



## The Parish Covenant Corner

A weekly look at how our faith community is living out the Parish Covenant and growing in our relationship with God.

*“ I will make a covenant of peace with them...*

*I will be their God and they will be my people.”*

*(Ezekiel 37:26-27)*

I've always tried to help out volunteering my time at school when I'm able to. I've been a Room Mom, playground volunteer, Family Fun Fair volunteer, Theater Guild volunteer, Art Angel, and Parish Auction art project coordinator, just to name a few. It's always rewarding to see all the kids smiling faces, and feel like you're making a positive difference for them in some way. One volunteer activity, however, stands out for our family.

Last December, we signed up as a family to put together Christmas gift packages for elderly parish members who are basically homebound. We met in Marian Hall one Sunday in mid-December after the 10:30am mass. The kids made Christmas cards, and we packed fruit and cookies in gift boxes. There was a pretty large group of us, so it went pretty fast and efficient. I thought to myself “that was easy”. Then, volunteers were needed to deliver the packages. Here it was, a Sunday afternoon in mid-December, and all I could think was how much I still “had” to get done at home before Christmas rolled in. But, we volunteered to deliver 3 of the packages.

That experience turned out to be a really rewarding one for all of us, and really put life and the whole Christmas holiday “rush” into perspective. The kids really enjoyed visiting the 3 elderly ladies that we took the Christmas packages to, and the ladies really enjoyed our visits. The last lady we stopped at didn't want us to leave. She said she didn't get visitors very often because her own family had gotten so busy with their own lives. I felt so bad for her that she was lonely. It made me feel good inside that we were giving her the “gift” of our time. It made all those meaningless Christmas tasks that I thought had to be done at home seem all that much more meaningless, because we had just spent the afternoon doing something so much more meaningful.

We've signed up to do this ministry again this year, and look forward to the opportunity to deliver packages and good cheer to some more of our elderly parish members this holiday season.

Mary, Randy, Theresa, and Vincent Ryskoski

Each week we will highlight a family/individual or group of people that is finding their unique way to live out the Parish Covenant. It is our hope that by doing so we may all continue to grow in our faith and relationship with God. If you have a personal story you would like to share please email Sue Miller at [mmiller101@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmiller101@wi.rr.com)