

## ANNUNCIATION HOMELESS MINISTRY



What do you do when you see someone trying to survive on the streets? Perhaps we have never imagined ourselves in their shoes. Our reactions can range from pity to anger to choosing not to see the person at all. As hard as it is to witness the suffering of others, we must also try to exercise empathy. Imagine what it's like to have no home or support network, to be cold or hungry or sick, to have people walk by you each day and pretend you don't exist.

How can we help when we cross paths with a homeless person on the streets? The answer is not always easy or simple. The best place to start is by remembering the humanity of each person we see. Treat each and every person with dignity – but also follow your own instincts. A wide range of reasons and situations force a person to homelessness. One thing is certain, most of them didn't choose that life. Most are simply victims of circumstances beyond their control. Sometimes all they need is someone to empathize with them and a chance to redeem themselves. Small acts of kindness can have tremendously positive repercussions. Think about making eye contact, smiling, encouraging, and praying.

Please take 10 minutes to listen to this video from our church's Facebook page on the

[Sunday of the Last Judgment.](#)

Through your generous donations and the hands-on help of our Catechism students, we are preparing AGAPE Bags. The bags include a small water bottle, food/snacks, and Bombas socks. We are currently on the waitlist to partner with Bombas, but meanwhile, St. Miriam Parish in Ft. Washington, a current Bombas giving partner, is generously sharing Bombas with us. We invite our parishioners to take one or two or as many AGAPE Bags as they would like to have on hand. Keep some in your car or carry one with you on your commute. When you see someone in need, you can give them this small gift of hope and love. Bags will be available throughout Lent and will be located in baskets marked AGAPE Bags at two different locations – across from the exit to the courtyard and by the exit from the social hall to the parking lot.

Our next serving date at Aviator Park is on March 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us to help serve or donate food, kindly sign up [here](#).

*Prayers for a Blessed Lenten Journey!*

*Καλή Σαρακοστή!*

The Homeless Ministry