

Reflection on Catholic Charities Outreach

Last week, parishioners, including many from both our St. Vincent de Paul Conference and the Bellarmine Youth Group, joined with others on Xavier's campus to distribute 1,400 food boxes to our neighbors in need. Parishioner Mark Ringswaldegan, pictured here with his daughter, Isabelle, volunteered with us, and shared this reflection:

I try to remind myself that Jesus commanded us to care for the poor, the weak, the despised and forgotten. It is our responsibility, which I try to do with joy, to help out, but I want to recognize that I'm not doing anything special, it's just part of the "job description" as a Christian. "When I was hungry, did you feed me?" Marie Hill [a fellow Vincentian] once explained to me that we are the hands, feet, and (masked) face of Christ. I carry that sentiment with me as I make my deliveries for St. Vincent de Paul, or pass out food at an event like this. I have found inspiration working with saints like Marie, and frankly, with the warm and kind neighbors that I deliver food to. I am humbled by the dignity and grace with which they live their lives, in spite of their hardships. Looking into the eyes of our neighbors reminds me that we are all part of the Body of Christ.

If you want to get involved in or otherwise support these sorts of efforts, call parishioner and SVDP Conference President Jim Doerger at 513-617-2085 or 513-378-8548.

