

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

October 17, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

This past weekend, registration has begun for Our Lady of the Assumption'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 pleased that our beloved Sister Margaret Ellen Burke who has led several successful days of Recollection in the past for us will facilitate the day for us. As you know from Fr. Paul's announcement at the weekend Masses, his letter in the bulletin, and conversations with the registration team in the gathering area, the day will begin with 9:30am Sunday Mass and continue on our campus until about 3:30 pm. There is no charge to parishioners attending and each is asked to bring something for the pot luck luncheon during the event. The theme of the day is **'The Heart of the Community: Caring, Gratitude, Hope.'** This day is being designed to serve as a day to provide spiritual nourishment to those participating as well as serving as a community builder, while providing a way to carry the Year of Mercy forward beyond the official close date later in November. It is my hope that many on the council will attend this parish community event on November 13.

The Adult Faith Formation division of The Archdiocese of New York in collaboration with the Augustine Institute has rolled out a program called 'FORMED'. Touted as the 'Netflix for Catholics' - and more, parishes in the Archdiocese are granted a free one year membership. By now you have seen Father Paul's letter inviting all parishioners to use it with our parish code (Letter is now also posted on our website). Each week we have included some information about FORMED in the bulletin that parishioners can use right away, including how to view the weekly 4 to 7 minute video reflection on next week's Sunday Mass Readings, and examples of the 46 different movies that can be viewed etc. There is a wide variety of content so that there is much available for parishioners of all ages. We will have a formal *Launch* of FORMED later in November, sharing much more to empower parishioners of all ages to access information about our faith on their cell phones and other electronic devices. We will have a team available after Masses to assist parishioners who need help in accessing FORMED from their device. Parishioners have access to all content and we will curate information to assist parishioners in finding content that can be appropriate for different times of the year - ie Advent, Christmas, Lent etc. Dr. Daniel Frascella, Director of Adult Faith Formation, Archdiocese of New York has accepted my invitation to join us at the Regional Adult Faith Formation Network meeting I will host next Saturday and FORMED will be one of the topics discussed.

'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 soon and I will report to the Council after we meet.

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 Variety Show is at 2:30pm on Sunday October 23rd at Orange County Community College. Several OLA parishioners are singing in the joint choir. Fr. Paul and I are among the announcers introducing the acts. Tickets are available now at \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Children. If you would like a ticket please contact me or purchase at door. All proceeds benefit The Warming Station. Our Thanks to Gail Johnson from Our Lady of Mount Carmel for Coordinating this event and to all who contribute in any way to benefit The Warming Station which serves those who might otherwise not survive the winter months.

God bless you all,

Gary