

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

December 14, 2015

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

### **Adult Faith Formation**

We decided to hold off until the new year to hold the special Sunday evening with a pot luck dinner, viewing, and discussion of *Pope Francis Speaks to America*. After consulting with the team and the church calendar I will let you know the new date. We will invite all parishioners from our cluster churches to attend.

### **'Making All Things New'**

I will confer with Jim Brech about bringing the cluster together to put together and sign the document regarding collaboration within the cluster. I feel encouraged because at the Adult faith formation Network meeting I chaired in June at which all 6 cluster churches were represented we were able to discuss collaborating on the Evangelization theme. The Adult Faith Formation Network met again recently and discussed it further along with sharing what each has done recently and is planning to do..

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

The Warming Station for the homeless opened Sunday Nov 15 after a prayer service hosted by the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council. There have been 6 training sessions for volunteers so far and the next training session for new volunteers is Tuesday Dec 15 at 7pm at St Paul's United Methodist Church- the host of the Warming Station. The first night of operation this season there were 5 guests – nights have been averaging 20 plus guests and one night last week we accommodated 30 guests. Many thanks to generous parishioners of OLA who have donated supplies including one parishioner who donated as a first installment toothpaste and toothbrushes to provide for the needs of the homeless guests thru December. Mt Carmel has donated 1600 pair of socks from its *Socktober* appeal to get us going and we thank them for that. The Tri County Action Committee, Helping the Homeless To Thrive, Not Just Survive, a faith based group consisting of clergy and friends continues to meet monthly and there are points of light –rays of hope coming out of it –The new Warming Station in Monroe opened at Sacred Heart in Monroe and hosted its first two overnight guests this past weekend, Port Jervis has opened a Warming Station, HONOR (Helping Others Needing Our Resources) continues to seek funding for an outreach van that among other things will stop at houses of worship at their invitation to outreach to the homeless and others who have limited or no resources, and other positives continue to happen. This week it is expected that there will be a Warming Station opening in Newburgh – hopefully by Wed evening.

I wish all of you and your families a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

God bless you all,  
Gary