

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

May 16, 2016

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Adult Faith Formation

On Sunday evening May 1 our evening '*Pope Francis and the People*' was an event enjoyed by all! There were 37 people in attendance – 34 from OLA , as well as 1 from OLMC and 1 from Warwick and 1 from Newburgh who have been traveling with us on our journey with the Lord for several years. It was nice to see a few new faces as well. The evening included some wonderful music, short witness, some papal humor, a viewing '*Pope Francis and the People*', table discussion and sharing, prayer, and a Pot Luck Supper. Feedback was extremely positive – and a real sense of community was present. My thanks go out to the entire team including table facilitators, those who helped with setup and cleanup, welcome and reception, those who helped during the registration period etc. While I generally do not mention individuals, I would be remiss if I did not include a special thank you and recognition of Sherri Rufer for her work coordinating the meal, and Bette Bonitz for her always beautiful music, and Kathy Fayol for her witness. And also a special thank you to Fr Anthony for joining us and for his blessing at the beginning and end of the evening.

'Making All Things New'

I invited any on the OLA MATN team who wanted to join me at the Archdiocesan sponsored meeting for MATN parish team leaders to come. Joe Hershel and I attended. Expectations were laid out regarding this implementation phase for each of the clusters. Our cluster has been expanded, now covering Holy Cross in South Centerville, Holy Name of Jesus in Otisville, and Immaculate Conception in Port Jervis, in addition to what it was with OLMC and its 2missions, St Joseph Middletown, St Joseph Wurtsboro. Infant Saviour is now in a different cluster. OLA MATN team is scheduled to meet Thurs May 26 to begin setting goals to achieve in each of key areas working in union with the Carmelites to foster a successful church.

Ecumenical Outreach

There will be a Second Annual Picnic on Sunday June 5 from 3pm-6pm for all those connected in any way with the Warming Station. The location is Fancher Davidge Park in Middletown. All are welcome. On June 7th St Paul's United Methodist Church will conduct its annual vote to host the Warming Station for another year. As we have for each of the past 8 seasons (the last 5 at St Paul's) please pray for an affirmative vote.

We have an opportunity to put info about our SummerFest in the GMIC quarterly newsletter. I will ask the chairs for some info I can include in an article. Deadline is coming up quickly and the newsletter will be published in June-good timing for people from the greater Middletown area to plan to come. Fr. Justin came up with a wonderful idea about having a live nativity at OLA somewhere close to Gaudette Sunday perhaps the Saturday – using the pavilion – inviting our sister Carmelite Churches to attend and participate inviting them to bring their gifts to the day – and inviting the Greater Middletown Interfaith Council Pastors and congregations. There are many additional dimensions and benefits to this – some of which may be discussed later in the meeting.

God bless you all,
Gary