

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

January 9, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report January 2017

Adult Faith Formation

At the Christmas Masses each family was offered a complimentary copy of the book *The Lamb's Supper - the Mass as Heaven on Earth* by Dr. Scott Hahn along with a special letter from Fr. Paul. Mass attendance was really good and, even at one per family the 100 books were completely given out by the end of the second Mass on Christmas Eve. As Fr. Paul stated in his letter, "Beautifully written, in clear direct language, this book will help readers see the Mass with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a new heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and powerfully than ever before." Consideration is being given to include references to the book in the bulletin and perhaps having a gathering to discuss it. If there is someone who didn't get a book who would like one, we will figure a way to get them one.

Ecumenical Outreach

Season 9 is well underway for the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the homeless. We are averaging at or close to 20 people per night – a lower average census than last year. Our hope is that the 55-60 people from the Warming Station placed in housing over the past two years is the reason. However, we realize that census can increase any day. There are now 4 Warming Stations in Orange County, all led by the faith community. The others are at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Monroe, St Peter's Lutheran Church in Port Jervis, and United Methodist Church in Newburgh. Many thanks to OLA parishioners who serve at the Warming Station as an overnight Volunteer, a provider of food, and those who donate supplies. The next training dates for overnight volunteers –probably the last for the season- will be Thursday Jan 12 or Tues Jan 17. Both are at 7pm at St Paul's United Methodist in Middletown, the home of the GMIC Warming Station.

The GMIC will present the Annual Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration on Sunday January 15, 2017 from 4pm to 5:30 pm at the YMCA's Center for Youth Program, 6 Liberty Street Middletown. All are welcome.

God bless you all,
Gary