

To: Father Paul  
John Zupetz  
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

November 12, 2018

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report November 12, 2018

### **Adult Faith Formation**

**A morning of Prayer, Reflection, and Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** was held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Service began at 10 am in the church, followed by a meal of Soup and Sandwiches and dessert in the Parish Center. The attendance was good at 50 people including the choir. The service included pertinent scripture as well as a Gospel and Homily by Father and a moving reflection by Sister Margaret Ellen Burk, as well as an explanation of the Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive the Sacrament.. All this was wrapped in beautiful music, some song, and some instrumental meditative music provided by Bette Bonitz and choir. I believe that between my introduction, Sister's reflection and Father Paul's Homily on the Scriptures and the Sacrament, there is a greater understanding among those who participated in this often misunderstood Sacrament. Many thanks to Bette and the Choir for the beautiful music throughout the service, for Alice Cross and Al Ceriale for their participation in doing the readings, to Father Paul for his appropriate Homily, and then Instructions for and administering of the Sacrament, as well as all who actively participated in the General Intercessions and Spontaneous Prayer. And a special thank you to Beth for making the program pages look great. The reception afterward was great with no lack of conversation. A special thank you to Ann Marie Troy for making the two delicious soups, for ordering and picking up the delicious sandwiches, and setting up the center, and a thank you to Fran Dempsey who helped in the set up as well, and to all who helped afterward in the cleanup. Feedback right after the service during the reception as well as in the days that followed right thru yesterday has been extremely positive. In my opinion, it helped feed the community spiritually, emotionally, and educationally, while allowing time for fellowship and good food afterward to also foster that sense of belonging which is synonymous with Our Lady of the Assumption. I hope to soon have dates set aside for 'The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist' which is one episode in Bishop Barron's Catholicism Series, which we have shown in its entirety in the past. This episode nicely complements the Catechesis we have experienced about the Eucharist at Mass by our priests, and adds to it.  
More to come!

### **Operation Archangel**

Great progress has been made toward making our church and campus a safer place. We are looking forward to obtaining one more item that can be important in the comprehensive plan. Once that is in place we will bring the Safety Committee together in another meeting with Law Enforcement. Beth can fill you in on that verbally.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station will open it's doors on Sunday evening November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 pm, after a prayer service. Thank you to those parishioners who have contributed in any way, and to those who will volunteer for an overnight stay, and to those who will sign up for a

specific night to bring a hot meal for 30 guests. Thank you to Beth and Frank ....for singing in the very successful Variety Show, and to Father Paul for his participation as well.

The G.M.I.C. will host an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday Nov 20 at 7pm at St Pauls United Methodist Church. Proceeds will go to the Interfaith Food Pantry at St Pauls -all invited.

Don't forget our Thanksgiving Prayer Service for those receiving Thanksgiving baskets at O.L.A. -All parishioners are invited as well. It will be on Saturday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the church.

God bless you all,

Gary