

To: Father Stephan
Lisa Dyer
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

January 20, 2014

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

We are making preparations for *Following Christ* which will begin on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 6pm. These Sunday evening gatherings are designed to allow those participants who have completed *Discovering Christ* last June to continue the journey together. Whereas *Discovering Christ* focused on helping to foster a personal relationship with Jesus, *Following Christ* addresses such topics as prayer, sacraments and forgiveness. Sunday gatherings will continue through April 27, with a retreat scheduled on Saturday April 5, and no gatherings on Sunday April 6 and Easter Sunday April 20.

'Making ALL Things New'

We have gathered with St Joseph's Wurtsboro on Wed Jan 8 in a meeting I believe was fruitful. The entire cluster – OLA, OLMC, St Paul's –Bullville, Infant Saviour, St Joseph's Middletown, and St Joseph's Wurtsboro will gather Wed Jan 22 at OLMC to continue the work mandated by the Archdiocese. We have been asked to consider basic models that would involve collaborating or consolidating or linkage of parishes. As I stated in last report, I was asked to chair the cluster going forward. I asked for a co-chair and Jim Brech from Mt Carmel agreed to co-chair.

.Ecumenical Outreach

The Warming Station for the homeless opened for its 6th season Sunday evening, November 24, 2013 with a prayer service at St Paul's United Methodist Church, the site of the Warming Station, at 8:30 pm and opened our doors to our overnight guests at 9pm. Many thanks to our O.L.A. parishioners who are staying as overnight volunteers, supplying dinners on assigned nights, and making donations. Thanks to our friends at Mt Carmel for getting us off with a great start for the many socks that will be needed with 1,235 pair donated. We are averaging between 20 and 28 overnight guests each evening.

God bless you all,
Gary