

Fr. Paul

Sam Osborne

O.L.A. Parish Council

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report – November 11, 2022

### **Bereavement Support Group**

The Reunion for the Bereavement Support Group that Bridget and I facilitated on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm through 3:00pm went quite well with almost all attending. There was some really good sharing from participants about their journey since we last met. We noted some of the many fruits that have happened since we last met including 1 participant we referred through Fr. Paul to O.L.M.C. to attend R.C. I. A. Another participant has become active in helping Sam with some of the grass cutting, and the many friendships made or re-established to name a few. Additionally, Vincent DaSilva from the Archdiocese Family Life Office joined us by Zoom for around 10 minutes during which I was able to pass my cell phone to each participant so they could introduce themselves to him. He invited everyone to join in on a special one-time Zoom November 7<sup>th</sup> entitled “ Finding Hope for the Holidays” designed for those who are grieving. That evening was very beneficial, with a few tuning in from home and 8 of us, including the 2 from our fall group viewing it on the big screen T.V. in the O.L.A. library.

We took the leap of faith to run the fall group, when going into it we only had 1 person signed up. So, not knowing for sure if anyone else would show, I asked Alice Cross to join us and partner with us. Having attended the previous group, I knew she would have some substance to share, as you can't have a group with only one person. Well, a second person did come, and Alice has proven to be a valuable partner as well. The current group enters week 5 of 6 this Wednesday afternoon.

### **Operation Archangel/Safety Committee**

Law enforcement will meet with the committee this week to go over some of the details regarding the security of our campus. We will keep the council apprised of our progress.

### **Ecumenical/Interfaith Outreach**

The Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station for the Homeless will be once again opening its doors beginning Sunday Evening, November 20, 2022. We are fortunate in having some parishioners sign up for overnight supervision of our guests and others looking to volunteer additionally to bring meals. If you or someone you know would like to learn more I would be happy to speak with you.

God Bless you all

Gary

