

MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST; NOW AND FOREVER!

Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:

I guess you can say that we have now arrived at the “unofficial” end to the summer season as **Labor Day weekend is now upon us**. This has most certainly been a very diverse and interesting summer. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to have been able to travel out to the mid-west this past July and visit with my sister and great friends that I have not seen in two years. I can venture to say that a good number of you, too, had the same feeling. To be “in person” rather than to **ZOOM** must have been a great relief.

One thing that I noticed, both out in the mid-west and locally here, was the tremendous amount of **HELP WANTED** signs. The great disruption to the labor force that this Covid situation has caused was certainly evident. The ability of a good number of venues that had reduced ability to handle full capacity along with normal business hours was certainly noticed. What was also disheartening, and certainly upsetting, was the tremendous number of empty storefronts that I encountered. The effect of the forced shut-down, due to Covid, has greatly disrupted so much of the labor picture, as well as the labor force throughout our nation, that this Labor Day weekend may be a bit confusing, as well as convoluted. So many workers have been out on unemployment and drawing huge benefits that have been extended time and time again, and that has certainly had an effect upon the psyche of so many who are making more unemployed than being back at the office. What has become of the American spirit of labor?

I am reminded of a great quote that was attributed to the late Professor James I. O’Neill, who was an education stalwart in Highland Falls at the time my father was in High School, and for whom the High School I graduated from is named. Professor James I. O’Neill was a tremendous Catholic and a pillar of Sacred Heart of Jesus who took tremendous interest in the education process and the product that came out of the school system. He was a man who believed in the great value of toil and sweat that went into study that led to an honest career. I don’t know if this quote is original to him or if he coined it from elsewhere, but over the stage of the old High School, which was incorporated in the dedication section to Professor O’Neill in the new High School, was this quote: **“WORK IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF GOD TO MANKIND”**. On this Labor Day weekend, maybe we sit with this quote and reflect upon our current situation. Am I employed? Am I actively seeking? Have I been lulled into complacency with all the government bailouts? May the spirit of this great quote, along with the grace of Almighty God, stir within us this Labor Day weekend.

One event that I would like to continue to highlight is taking place at the beginning of Respect Life Month. On Saturday, October 2 from 12:00pm till 2:30pm, please come and join with me, members of the Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes and other Pro-Life supporters as the Monument for the Unborn, that has been donated by Benedict Memorials via the Knights of Columbus, will be formally dedicated. A special time of fellowship is being arranged by the Knights of Columbus to surround the dedication. It has been a dream of mine to have this visible message toward the sanctity of life be present on our church/cemetery grounds as in other Catholic parishes & cemeteries across the nation. Please make it a point to set aside a few hours for this fitting start to Respect Life Month.

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

Fr. Mike