

To: Father Stephan
Lisa Dyer
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

October 21, 2013

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Just a reminder, Following Christ, for all those who have participated in Discovering Christ will begin Sunday evening March 2 and will run Sunday evenings through April 27 (no session on April 20- Easter). The retreat will be Saturday April 5. While Discovering Christ seeks to have participants deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Following Christ deals with repentance and forgiveness and such treasures of the Church as prayer and the Sacraments.

We are also considering a mass distribution (no pun intended) of a couple of books to parishioners to have a discussion group with-- one which will be given to Our Lady of the Assumption with no cost, and one which would cost \$2 per copy. We will discuss the feasibility of this further with Fr. Stephan.

'Making ALL Things New'

Since my last report, you have begun seeing information about this initiative of the entire Archdiocese in our bulletin, our announcements and we are praying about it in our Prayer of the Faithful. Most of our core team, consisting of Fr. Stephan, our two trustees Pat Kennedy and Mary Donnelly, Lisa Dyer, Susan Garcia and myself attended an area meeting and training on Sept 25 by the Reid group regarding the next step. We are charged with evaluating ministries within Our Lady of the Assumption, as you know from what you read in our bulletin and the Oct 3 edition of Catholic New York. We are on a tight deadline having to complete this portion of the program and turn in by Dec 1. Parishes are asked to look at 3 models for the future in relation to other parishes—the collaborative model, the linked model, or the consolidation model. After that date we will begin working with other parishes in our cluster group. There will continue to be communication to our parishioners about making all things new and there will be gatherings on each of the areas we must evaluate to gather information and input- from finances and administration to sacramental life and beyond. We invite the council to collaborate in this with us.

.Ecumenical Outreach

The Warming Station for the homeless is on track to open for its 6th season Sunday evening, November 24, 2013. There was a **Volunteer Appreciation Reception and Open House on Saturday September 21st** from 4-6pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church 58 West Main St., Middletown. **Volunteers, Staff, and some guests shared experiences**, some light refreshments and **tours were given to all who wished**. We can use many more overnight volunteers.

The **Greater Middletown Interfaith Council** sponsored a **variety show to benefit the Warming Station on Sunday October 6th** at Temple Sinai at 3pm. Gail Johnson coordinated along with others and **several of our parishioners sang in the Interfaith Choir**. After a couple of hundred dollars in expenses, over \$2000 was made to benefit the Warming Station.

God bless you all,
Gary