

To: Father Sean
Stefan Chevalier
Joe Hershel
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

June 20, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

On Saturday June 18th we hosted at OLA the Adult Faith Formation Network Gathering for the Upper (Northern) Counties of the Archdiocese. You may recall I was appointed Chair in 2007 by Oscar Cruz who was the Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Archdiocese. We meet two or 3 times a year and communicate what is working in the various parishes and to provide each other with support as needed. At Saturday's meeting we had representation from Infant Savior, Pine Bush; St Joseph's, Middletown; St Paul's, Bullville; Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Middletown; and of course Our Lady of the Assumption, Bloomingburg. I reported on our latest endeavor – *Pope Francis and the People*. Each of the churches reported on their efforts and Infant Savior provided material on an offering coming up in September. We discussed that as Coordinators we need to be 'Curators' knowing what is being offered in each of the parishes so that, working in union with our priests, we can inform our parishioners of programs of interest in the region. We also brainstormed a bit on evangelizing and bringing more people to church much of which has been or will be discussed in our OLA Making All Things New Committee.

'Making All Things New'

We had a productive meeting of the OLA MATN Committee, reviewing items like Mass Attendance and Collections from 2011 forward, as well as our Religious Education Coordinator's report to our Committee as well as some brainstorming as to discuss some goals for the year ahead. The consensus of those present is to accept the Religious Education Coordinator's goals including a 9% increase in student enrollment as well as working with the catechists to get their level one certification if they don't have already and pursuing level two. In looking at the Mass attendance and collections it looks like we may be seeing signs of stabilizing over the last 6 months – not all the numbers are in yet. We are looking at stabilizing and then a 4% increase as a recommendation for next year so far. We've done some brainstorming on how to get there and we will formalize this and more in a report that we will want input from Fr Sean on and also Fr Paul's approval. Much more to do. We meet again on June 23 and hope to have report end of June.

Ecumenical Outreach

St Paul's United Methodist had their annual vote and have approved the Warming Station to be housed in their facility for the 2016 -2017 season. This will be season 9 for the Warming Station and season 6 in St. Paul's. The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council will host a Variety Show in late October as one of the Fund Raisers for the new season. Approx \$30,000 annually must be raised to keep it operational. Area Choirs will be asked to sing in it as well.

Our SummerFest will be featured in the GMIC Newsletter which should be released within a week. Hoping that will bring some of our friends from other houses of worship.

God bless you all,

Gary