

To: Father Paul  
Bill Skennion  
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Council

November 11, 2019

From: Gary Texter

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report

Below is Pastoral Assistant's report November 11, 2019

### **Adult Faith Formation**

We gathered in the Parish Center last evening for a meal and table fellowship along with a screening of Bishop Robert Barron's "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist". The video gave participants a thoughtful insight into the Mass and did a great job explaining "The Real Presence". The video was preceded by 3 scripture readings, which I asked 2 parishioners and Fr Anthony to proclaim. There was also song at the beginning and end of the evening to deepen the spiritual experience as well as questions we explored. The feedback was extremely positive with many saying everyone should see the video. Attendance was good and everyone participated, but there were 6 people who signed up that communicated with me yesterday regarding unforeseen circumstances that came up preventing them from attending . There were 17 present including myself and Fr. Anthony – with everyone fully engaged in the program. Many thanks to all who helped clean up.

### **Operation Archangel – Safety Committee**

Sam Osborne and myself attended the meeting the Archdiocese sponsored at St Mary's Washingtonville last month discussing part 2 of parish safety. We appear to be ahead of the curve with the initiatives already taken here at O.L.A. Part of the presentation involved procedure for hiring armed security guards and that it was recommended; many of the churches pushed back and vocalized there was no money in the budget for that. Armed security guards, in my opinion, are not appropriate at this time for O.L.A. Beyond the cost is the fact that it could damage our efforts to be a welcoming church. We know from the past, for a high profile event we can work with local law enforcement. We will invite the Sheriff's department to meet with our Safety Committee at a time convenient for the Sheriff and Father Paul. We also had a chance before and after the presentation to chat with our colleagues from St Paul's and O.L.M.C. St Paul's in particular asked that at some point we could get together.

### **Ecumenical Outreach**

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council Warming Station for the homeless will be opening its doors on Sunday night November 17<sup>th</sup> . Overnight volunteers are welcome.

God bless you all,

Gary