

MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL!

Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:

We now come to the culminating weekend of our Novena to the Holy Spirit and the finality of the Easter Season. Beginning with Mass Monday morning, the Church's liturgical calendar will pick up once again with Ordinary Time which will be our focus for the remainder of this Year of Grace until the start of Advent at the beginning of December. I really hope that you, who had the opportunity to be with me for Mass on the Feast of Ascension or this past Sunday, have had the opportunity to reflect upon the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit during this time receiving new insights to their use in daily living. Hearing about the Apostles' experience in the Upper Room certainly validates the power and presence of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised before His return to the Father. God knows that we can certainly use all the "Spirit" power we can acquire during these trying times that we are sailing through. Ways that we can be open to the Spirit come in the form of taking great advantage of the various Catholic avenues of Formation that we have available through the FORMED program that the Archdiocese has presented to the parishes. Take advantage of the websites that I mentioned a few weeks back to stay on point with important issues of Catholic concern that the Spirit can guide us through. **Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of the Faithful.**

This past Tuesday, HNOJ was so blessed to welcome Bishop Colacicco across the Interstate 84 corridor to bestow the sacrament of Confirmation upon the young men and women of this year's class. It certainly has been a year of altered learning that, I pray, will bear great fruit going forward with the faith. In a few weeks, on the first Saturday in June, Bishop Colacicco will just walk across the drive and bestow the sacrament of Confirmation upon the young men and women of this year's class at HC. This will take place in two sessions that day so keep them in your prayers as we look forward to their big day. **Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of the Faithful.**

On a personal note, I will not be with you next weekend. I have been asked to journey to Stowe, Vermont to witness the marriage of Stephen Sobanko, a young man who was very active at St. Columba parish of Hopewell Junction when I was assigned there. There will be no confessions available this week. You can catch confessions at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saturday morning @ 11:00. Fr. Nick will have the bulk of the Masses, but HC will welcome Fr. Anthony from St. John the Evangelist for the 11:00 on Sunday. I look forward to the time away but will be back Sunday night to be ready for morning Mass on Memorial Day. **Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of the Faithful.**

I want to continue highlighting the Annual Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal as we journey into the Easter season. As of Friday, May 7, the reports for HNOJ & HC stood at: HNOJ was \$22,056.00 pledged by 62 families while HC was \$19,400.00 from 54 families. HNOJ is so close to its \$22,500.00 goal while HC has been making up ground toward its goal of \$30,500.00. I would greatly encourage those who still have the mailings from the Archdiocese to take some time this week to prayerfully consider a pledge, a significant offering that may be the suggested gift recommended or a comparable gift that can be paid over a period of time. All families of HNOJ & HC join me in supporting this year's Appeal. I would like to get a little personal right now with the most recent notification from our Appeal rep. HNOJ is so close to our goal. I urge more than just the 62 we have now to respond to the mailings this week. HC is doing better than last year's Appeal at this point; but, from a parish of roughly 1,500 families, last week saw 3 GIFTS RECEIVED. I beg our family base at HC to join with me in reaching out to this year's Appeal request with a generous pledge that will assist HC toward the stated goal.

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

Fr. Mike