

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

December 12, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

In keeping with our tradition of very brief reports during the meeting that precedes our Annual Christmas Social, I present to you the following:

### **Adult Faith Formation**

After the weekend Masses on Nov 26 and Nov 27 we showed the film *Roman Roads* and gave a brief presentation to the parish about the wonderful gift to all parishes called FORMED. I shared with parishioners that, in addition to the fine content already available, children's content has also been added recently. Team members helped some parishioners who had questions about signing in on their devices. We went into the weekend with 16 parishioners who had logged in previously, and at the close of the weekend we had 25 who had logged in. A calendar of suggested seasonal appropriate content to view for December has been included in the bulletin. Hopefully the Cardinal's letter in this past weekend's bulletin will encourage others to do the same. Cheryl Avery, our representative from Augustine Institute/and Lighthouse Publications tells us they strive for at least 10 percent of registered parishioners to have logged in. We are about there now, but we will continue to promote it because of its many benefits. Those who have logged in and viewed content gave positive feedback.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

Season 9 for the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council Warming Station for the Homeless began November 20, 2016 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church with a prayer service at 7:30pm before we opened the doors to our guests at 9pm. Thank you to all who have donated to it and to those who have signed up for an overnight stay.

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service was on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7pm at Temple Sinai, Middletown. Proceeds from the offering are going to the GMIC Food Pantry. On Sunday Dec 4 the Annual Brass Christmas Concert at St Johns Lutheran brought in \$1,300 in free will donations for the Warming Station. On Saturday Nov 19 at 9am OLA hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service for those receiving Thanksgiving Baskets. Over 40 Food Basket recipients participated in the service which was well received. Thanksgiving baskets were distributed immediately following the service. Many thanks to Chris Hershel and the Thanksgiving Basket distribution team who distributed to all attending the service as well as some who were unable to make the service and to all parishioners who are helped in any way.

Wishing you all a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

God bless you all, - Gary