

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

October 19, 2015

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

We are looking at the first or second Sunday of Advent as the date to host a pot luck dinner, viewing, and discussion of *Pope Francis Speaks to America*. As you will recall from my Sept 21 report to the Council, Kerry and I asked the group at the *Sharing Christ Reunion* if they would like to come together for one Sunday evening in Advent for an evening open to the entire parish to view and discuss the recent ABC program *Pope Francis Speaks to America*. The response was a resounding YES. We will coordinate that with Fr Stephan and the Parish Center calendar. We also mentioned Bishop elect Barron's new series on Catholicism – Evangelization-as something we are considering for the spring and there also seems to be tremendous support for that. This will tie in with the work our cluster churches are trying to collaborate on each doing something on Evangelization as part of our collaboration in "*Making All Things New*".(see my August 3rd report to the council).

'Making All Things New'

The Nov 1 deadline for Cluster Report will be extended and we will meet as a cluster soon. I feel encouraged because at the Adult faith formation Network meeting I chaired in June at which all 6 cluster churches were represented we were able to discuss collaborating on the Evangelization theme. The Network will meet at the end of this month and I hope to bring the cluster together right after that. Basically parishes will continue to be reviewed every 2 years.

Ecumenical Outreach

The Warming Station for the homeless is on track to open Sunday Nov 15. There have been 2 training sessions for volunteers so far with others scheduled Oct 28, Nov 2 and Nov 19. Volunteers are needed to stay overnight assisting staff as well as to bring a meal for 30 guests. Many thanks to generous parishioners of OLA who have donated supplies including one parishioner who donated as a first installment toothpaste and toothbrushes to provide for the needs of the homeless guests thru December. Mt Carmel is currently running its *Socktober* appeal so we can start off with around 2000 pair of socks which will be a great start for the season, The Tri County Action Committee, Helping the Homeless To Thrive, Not Just Survive, a faith based group consisting of clergy and friends continues to meet monthly and there are points of light –rays of hope coming out of it –The new Warming Station in Monroe will be a reality opening up at Sacred Heart in Monroe on Nov 11, Port Jervis is trying to open a Warming Station, HONOR (Helping Others Needing Our Resources) continues to seek funding for an outreach van that among other things will stop at houses of worship at their invitation to outreach to the homeless and others who have limited or no resources, and other positives continue to happen.

Pope Francis Visit

It is my belief that all who have had the opportunity to be in the presence of Pope Francis and/or had an opportunity to see and hear his message through the media have experienced a profound renewal of our faith and it is my hope that his message resonates throughout the country and the world.

God bless you all,
Gary