

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

September 16, 2013

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

About two thirds of the 65 participants in Our *DISCOVERING CHRIST* 7 week experience were able to make the date of our reunion Sunday, September 8, 2013. The evening consisted of a pot luck dinner, prayer, song, viewing the DVD of our *Discovering Christ* experience including the retreat- complete with music and subtitles, sharing about our relationship with the Lord , first in small groups and then in the larger group, viewing the invite DVD to *Following Christ* which will be offered beginning Sunday March 2 for all those who have participated in *Discovering Christ*. All seemed enthusiastic about going forward with *Following Christ*.! We provided a list of churches that are doing *Discovering Christ* this Fall, that can be given to our parishioners who were not able to attend *Discovering Christ* with us this past spring – so that they can take it this fall and join up with us for *Following Christ* in March. *As Discovering Christ* encourages us to develop and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, *Following Christ* is concerned with repentance and forgiveness and such treasures of the church as prayer and the Sacraments. Our *Catholicism* series which has run Monday evenings since July 15th (we took off this evening because of the Council Meeting) will be completed on Sept 30th. Sessions averaged 6- 12 participants each week.

Several parishioners have acquired the book , *Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21st Century Church*, by George Weigel which was recommended by Fr. Jim Hess, and we will develop a plan soon to offer a book club/ discussion group on it.

Some of the team who are part of our *Discovering, Following, Sharing Christ* team are being developed for the broader mission of Adult Faith Formation and have taken a necessary Formation class through the Archdiocese in August; I continue working with the Director of Adult faith Formation/ Formation, Archdiocese of New York on this for the additional classes they will need.

'Making ALL Things New'

A couple of years back all parishes were asked to conduct an in-pew survey of its parishioners. The next phase is starting up now. Our team along with others in the area will be attending an area meeting and training by the Reid group regarding the next step. I have worked through Fr. Stephan setting up this team which includes our two trustees, Pat Kennedy and Mary Donnelly, as well as Lisa Dyer, Susan Garcia, and myself and Fr. – will report more when known.

.Ecumenical Outreach

Middletown had its 125 year celebration during our Centennial year. The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council was asked to conduct a 90 minute service at Festival Square on Sunday June 23 at 3:00 pm. The theme centered around '**Community**'. Along with the many houses of worship that participated, Fr. Sunny was asked to record the event, Gail Johnson was involved by providing bridge music (prayer of St Francis) for the role Fr. Dennis Nikolic and I shared 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 29th there was a parade in which our Middletown Knights of Columbus- John Paul the Great Council marched. Attendance was great and all were welcome.

The Warming Station for the homeless is on track to open for its 6th season Sunday evening, November 24, 2013. All are invited to a **Volunteer Appreciation Reception and Open House on Saturday September 21st** from 4-6pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church 58 West Main St.,

Middletown. **Volunteers, Staff, and perhaps some guests will share experiences**, have some light refreshments and **tours will be given to all who wish.**

The **Greater Middletown Interfaith Council** is sponsoring a **variety show to benefit the Warming Station on Sunday October 6th** at Temple Sinai at 3pm. Gail Johnson is coordinating and **several of our parishioners will be singing in the Interfaith Choir.** Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for children.

God bless you all,
Gary