

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

February 17, 2014

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

### **Adult Faith Formation**

Registration continues for *Following Christ* which will begin on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 6pm. These Sunday evening gatherings are designed to allow those participants who have completed *Discovering Christ* last June to continue the journey together. Whereas *Discovering Christ* focused on helping to foster a personal relationship with Jesus, *Following Christ* addresses such topics as prayer, sacraments and forgiveness. Sunday gatherings will continue through April 27, with a retreat scheduled on Saturday April 5, and no gatherings on Sunday April 6 and Easter Sunday April 20. If an O. L.A. parishioner who did not attend *Discovering Christ* wishes to attend *Following Christ* we will make the exception and invite them to a special orientation on Thursday Feb. 27.

### **'Making ALL Things New'**

The entire cluster – OLA, OLMC, St Paul's –Bullville, Infant Saviour, St Joseph's Middletown, and St Joseph's Wurtsboro gathered on Wed Jan 22 at OLMC to continue the work mandated by the Archdiocese. We have been asked to consider basic models that would involve collaborating or consolidating or linkage of parishes. At that meeting we discussed what we went over in the first 3 task force meetings at OLA from each of the churches perspectives. In the meeting this past Wed, Feb 12 the last area (Administration) was discussed as well as the approach the cluster will take for the final report. Fr Peter Madori put together a piece emphasizing how the geography of the area makes a strong case that none of the 6 churches should be closed, while emphasizing the important role the Carmelite Order plays (3 of the 6 churches.) There has also been a grid put together for possible areas of collaboration as well as the ability to indicate that we have existing programs/ relationships already in place. ( I believe OLA will be one of the leaders in that area) As I stated in last report, I was asked to chair the cluster going forward. I asked for a co-chair and Jim Brech from Mt Carmel agreed to co-chair. In the short run, because of my work schedule with the Warming Station Jim will be present at meetings and I am communicating with him, our cluster secretary and our own OLA core team in between meetings. This week the report is expected to be sent to the Reid Group (the consulting firm hired by the Arch) and, after feedback from them the final report must be at the archdiocese by March 1. They will review and then tell us if they support our opinion ( which is all churches will remain open) or tell us otherwise. If we get any negative response we have 1 chance for a rebuttle to challenge them before June 1. I do believe that we and the others will remain open, there will be more collaboration, and any church that is not excelling in a particular area or program will succeed in that area by some collaboration or consolidation of that particular program. I do have one request: The archdiocese financials has a minus \$266,767 for us in the year 2010. We know that is an accounting function from when the addition was put on and that there was no loss and that we don't owe money to anyone. **If the trustees from that year can explain it in more detail in writing and provide the paper trail it would be good to have ready if it ever becomes an issue. It would be appreciated within a week.**

God bless you all,  
Gary