

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

February 16, 2015

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Sharing Christ, will begin on Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter). Registration will begin the weekend of March 7 – 8. On track also is *Catholic Women of the Chapel* facilitated by Kerry Roberson for women of our parish and surrounding parishes to discuss faith matters and also to have an opportunity for Scripture reflection and prayer, crafts and other activities as well. The group would meet at OLA as well as rotate to some other area churches. The monthly gathering will kick off at OLA April 29.

'Making All Things New'

Our core team, along with other members of our 6 church cluster as well as the various clusters from Orange and Sullivan Counties, attended the latest training provided by the Archdiocese on Wed evening Feb 11 at Our Lady of Mt Carmel. We are charged with identifying 2 or 3 areas that will be beneficial and that we wish to collaborate on and report to the Archdiocese by May 1. During the year that follows we will follow through and then report our results back to the Archdiocese.

Ecumenical Outreach

During the unusually harsh weather recently the Warming Station has remained open around the clock at times to provide shelter from weather for those we serve. Great cooperation has been demonstrated by the volunteers, staff, and host church. Yesterday and today the city of Middletown opened the doors of Mulberry House to provide daytime shelter for those who needed it during the hrs the Warming Station is normally not open. It was able to work because of the generosity of time given by volunteers of Greater Middletown Interfaith Council. A concert is scheduled for March 8 to benefit the Warming Station in which some of our parishioners will participate. Many thanks to OLA parishioners who help in a variety of ways including our religious education students gathering supplies who I will report more on next month.

Liturgical Ministries

Both of the new Extra ordinary ministers of Holy Communion have successfully completed the ministry training and are fully functional in the ministry.

Our annual Eucharistic Ministry to the sick/homebound Pre Lenten breakfast and morning of prayer, song, listening and reflecting on the word of God and discussion was held on Sat Feb 14 with all Eucharistic ministers invited. It was a great morning with 10 of us present including Deacon Trapani. We also completed a schedule of times the ministers will be present on Ash Wed at ORMC hospital outpatient pavilion to distribute ashes to patients and families coming to the pavilion for tests or procedures as well as to doctors, nurses and support personnel. Our Lady of the Assumption, as part of the Interparish Hospital Eucharistic Ministry team has been assigned and has performed this ministry for many years at ORMC.

God bless you all,
Gary