

# Transfiguration Serves

Open my eyes Lord, How can I serve?



*Kindergarten Small Group praying over the bags they assembled.*

Transfiguration Serves is a parish-wide initiative to create opportunities to serve those in need and live the Gospel. The most recent project was collecting items and creating Mercy Bags (snack and hygiene) to distribute to our unsheltered brothers and sisters. The entire parish donated items, and our families at Family Faith sessions assembled 494 snack bags and 200 hygiene bags. Each family took a Mercy Bag to keep in their car to be able to share if they

met someone in need.

Another team took to the streets in Marietta to reach out to those in need. We heard many poignant stories and had the opportunity to pray together and share a Mercy Bag and a moment of joy.

Sherry and Mike, retired parishioners, loved meeting Laura. They said, "She was happy despite an infected tooth, and we loved hearing about her journaling and the poetry she writes. Merely acknowledging that what someone has to say is important." Cathy was happy to "be the hands and feet and love of Jesus to those who need him the most." Kara and her daughter shared that it was an eye-opening experience. "You hear about how homelessness is a problem, but seeing it for yourself, hearing people's stories and seeing how it's changed their lives really makes it feel more real." One of the people they met talked about school and Spanish and dance, and it helped us realize all people need love!

Sally said she saw the invitation in the parish bulletin and felt a call to help. She said, "I needed to get out of my comfort zone, 'out of the boat.'" Billy, a young dad who delivered Mercy Bags, felt the same as Sally and said this experience helped his faith grow by forcing himself out of his comfort zone to pray with perfect strangers. Billy said, "I've been praying for the new friends. I also noticed how people's attitudes mirrored the attitudes of people that Jesus helped in the Gospels. Some people readily asked for and accepted his help. Others resisted a bit. And some people he had to go out of his way to reach out to. I'm looking forward to serving again."

While we don't know the extent to which we helped anyone, we do know we shared a moment of joy - and maybe that was enough for a moment.

Previous Transfiguration Serve endeavors included working with existing Parish Outreach Ministries to host a Service Weekend in March. About 100 parishioners volunteered: assisting parishioners in need with extra yardwork, volunteering with the Mercy Mat ministry, making prayer blankets and rosaries with the Ladies Auxiliary, packing lunches to for the Table on Delk ministry, and recreating the Transfiguration Preschool Garden. Parishioners also had the opportunity to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Perishable Food Drive and Catholic Charities Refugee Collection on that weekend.

In conjunction with the Catholic Social Teaching Ministry, speakers have presented topics on: The issues of Affordable Housing in Cobb County, Thy Kingdom Come (discussing the concerns crucial to the Church and humanity's future from Pope Francis), and Death Penalty & Criminal Legal Reform.

Next up: Another Hands On Transfiguration Serves Saturday in October and Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on November 11.

Thank you, Transfiguration family, for your generosity and commitment to those in need. For additional information or to see how you can get involved, email Breon, [breon.haskett@me.com](mailto:breon.haskett@me.com).



*Mercy Bag delivery team*