

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

June 12, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report June 12, 2017

### **Operation Archangel**

In keeping with the Archdiocese plan to better protect its churches, priests and parishioners, we are awaiting word from Sergeant Trazino from the Special Operations (SWAT) Team as to when they can arrange the site visit to Our Lady of the Assumption so they can make suggestions as to how better protect Our Lady of the Assumption from the unexpected.

### **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 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 21<sup>st</sup> from 3pm to 6pm. Fr. Paul and several of us from Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Mount Carmel joined with other congregations to learn a bit about Islam and its customs as well as participate in a tour of the Mosque and share some food. It was a great experience for all.

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 Service has been put together as a result of a heartfelt letter read to the GMIC by a parishioner of OLMC written by the wife of a police officer who has been worried over the years of the dangers faced by her husband and other Police Officers and the sacrifices they make constantly. The Interfaith Prayer Service will begin at 2pm on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> 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. We have 10 coming from OLA so far, at least 2 of whom will be singing in the choir that day, directed by Gail Johnson of OLMC with Maxine Martin. There is still time to sign up. We are trying to get a count by June 15 from all the houses of worship and general public so the OLMC Knights of Columbus can properly plan the food.

God bless you all,  
Gary