

# MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

## **PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST; NOW AND FOREVER!**

*Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:*

I want to start off by offering a word of congratulations to all students of our two parishes that came through the most challenging and confusing time of education we have known to date. To the graduates from all levels of education, from doctorate all the way down to the kindergarten/Pre-K level, I pray that these milestones in your life may present you with many wonderful memories and stepping stones toward a grace-filled and productive future. Be assured of the abundant prayers from your parish families for a safe summer and, God willing, a “normal” beginning to a “new” school year ahead.

This weekend, we gather to celebrate the **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**. It also coincides with the celebration of our nation’s celebration of **INDEPENDENCE**. I can only imagine the amount of “activity” that shall be taking place all over the United States since things have been opening up for gatherings over the past months that will probably allow us to feel how the Israelites felt as they left Egypt for the promised land. I just wish to defuse any misconceptions that souls may have regarding the texts for Mass this weekend that might look as if we are “unpatriotic” in some way. The celebration of Independence Day is a revered “**CIVIC**” holiday, which would normally be recognized at Mass on any other day than Sunday. Our Sunday worship of God is sacrosanct and above civic celebrations and can never be abrogated except for a Holy Day that is centered upon the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Parishes do have the leeway to incorporate, via the Universal Prayer, prayer for our nation on this day of national celebration, as well as some reference within the homily and maybe a specific religious/patriotic hymn. I pray that both parishes will have a rich abundance of family members at all Masses so as to pray for our great nation and all of the difficult issues that are swirling around us at this time which are contributing to great challenges to the message of the Gospel and its living out in society right now.

As we have now entered into the Summer season, this is the time for family vacations to begin to happen. Our parish families extend to all traveling at this time God’s grace and guidance in your travels. **Please remember, take advantage of appropriate Catholic sites to find Mass times where you shall be staying as many dioceses have returned to the SUNDAY OBLIGATION.** I, too, shall be on the move following Masses this weekend as I will return to the **HEARTLAND of the U.S.** to spend time with my sister and dear friends. I have arranged for the next two weekends to have visiting priests from **CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH & UNBOUND** to speak with you about the dynamics of both organizations and how you can assist. No collection shall be taken by them; just your willingness to help support the adults & children they are charged with. **PLEASE WELCOME NEXT WEEKEND FR. JOSEPH WESTFALL** who represents **CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH** and comes to us from not too far away. He is currently the Chief of Chaplain Services for the VA in the Hudson Valley.

I want to continue highlighting the Annual Cardinal’s Stewardship Appeal. As of Friday, June 24, the reports for HNOJ & HC stood unchanged: HNOJ was \$22,931.00 pledged by 67 families while HC was \$20,150.00 from 58 families. HNOJ reached its \$22,500.00 goal and now is on track to begin realizing rebate on pledges that are made from here forward. 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*