

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

August 14, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report August 14, 2017

### **Adult faith Formation**

After listening to requests from our parishioners, we will be offering about 4 special evenings this fall using the video put together by Fr. (now Bishop) Robert Barrons – Faith Clips. The evenings will focus on the following topics: God, The Trinity, Jesus, Prayer, Spirituality. I have discussed this with Fr. Paul and am asking Fr. Paul and Fr Anthony to join us at one or more of the evenings. More information will come out to the entire church soon.

### **Operation Archangel**

In keeping with the Archdiocese plan to better protect its churches, priests and parishioners, we have scheduled through Sergeant Trazino from the Special Operations (SWAT) Team a site visit to Our Lady of the Assumption on Wed August 30 so they can make suggestions as to how better protect Our Lady of the Assumption from the unexpected.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council organized a special interfaith service on June 25<sup>th</sup> to pray with and for, as well as honor our Police, Firefighters, Para-meds, EMT's – all of our first responders who put their lives on the line for us. The Service had been put together as a result of a heartfelt letter read to the GMIC by a parishioner of OLMC written by the wife of a police officer who has been worried over the years of the dangers faced by her husband and other Police Officers and the sacrifices they make constantly. The Interfaith Prayer Service began at 2pm on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown with about 75 attending.. There was a reception following the service downstairs in Pilgrim Hall sponsored by the Titus Brandsma Council of Knights of Columbus from OLMC. We had about 10 people from OLA including some first responders, and 2 who participated singing in the joint choir that day, directed by Gail Johnson of OLMC with Maxine Martin. The entrance procession included 1 representative of each of the first responder services. I'm happy to report that our own John Drum was in the procession representing EMS along with Lt. John Ewanciew (now Chief Ewanciew) representing law enforcement from Middletown Police, Charles Paduch representing firefighters, and Jim Bakun, Manager of Orange County Emergency Services Center representing all others involved as first responders. Fr. Anthony and myself also had roles in the service. Carol Bezak from the Shrine is hoping we will do it again in the future.

God bless you all,  
Gary