

MESSAGE FROM THE LAP TOP

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER!

Sunday Greetings Family of HNOJ:

My dear friends, as I sit and compose this week's message to you, I cannot stress how surreal the feelings I am having in writing to you. **Within the parameters of this single week, our parish of HNOJ has had the great privilege of celebrating two First Communion liturgies along with our second celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Now, this is nothing out of the ordinary for any parish except for the fact that we are now, not preparing for the winding down of everything associated with the school year and looking forward to summertime of relaxation and vacations. No, we are upon the threshold of a very different beginning to a new and very different start to a new school year.** The vast majority of our college students have now shipped off and begun their classes. We are anxiously watching to see how these students will fare under the protocol Covid-19 steps that are being taken by their respective schools, as well as those who are staying closer to home in the Community Colleges. There have been some hiccups, as reported in the local newspapers during the week, that have some concern behind how the opening of our local schools may fare.

Be that as it may, there is certainly a need to approach the perceived schedule of events of life that happen at this time of year with airs of caution. This is a whole new territory that we are all venturing in together. We must be diligent in dealing with all the suggested steps needed to be safe and responsible in trying to restart life as we have known it; but with a whole new dimension and twist to it. All levels of life, personal, professional, spiritual, educational and more have certainly been greatly altered in this year of 2020. When we think of 2020, we think of eyesight and how that is the perceived perfect diagnosis that one can receive. Well, 2020 for you and me has been anything but perfect. But, we have the guiding words of our Lord Jesus that we have been hearing in the gospels these past weekends that encourage us to **"BE NOT AFRAID"**. I encourage you to think about what Jesus is saying to us via the accounts in scripture that addressed situations of that time which we need to place our times in perspective too. Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed these words as soon as he took over the papacy in 1978. He certainly demonstrated the living out of this proclamation all throughout his life and we need to do the same. Living through Nazi and then Communist occupation of his native Poland; standing up to the communist party as Archbishop of Krakow and as Pope should inspire us to seek to do the same in light of this situation that we now find ourselves in. I certainly encourage some research into the life and experiences of this great modern saint of our church that can inspire us today.

I have noticed some political placards popping up around the village. This is another sign of how wacky 2020 has been. Village elections will be upon us in a few weeks. We have just been through the two conventions and are bracing ourselves for what the next month's hold in store. One thing I want to express, as your pastor, is that we need to all approach this year's national elections with a well formed understanding of the issues under the guise of our Catholic faith and what she teaches in respect of the Gospel Jesus handed on to us. **The websites for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the New York State Catholic Conference, and the Archdiocese of New York are valuable sites to turn to for information and guidance.** I cannot tell you whom to vote for, but I do need to stress how our baptismal charism as Catholics needs to be formed properly in regards to what we believe and profess as Catholics and how we are to listen and decide those who shall be elected and affect our journey toward the Kingdom of God.

FYI: Just receive notice that the special collection that would have been taken up on Good Friday will now be had on the weekend of September 12/13. Cardinal Dolan's letter is on the flipside for these next two weeks. Just want you to be prepped.

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

Fr. Mike