

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

December 15, 2014

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

Sharing Christ, will begin on Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter). Also being considered is *The Bible Timeline* an 8 week course produced by Jeff Cavins. We are also considering a *weekly time to gather to reflect on, pray about, and discuss the next Sunday's Mass readings*. Lastly, we are discussing a monthly gathering time called *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 crafts and other activities. The group would meet at OLA as well as rotate to some other area churches.

'Making All Things New'

We have completed the initial phase and the feedback was that all 6 churches in our cluster will remain open and that geography is a major factor. An outgrowth of this process will be better communication among the 6 churches in our cluster and more cooperative efforts. A communication came the end of last week that there will be once again a large gathering of the core teams to start the implementation phase. Thankfully our cluster will not be discussing closing or combining churches within the cluster but, more likely, cooperative efforts—won't know the details until the Reid group announces.

Ecumenical Outreach

Since my last report The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council had 2 more fundraisers for the Warming Station – both on Dec 7th. We raised over \$200 through sales of jewelry at the table manned by OLA at Temple Sinai's Holiday Bazaar. (Thanks to the OLA parishioners who patronized). That afternoon, at St John's Lutheran the Otisville Brass played a benefit concert for the Warming Station. (Over \$1500. Raised)

The Warming Station has had 15 -25 guests nightly, serving about 100 different people this season so far. Special thanks to those who volunteer from OLA and to those who support our fundraising efforts.

Liturgical Ministries

This past Saturday I took two parishioners through the first part of the training to become Extra ordinary ministers of Holy Communion. They received much of the theology and directives as well as the practicum for distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. At this point they can function on the altar. In a month I will gather again with the 2 to continue the training, have them reflect on their experience so far and ask any questions they may have.

God bless you and a Blessed Christmas to you and your family,
Gary