

MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

ALL HAIL THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR LIFE!

Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:

I want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Nick and Fr. Anthony for the coverage of the Masses last weekend as I was up in Stowe, Vermont officiating at a wedding. It was a very relaxing, and spiritual weekend, as I had the opportunity to spend time with dear friends from St. Columba days, along with getting to know the pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish in Stowe with whom I stayed while there. The weekend was a mix of beautiful weather on Saturday but cloudy and rain on Sunday, the day of the wedding. It was still beautiful none-the-less and the ride back home, though rainy all the way, was without incident and beautiful too.

Now, with the Memorial Day weekend behind us, we gather for our celebration of Mass this weekend and Mother Church offers us another “mystery” of our faith to contemplate and reflect upon: **THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**, or as it has been referred to in times past **CORPUS CHRISTI**. The *Second Vatican Council*, in its *Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy*, has call the Most Holy Eucharist **THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF OUR LIFE**. Even though Baptism is the first sacrament that any Catholic receives, and should be considered the “primary” sacrament by which all others could not flow into our lives, it is in respect to the **EUCHRIST** that Baptism is administered so as to draw and focus our attention on the **EUCHARIST** to which we all strive. The popular image that has been used to explain this fact is that of the wheel on a bike; the **EUCHARIST** is viewed as the hub with the other sacraments emanating toward it as the spokes that make the “wheel” (our lives) travel along the path of life.

In recent years, various polls have produced some disturbing results; a good number of our Catholic faithful view the Most Holy Eucharist as a mere “symbol” and not as it truly is: **THE BODY, BLOOD, SOUL AND DIVINITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, HIS TRUE AND ETERNAL PRESENCE**. Symbol is what other Christian entities view the bread as; **BUT NOT THOSE OF CATHOLIC BAPTISM**. As He gathered with His apostles at the Last Supper, Jesus did not say; “*This is to be viewed as a symbol of my body, my blood*”; Jesus explicitly said, “**This is My Body and this is My Blood which is shed for you and for many, do this in memory of Me.**” What a wonderful privilege it has been for me, over the course of my life, to have grown in love with the Eucharist and now, to be able to offer the Mass and share the Eucharist with you. I continue to urge our parish family members, both from HNOJ & HC, who have the opportunity to extend their receiving our Lord Jesus in the Eucharist to the weekdays, to do so and make the reception of our Lord not just obligation but source and summit to the living out every day of our life.

I want to continue highlighting the Annual Cardinal’s Stewardship Appeal as we return to Ordinary Time. As of Friday, May 28, the reports for HNOJ & HC stood unchanged: HNOJ was **\$22,256.00** pledged by **63** families while HC was **\$20,150.00** from **58** 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.

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

Fr. Mike