

BELIEFS Values

Local Prayer Pockets convey your private requests to God

BY RENA FULKA SPECIAL WRITER

Cardboard, shirt-shaped displays with postage-paid mailers are beginning to appear at businesses in Oakland County.

Dubbed, "Prayer Pockets," the new, non-denominational min-

istry offers individuals a chance to bring their special prayer requests to God in a confidential, non-threatening manner. Participants need only write their needs on the free form, seal it and drop it in a mailbox. Unopened mailers are collected and prayed over by an intercessory prayer group at Woodlawn Church in Royal Oak before being destroyed.

"We lay our hands over each one," said Rose Wasilewski of Rochester Hills, who began the ministry earlier this year with her husband, Michael. "The whole key here is that they're sealed. Nobody knows what's inside of that mailer."

One-hour intercessory prayer sessions are led on Tuesday and Thursday evenings by Woodlawn Church's pastor, the Rev. R. Michael O'Mire, whose gift of discernment should cancel out any illegitimate requests, said Rose. Prayer sessions begin with thanksgiving and praise to God, followed by the asking, offering

and receiving of forgiveness. After a silent prayer that allows God to set His agenda, those present pray for special needs as the Scripture instructs in the Spirit and continue with intercessory prayer. The one-hour services ends with praise and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ. "Any church with intercessory prayer can get involved in this ministry," said Michael, who encourages others to adopt a free display. "Eventually, we will be able to facilitate that."

The inspiration for the Prayer Pocket ministry was sparked while Rose was attending Bible study last February. When a woman in her group began collecting prayer requests in a manila envelope each week, Rose was instantly curious. The lifelong Christian felt her prayers had never been answered, so she began submitting requests of her own "to test the water." When Rose found that her special requests were being granted, she



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY STODOLNY

Letters to God: Michael and Rose Wasilewski of Rochester Hills launched their Prayer Pockets ministry as a confidential means of connecting with individuals seeking God's intercession in their lives. Their displays are appearing all over Oakland County.

See PRAYER, B11

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