

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

September 19, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

### **Adult Faith Formation**

Work has begun on Our Lady of the Assumptions's day of Recollection/Renewal for all parishioners on Sunday November 13, 2016. When looking at ways to improve the liturgy in our 'Making All Things New Committee', we discussed having a 'Ministers Day of Recollection' like we have had in the past, as one way to further connect the ministers to their ministry. Father Paul and I discussed, developing it into a day for the entire parish, including our ministers. We are meeting with our beloved Sister Margaret Ellen Burke who has led several successful days of Recollection in the past for us and who will put together and lead the day on Nov 13 with a theme of 'Moving (Carrying) the Year of Mercy Forward.' I will give you more details in my next report.

The Adult Faith Formation division of The Archdiocese of New York in collaboration with the Augustine Institute is rolling out a program called 'FORMED'. Touted as the 'Netflix for Catholics' - and more, parishes in the Archdiocese are granted a free one year membership. I will provide more info next month.

### **'Making All Things New'**

We continue to wait for notification on when the next meeting of the parish clusters will be. Our Lady of the Assumption's Making All Things New Committee will meet again in October to review Mass Attendance and Collections, and other key markers after what has been a bit of a 'soft' summer. You may recall the goals we are looking to attain include increases above last year of 4% in attendance and 8% in collections. (See June 2016 Pastoral Assistant's Report for more info) It is great to know that with the leadership of Christine Hershel, our Religious Education Coordinator, the goal of 9% increase in student enrollment is already surpassed. One of the items our 'Making All Things New Committee is recommending is a public relations committee whose purpose is to promote our church, in ways and venues we may not be using and/or to develop them further. More next month.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

Season 9 for the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council Warming Station for the Homeless will begin November 20, 2016 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council will host a Variety Show on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Orange County Community College as one of the Fund Raisers for the new season. Tickets will be available soon at \$10 each. Approximately \$30,000 annually must be raised to keep it operational. Area Choirs will be asked to sing in it as well, and some of our OLA Parishioners will sing as well as OLMC and many other Houses of Worship. The GMIC extends gratitude to Our Lady of the Assumption and parishioners for supporting The Warming Station by providing overnight volunteers, meals, socks and other supplies, and monetary donations.

God bless you all,

Gary