the less. HNOJ has been transformed from the décor of Lent to the vibrant signs of Easter; just simplified. Flowers for Easter were not ordered. Those who sent in flower offering envelopes, and you can still get them to us now, will be used once the all clear comes and we can gather for Mass at a point in the future where it will be possible to acquire flowers to decorate the sanctuary for all to appreciate.

Our season of Lent was disrupted so soon after we entered into it. Now, Easter will continue what we have felt through latter Lent, the need for separation from what we cherish the most due to public health concerns. I pray we will be blessed to truly feel the **RESURRECTION** of Easter soon when we can put aside the media means that has been keeping our faith and life in the Church going and gather to celebrate the real source and substance to our lives; **HAPPY EASTER.**

I wish to say a word of **THANKS** to all who have responded to the early request of support for your parish. Those who took advantage of WeShare have been wonderful. Also, those who have sent offerings via the mail, Poor Box in church, drop box at the McHale Center; your support is tremendous as well. I also wish to commend our parish family members who still support our Food Pantry with your donations that never cease to amaze me each time I go to church to offer my prayers. It is certainly a blessing to be pastor of such a generous parish family.

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

Fr. Mike