

To: Father Stephan
Stefan Chevalier
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

October 20, 2014

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

The *Following Christ* reunion which took place , September 7, 2014 went very well. There were almost 30 present for the pot luck dinner during which we shared about our experiences in Following Christ and the change it has made in our lives, all viewed the DVD of the photos of the experience, and we prayed together. Kerry Roberson and I announced the start date of Sharing Christ (the third in the 3 part series from Christlife) and shared the invitational DVD. We will begin on Divine Mercy Sunday 2015(right after Easter). There is much enthusiasm among the group to continue the journey.

Kerry Roberson and I facilitated this year's summer series during Monday evenings this past August using Fr. Barron's Faith Clips. An average of about 12 people attended each of the four 90 minute sessions on a range of topics from God, Jesus, The Trinity, Sacraments, Prayer, and Spiritual Life. Looking forward, in addition to Sharing Christ we are considering The Bible Timeline, a series put out by Jeff Cavins, as well as perhaps a short course on the Mystery of the Incarnation where we would use material from Fr Robert Barrons and I will discuss this with Fr. Stephan.

'Making ALL Things New'

We are awaiting the official response from Cardinal Dolan which we expect to have in the next month.

Ecumenical Outreach

The Festival of Booths held at Temple Sinai by the Greater Middletown Inter-Faith Council the afternoon of Sept 7th was a great success. There were many game booths run by the various congregations including one from OLA run by Kerry Roberson and Sam Osborn. The jewelry booth run by Beth Texter, Gail Lewis, and Terry Stiano with contributions from the area congregations brought in over \$200.00 at the event and another \$250.00 selling to the gold silver buyer. The clergy from area churches and myself volunteered each for 20 minutes of time to have wet sponges thrown at us to raise funds and there were volley ball games and a talent contest. All told during the event over \$1,600 was cleared in the 3 hr period and all proceeds go to help with the \$27,000- \$30,000 that will be needed to run the Warming Station for the homeless this season. It was great to see many clergy there including Fr Stephan and Fr John Horan. This season the Warming Station will operate every evening from Sun Nov 16 thru March 31. Tonight I am doing the first volunteer training session of the season. We will also have training from 7pm to about 9pm at St Paul's United Methodist in Middletown on Oct 28, Nov 6, Nov 12 for anyone interested in becoming an overnight volunteer.

Liturgical Ministries

Since my report in June, we have had a gathering of the greeters and Mary Donnelly has re-implemented the greeters at the Masses I believe with a positive effect.

We also had a gathering of the Eucharistic Ministers. During part of the meeting Father introduced the ministers to Canon 1169 which tells us that those in the communion line requesting a blessing are to receive the blessing from the priest and not the Eucharistic Minister.

God bless you all,
Gary