

MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST!

Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:

We have just passed through the First Week of Ordinary Time. We are now on a few weeks' journey that is meant to afford us time to ponder the message of God as it comes to us via the liturgy before we enter into the wonderful season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, February 17 this year. What shape it will take this year is still up in the air with the Covid-19 virus still a factor. One aspect that I would like you to start thinking about in preparation for Ash Wednesday would be the gathering of your used Palm from years past, that you will be able to bring to both churches come the beginning of February to deposit for our use for burning to supply the ashes that will be used. Our parish family members at HNOJ would be awfully familiar with this. Our parish family members at HC may find this new, as I have been told by the staff members at HC. So, take these next few weeks to gather the old palm and we look forward to your assistance in helping us to begin the season of Lent in the way that we are most familiar.

But now, I would like to take a moment to look back at the seasons of Advent and Christmas that we have just concluded. This past year has certainly been one for the books. But I have to say that with all the Covid-19 craziness, a tremendous amount of faithful from both parishes came out to assist in all aspects of our Advent and Christmas preparations. I would like to offer my gratitude and thanks to one and all who helped to make this "new" experience for me very spiritual and smooth. From those who assisted in all aspects of church preparation and service at the liturgies, those who reached out to Bishop Colacicco, Fr. Nick, Deacon Ed, Fr. Chris, Fr. Looney and me with Christmas greetings and gifts, we **THANK YOU** from the bottom of our hearts. You have made this new transition into parish ministry of the two parishes extremely rewarding and blessed.

Now, we turn our attention to this short period of Ordinary Time. This month of January presents us with two major happenings that we need to draw our attention to. The March for Life that takes place in Washington, D.C. each year during the month will have a quite different approach this year. I would encourage that all means of communication that will be coming forth with pro-life activities that will be held locally could be considered for our support in speaking out in defense of the unborn.

The second activity of the month is the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that begins this Monday and will culminate on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the following Monday. As we have witnessed how divided our nation is via the actions that happened in Washington, D.C. in recent weeks, the division that has been within the Body of Christ for the past centuries most certainly has been painful in the mission of the Gospel. Please take the opportunity to give attention to any messages that would come forth via various church sources that could assist in opening us to prayer in this special week upcoming.

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

Fr. Mike