

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

May 18, 2015

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Sharing Christ has 2 more sessions to go - Sunday May 31 and then an 'in house retreat' right at O.L.A. on June 6th. The retreat will begin at 1pm in the parish center – the retreatants will have access to the outside grounds, weather permitting, as well as the church. Barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided for the retreatants by Knights of Columbus, John Paul the Great Council, as they have for our Discovering Christ Series, at about 4pm. Fr Stephan has agreed to make confession available to those who wish before the closing Mass at 6pm. The Sunday readings for June 7th will be used at the 6pm Mass so that all parishioners can be invited and this will fulfill their Sunday obligation as well. At the end of the Mass there will be a commissioning ceremony and we will ask for Father's blessing to continue with the *New Evangelization* and spread the Good News, the Gospel Message, by our words and actions. *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 in OLA's parish center. This first session will center around the rosary and participants will have an opportunity to physically make their own rosary.

'Making All Things New'

No report at this time. Jim Brech and I will gather the Cluster Core Team together in the next couple of months.

Ecumenical Outreach

There will be an outdoor celebration and gathering of all who in any way served at the Warming Station for the Homeless in Middletown at Fancher Davidge Park on Sunday May 31 from 3pm – 7pm. This includes the 100 plus people who have served as overnight volunteers the many dozens of people who brought a meal for 30, guests of the Warming Station, those who spread the word about the Warming Station, those who prayed for the Warming Station and the people served, those who donated money or supplies to help run the Warming Station – anyone and everyone who has some connection.

Deacon Trapani, as well as the Chief Operations Officer of HONOR (Helping Others Needing Our Resources) and myself coordinated an all day seminar for the clergy of Orange Sullivan and Ulster Counties on Homelessness which was 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. With God's help, it was a tremendous success with 91 clergy and lay ministers attending from all faiths. Thank you Fr. Stephan for joining us. The Tri-County Action Committee (Helping the Homeless to Thrive, Not Just Survive) will pursue the same kind of 'out of the box thinking' that led to the faith community coming together to open a Warming Station and will gather for the first time on June 10th.

God bless you all,
Gary