

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

June 17, 2013

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

### **Adult Faith Formation**

DISCOVERING CHRIST has been a wonderful series for Our Lady of the Assumption! Kerry Roberson and I and some on our team have witnessed the transformations in the faith lives of many of the 65 people who participated each week. The Evaluation Forms which we asked participants to complete on the closing evening of June 2<sup>nd</sup> as well personal feedback in the open sharing at that session and conversations afterward with many participants indicate that the experience was well received . In addition to thanking Kerry, who is my full partner in the series I would also like to say thank you to each team member for the various roles they filled, our ministries and parishioners at O.L.A. and my brother Knights at Middletown Knights of Columbus, John Paul the Great Council 486 for providing the food for our wonderful meals. Also a big thank you to our friends at Infant Saviour for loaning us the round tables which were great for table discussions. I would also like to thank Fr. Stephan for his trust in allowing us to go forward with Discovering Christ and with the remaining portions of the Christlife Series- Following Christ and Sharing Christ. At our closing on June 2<sup>nd</sup> we announced a Discovering Christ Reunion on Sunday evening September 8, 2013 where all who attended Discovering Christ at O.L.A. are invited back for a meal and to share about how their relationship with our Lord is progressing. At that time we will share about Following Christ (which emphasizes the treasures of the church including the sacraments) and unveil the start date for the Following Christ Series.

Kerry Roberson and I will be facilitating Fr. Barron's series *Catholicism* on Monday evenings at 7pm beginning July 15, 2013 as you saw in the bulletin. Last year we did only 4 of the 10 sessions in the evening as a test and we found the people wanted to complete the series. We'll start with session 5(each session can stand on its own) and upon completing session 10 if there are people who have not been to 1-4 or would like to take them again we will do 1-4.

In addition we have and are putting out information on how to get the book that Fr. Jim Hess recommended during his mission talk, *Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*, by George Weigel. As those who wish obtain and begin to read, we will organize a discussion group(s)/book club to facilitate getting the most out of it.

Some of the team who are part of our Discovering, Following, Sharing Christ team will be developed for the broader mission of Adult Faith Formation and will take the necessary Formation classes through the Archdiocese; I am working with the Director of Adult faith Formation/ Formation, Archdiocese of New York on this right now.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

Middletown is having its 125 year celebration during our Centennial year. The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council has been asked to conduct a 90 minute service at Festival Square on Sunday June 23 at 3:00 pm. The theme will center around 'Community'. Along with the many houses of worship that will be participating, at this time Fr. Sunny has been asked to record the event, Gail Johnson will be involved by providing bridge music (prayer of St Francis) for the role Fr. Dennis Nikolic and I will share in the service. (Matthew 25: 34-40) a brief reflection/homily, prayer of faithful, Lord, we are your people the sheep of your flock..... The following Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a parade in which our Middletown Knights of Columbus- John Paul the Great Council will march. All are welcome.

God bless you all,

Gary