

To: Father Sean
Stefan Chevalier
Joe Hershel
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

April 18, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday evening May 1 is the date for our evening '*Pope Francis and the People*'. We already have 20 people registered for the evening which will include prayer, song, a viewing of '*Pope Francis and the People*', table discussion and a Pot Luck Supper. With 1 more week to register, I would anticipate closer to 40 as some this past weekend said they are coming but just need to turn in form. Additionally, there may be a few from surrounding churches.

'Making All Things New'

The plan for our church as presented seems to be generally very well received. I would like to share something that I would suggest we should all be mindful of: An usher asked me if we were starting with the 9:30 Mass. I affirmed that is the plan and it would start at a date to be confirmed – may start around June. This past weekend the usher, looking forlorn, asked again if we would only have a 9:30 Mass on Sunday. I again said yes, but it will be a little while – maybe June. I waited and listened – he said, “ I guess there will be no need for me anymore” . I assured him we'll need him now more than ever – with more people at the combined Mass. He seemed relieved. My point is that we need to listen to what quiet concerns there might be and be sure that all in the OLA family know that not only are they welcome, but we need them, and that together we, walking side by side with our Carmelite Priests believe in a strong future for OLA with everyone playing a role.

Ecumenical Outreach

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council Warming Station for the homeless Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Closing Reception was Thursday May 31st at 6pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church – the host of the Warming Station. Warming Station Guests who have stayed during the season, as well as volunteers, Staff, members of the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council were there. Once again, I would like to thank all OLA parishioners who participated in any way this season, and also Fr Anthony for serving as an overnight volunteer.

The free will concert on Sunday April 10th at 4pm at United Presbyterian Church in Middletown to raise funds for next season which begins in November was a success. Should know how much it made by next month as some checks are still coming in. A thank you to Gail Johnson for putting it together and to OLA parishioners who joined with all the houses of worship in singing '*Bridge over Troubled Waters*' and '*Let there be peace on earth*'.

There will be a Second Annual Picnic on Sunday June 5 from 3pm-6pm for all those connected in any way with the Warming Station. The location is Fancher Davidge Park in Middletown. All are welcome.

God bless you all,
Gary