

To: Father Paul
Joe Hershel
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

May 8, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report May 8, 2017

Operation Archangel

In order to take steps to protect and secure Catholic Churches from the threat of unforeseen violence and other possible tragic situations, the Archdiocese of New York is implementing Operation Archangel. On Saturday, April 22 Sam Osborn, Matt Ippolito, and I attended the Operation Archangel presentation led by the Squad Leader of the Special Operations Group (Swat Team) at the Orange County Sherriff's Department along with others from various churches. The Cardinal put this in motion about the time of the tragedy last year in France where a Catholic Priest was violently killed in front of his congregation. There have been other tragedies experienced as well. I spoke with Michael Perry as well and although he could not be at the presentation due to work, I am delighted he will also be on our committee as he is NYPD. Joe Hershel had a commitment the day of the presentation but also has agreed to be on the committee. So with Matt and Michael in law enforcement, and Sam and Joe and myself familiar with the physical plant we have a start for the team. Step 2 will be a site visit from a member of the Special Operations team to make suggestions. We are in the process of scheduling the site visit at a time Fr. Paul can be at it as well. Part of the program will be to share information with parishioners at an appropriate time as well. We will keep you up to date on our progress.

Ecumenical Outreach

As you may know, the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council helps to foster understanding and cooperation in serving the community from among the different faiths. Our friend Shaykh Imadudeen Abu-Hijleh has invited us and all the community to an open house and cookout at the Middletown Islamic Center at 169 Ryerson Road, New Hampton New York on Sunday May 21st from 3pm to 6pm. There are two tours scheduled during the event. I would encourage anyone interested to go.

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council is organizing a special interfaith service to pray with and for, as well as honor our Police, Firefighters, Para-meds, EMT's – all of our first responders who put their lives on the line for us. The Interfaith Prayer Service will begin at 2pm on Sunday June 25th at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown. There will be a reception following the service downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. All are invited. More information will be available in our church soon.

God bless you all,
Gary