

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

September 11, 2017

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report September 11, 2017

Adult faith Formation

We will be offering 4 or 5 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. The schedule is being finalized and will be published in next week's bulletin, with the first session most likely on October 2. These evenings are provided at no cost, and registration will begin next weekend.

Operation Archangel

In keeping with the Archdiocese plan to better protect its churches, priests and parishioners, the site visit scheduled with Sergeant Trazino from the Special Operations (SWAT) team occurred as scheduled on Wed August 30, 2017. Joining me with Sergeant Trazino were Fr. Paul, Joe Hershel, Matt Ippolito and Ann Marie Troy. Sam Osborn and Mike Perry were unavailable or they would have been there. It was a productive visit, with discussion on 'Target Hardening' and composition of the team. We have 2 members of our team who are experienced law enforcement officers, and will be inviting EMS and Firefighters in the congregation to join us as well. Sergeant Trazino told us that since we are just over the border into Sullivan County, he needed to refer us to the Sullivan County Sherriff Office. I left a message and am waiting for a callback. We expect our OLA team to meet before the end of the month to further discuss what needs to be done and begin briefing key ministries like ushers. We will be introducing the Archdiocesan initiative to our parishioners via the bulletin soon and then some words from the pulpit.

Making All Things New

Our Church has made progress over the last year and a half. Yet, there is still opportunity to do more. Looking at the period we had set some numerical goals for, namely comparing July 1, 2016 thru June 30 2017 to the same period one year earlier we have much to be grateful for. We broke through the 9 percent increase goal in Religious Education Enrollment by far, we do have increases in collections and in Mass Attendance, but not equal to the 8 percent and 4 percent respectively as we were hoping for –so there is more opportunity ahead there. There are some things you can't quantify with numbers, but they are positive indicators –we are more user friendly, the quality of our liturgies I believe many churches can only aspire to, we are a welcoming church. I'll have more to add in the future and it is my intention to bring the committee together this fall to not only revisit the goals, but also to revisit the progress made on the items we outlined to accomplish those goals.

God bless you all,
Gary