

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

April 20, 2015

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Sharing Christ was launched as planned on Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter). There are 42 registered and in each of the two sessions held so far we had 33 present. We knew in advance that due to schedule conflicts some would not be able to attend the first week while others had commitments in the second. All three of the new people who attended the special orientation session the Thursday before we began, decided to join us on the journey. Each of the participants seem to be engaged and looking forward to continuing. *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 will meet at OLA as well as rotate to some other area churches. The monthly gathering will kick off at OLA on May 27 instead of April 29 to allow for more preparation time.

'Making All Things New'

The Cluster Core Team has a draft Values Statement and Vision Statement. The Archdiocese has postponed the due date for this and our Action plan until Nov 1 as other clusters have asked for more time.

Ecumenical Outreach

The annual pot luck dinner to mark the Warming Station's season end was a huge success with over 90 attending including volunteers, overnight guests we serve, and staff. Several overnight guests got up to speak about what the kindness of the community has meant to them. Many thanks to all the volunteer efforts from OLA parishioners. Plans are already underway for next season's opening in November with a benefit concert at Orange County Community College in June, and community day May 31st. In addition, Deacon Trapani, as well as the Chief Operations Officer of HONOR (Helping Others Needing Our Resources) and myself are coordinating an all day seminar for the clergy of Orange Sullivan and Ulster Counties on Homelessness to be presented at Orange Regional Medical Center May 14 so that more faith communities can join together in the effort to help folks thrive, not just survive.

God bless you all,
Gary