

**Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Bloomingburg, New York
Parish Council Meeting – March 19, 2012**

Present – Fr. Stephan, Lisa Dyer, Tom Virgilio, Bonnie Sisco, Tom Dempsey, Phil Fayol, Maryann Malamas, Gail Arsenault

Absent – Joe Fraioli, Bob Ernst, Richard Hutchings

Guests – John Zupetz, Harry Malamas, Johanna Luciano

Lisa opened the meeting with a prayer by Tom Dempsey. Next meeting will be on April 16, 2012, with prayers said by Maryann. March minutes were accepted.

Youth Report – Sarah Zupetz will be our new Youth Member.

Religious Education Report – The Saints and Shamrocks program attracted 60-65 people, about 20 of them children. This completes this year's agenda. Our children have become more involved in Mass with readings and bringing up the gifts, now the parents need to become more involved. Level 8 and 9 children will be in a program on the Catholic view on chastity. This program will bring college-aged students from NYC to speak to them, in conjunction with St. Joseph's in Wurtsboro. A signed permission slip will be needed and the cost will be \$5.00 per student for lunch. This will be held on April 28. The Annual Catechist Staff Dinner will be held in the Parish Center on June 12.

Pastoral Assistant's Report – (submitted by Gary Texter 3-19-12)

The Adult Faith Formation team assisted Religious Ed with the Saints and Shamrocks family catechesis program. It was a time for food and table fellowship, along with some learning and fun.

The Discovering Christ group has gathered again in March for prayer and reflection upon the orientation training weekend from Jan 13&14 which we put together with our friends from Infant Savior. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive! We continue to build solidarity with each other in Christ. Discovering Christ will be offered at O.L.A. beginning the evening of Divine Mercy Sunday 2013- the Sunday after Easter- our gift to O.L.A. for our Centennial year.

The Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound held their annual Pre-Lenten breakfast on February 18. Deacon Trapani and his wife joined the group. On Ash Wednesday, as has been our tradition, our ministry administered ashes at the Outpatient Pavilion of ORMC to patients and family members, as well as doctors, nurses and other employees with a total of 179 people requesting ashes. In addition we were also present at the main hospital as part of the larger 14 plus church inter-parish team. Our homebound parishioners received ashes as well.

The Warming Station continues to serve the homeless in Middletown, will remain open until its traditional closing date of March 31, and has a planned reopening on November 15, 2012. Many thanks to those from O.L.A. who have served in some capacity.

The Knights of Columbus, John Paul the Great, brought the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to our Church on January 24. There were over 100 people attending, including people from Monticello, Pine Bush and Walden. We are very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring a trip to Lourdes for one of our parishioners and her son. They will leave for a 10 day pilgrimage at the end of June.

(edited by L. Dyer 4-16-12)

Finance Council – No report

Liaison Reports -

1. Liturgy Ministry – All good for Joint Penance Service and Easter.
2. Coffee Hour will be held on April 15.
3. Mothers' Day Breakfast – Tom Dempsey will get in touch with his workers and let us know.
4. Summerfest – Any questions can be directed to Amy and Mike Zupetz.

New Business – There was much discussion about the dismal attendance of Religious Education students and their parents. In the recent past, attendance of those children has dropped from about 40 children attending in the 2009-10 school year to about 33 in the 2010-11 school year to 25 or 26 this school year. This is out of 55 to 60 registered religious education families. Fr. Stephan will speak to Fr. Peter in Otisville about the situation.

Parish Council members, if you are unable to make it to the monthly meeting, please call Fr. Stephan or Lisa. All will be given raffle tickets for the Mothers' Day Raffle.

John Zupetz spoke to the Council as Chairperson of the Centennial Celebration. There is much to do, since we will be celebrating for a year. John attended a centennial committee meeting at OLMC in Middletown. They had nearly 20 committee and key people there. He was able to get a lot of information from them, such as an organizational structure, a process for logging in information, fundraising, committees and a timeline for our activities. Fr. Stephan would like to do a kick off at this year's Summerfest. John asked Fr. Stephan for the next OLMC meeting date so he and Fr. Stephan can attend.

Final Remarks – Next month's agenda will re-address Mass attendance accountability issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Arsenault
April 1, 2012