

# MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

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

*Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:*

Vacations are wonderful when they arrive; but they go too dang fast. I am hopeful that you who read these few simple words will have had, or be getting some time, to enjoy rest and relaxation this summer since lives have been disrupted for too long. I wish to offer my gratitude for your welcome, and reception of the messages that were shared with you by Fr. Westphal and Fr. Kirwin on behalf of Cross Catholic International and Unbound. I have received notes from both brother priests expressing their gratitude for the invitations to share their messages, along with their priestly ministry, to two wonderful parishes. I pray that the support you shall offer, those who responded, will be as rewarding as it has been for me who has been supporting Ronald from Unbound for the past decade and a half.

Vacation time for me has always been both a physical and spiritual renewal. I have been visiting the same three locations out in the Heartland of America for a good long time. Visiting my sister in Kentucky has always been a given. Visiting with my sister in Kentucky has helped to rekindle a wonderful grammar school friendship that was only in person for two years while my friend Michael's family was stationed at West Point. Michael, his wife Jeannie, and the kids have welcomed me into their home for the past two decades or more. As they have lived both in Indiana and Michigan over the course of this time, it certainly has produced many great adventures and, with the advent of visiting the Dauerer family down in Tennessee, there is enough to fit into a three to four week period that does not get boring.

As I mentioned in last Sunday's homily, a vital part of my trip plans is the attendance of Mass at every one of my stops. You may say, "Sure, you're a priest and that is what you should do!". But that is not the case. Just like you, I only would need to make Sunday the focus of my attention. But I would not be fulfilled without the presence of my Lord in the Eucharist each day. I do not bring a Mass Kit but instead, I join like you and attend Mass at each church I discover wherever I am.

Two special occurrences happened this year while on vacation. I was able to introduce my sister to some of the Holy sites in her region of Kentucky that has a great Catholic history. We were able to attend Mid-afternoon Prayer at the Abbey of Gethsemane and visit other sites that have been special to me over the years. The other special moment happened on my trip back home. I drove into Cincinnati, not my normal route, because a young man, Patrick Bubel from Regina Coeli parish, had just entered the novitiate for the Dominicans which is located in Cincinnati, and I was able to attend Mass and have a wonderful 45 minute visit that was just the thing I needed to begin the long trip home. Please keep Patrick, and his 13 fellow novices, in your prayers as they use this year to discern the call of God to serve as Dominicans. I pray that our great Archdiocese can have the same outpouring of young men enter in a few short weeks.

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

*Fr. Mike*