

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

April 10, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report April 10, 2017

### **Lenten Season at Our Lady of the Assumption**

As the holiest of weeks in our liturgical year is upon us, I find myself reflecting on community life this Lent so far and also looking back a full year. On Ash Wednesday, our Eucharistic Ministers served at Orange Regional Medical Center by distributing Ashes to patients, families, and hospital personnel in the new Outpatient building as well as the Cancer Center and to staff at 75 Crystal Run Road. Our Masses at Ash Wednesday and through Lent seemed well attended and we have seen some faces we have not seen in some time. We saw some new faces at weekly Stations of the Cross. Tenebrae last Friday evening had twice as many people as we have seen in many years. Palm Sunday Masses were well attended. Comments from new people and visitors to our church are positive.

Looking back at the last year we have seen very successful days of 'Faith Food and Fun' put on by our Religious Education Ministry, truly engaging students and parents; we have seen more Religious Ed Students and parents at Masses. We have seen a rebuilding of the Religious Education Ministry.

We have seen some very successful Adult Faith Formation Programs, including the Pot Luck last May centered around the screening and discussion of Pope Francis and the People, and the Parish Day of Recollection and Renewal last November, with more to come.

We continue to feed the hungry through our food pantry, help the homeless through our volunteering and or donating to the Warming Station, and visit the sick through our Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound.

We have seen an extremely successful Summerfest last July, and a spirited Dinner Dance last fall. We had a wonderful live Nativity approaching Christmas.

And the list goes on. Reflecting this Lent, I see a new 'Springtime' in the life of Our Lady of the Assumption. As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, I am grateful for His work and loving presence at Our Lady of the Assumption through our Carmelite Priests and the people of God of Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

I reported last month that the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council is organizing a special interfaith service to pray with and for, as well as honor our Police, Firefighters, Parameds, EMT's – all of our first responders who put their lives on the line for us. The date has been set for Sunday June 25 with an Interfaith Prayer Service beginning at 2pm 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 welcome.

God bless you all,  
Gary