

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

April 15, 2013

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

### **Adult Faith Formation**

The work of DISCOVERING CHRIST Team is yielding good results. The series was launched as planned on Sunday evening April 7 (Divine Mercy Sunday). There were 65 people including our team and Fr. Stephan, with over 85% from O.L.A. There were a few people from Mt Carmel, St Paul's St Joseph's- Wurtsboro and 3 from Churches that will launch the series later this year to see how it is done. The evening consisted of a dinner provided by our Eucharistic Ministers, participation in praise and worship, a relevant teaching regarding **the meaning of life** on DVD, and group discussion facilitated by our table facilitators. The feedback received during the week that followed was very positive. Last evening's program followed the same format, with the topic of **Why does Jesus Matter** presented live, and dinner being provided by our catechists. Kerry Roberson and myself are so grateful to Our Lord for the wonderful team of parishioners we have working with us! Observations during the evenings and feedback from table leaders to date indicate a **good level of engagement** so far. We continue to pray that each participating in Discovering Christ will move to a deeper relationship with Christ and each other as a community of faith. In a past report I stated that it was our hope to have most of the Church involved in this series in some way. I believe that is happening. In addition to those participating, the Church is praying together that it be a blessing for our entire Church. Also, in addition to the two meals already provided, future meals will be provided by the Middletown Knights of Columbus, Lectors, Choir, Infant Saviour Church, and, of course our Discovering Christ Team. We would like to thank the ushers and other parishioners who helped us last weekend and also thank Tom Dempsey for helping in many ways and for Fr. Stephan's support. It just feels right- **it feels like a church working together in the name of the Lord!**

### **Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick/Homebound**

Our homebound received an Easter message from Fr. Stephan and a gift to show the community is thinking about them .

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

The Warming Station for the homeless in Middletown –The concert by the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council coordinated by Gail Johnson consisting of choirs/ groups from area houses of worship raised \$1,700 for the Warming Station allowing us to complete the year and begin next season with a small reserve. On April 4<sup>th</sup> we had the end of season fellowship dinner marking the end of another season and looking forward to opening again, with God's help in November. Many thanks for the support given by O.L.A. Parishioners..

God bless you all,  
Gary