

Mercy Bags for those in need:

Have you ever been in this position?.....

It was a cold winter day and we pulled up to a red light. A man stood there on the corner with an unshaven face, a beaten up grocery cart filled with his important and only possessions, things you and I would probably have tossed in the trash at some point. He looked cold, he was suffering there on the side of the road. You could see he needed help, but I didn't feel comfortable . . . I didn't know what to do. "Mom, why is he staring at you? His sign says he is hungry and needs food." My children asked a question, and I couldn't not answer. "He is staring because he needs help. And, I am unsure what to do." I felt like my reply was a letdown, a lost opportunity to teach compassion. I don't carry cash. I didn't have food on me. "Well, we need to do something." My children issued a challenge and we were going to meet it.

Our Spiritual Committee will be hosting a "Feed the Homeless" experience for interested St. Dominic middle school students and their parents at St. Jude Community Center in April. Though younger students do not participate in this event, we would like to encourage their compassion toward the homeless by introducing them to the idea of making a Mercy Bag to help a homeless person in need. Below are ideas on how to create a Mercy Bag, along with a Divine Mercy card that your child can color, cut out, and place in the bag. Please consider doing this with your family!

How to Create your Mercy Bag:

- *Divine Mercy Card*
- coins & dollars
- small pack of tissues
- hand wipes
- travel size toothpaste & toothbrush
- a few band-aids
- travel size soap
- chewing gum
- lip balm/Chapstick
- trail mix
- hard candies
- crackers
- pretzels
- granola bars
- fruit snacks
- bottle of water/Gatorade

