

New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Tuesday, February 19, 2008



Day 1
February 16
The Team
Leaders visited
the houses to
determine our
work schedule.



Day 2 February 17

We got off to an unsteady start because Joe Viramontes, Rita McCarthy, and Cecilia Roper were delayed in Texas. At the afternoon meeting, Sr. Maureen told us about Sr. Mary Wahoff, C.S.J. She would receive gifts and, in turn, donate them to causes that she deemed worthy. She made several donations to our Sister Parish project in New Orleans. She prayed for us and followed our activities until her death in December 2007. We have her photo in our gathering room.



Day 2 February 18

We attended Mass at St. Peter Claver and were warmly received by Father Michael. He asked his parishioners to speak with us at the end of the service. Members who had worked on projects last year saw old friends and made new ones. For some, it was the first time they had attended a Roman Catholic African-American Liturgy. The Gospel choir, music, and interaction between priest and were interesting.

The Texas contingent arrived throughout the day.

At the afternoon gathering, Sr. Maureen gave each of us Beads of Solidarity which were made by Sr. Corita Eisenbeiss, C.S.J. as a reminder that she would be praying for us every morning and asked our sisters in retirement to pray for us as well.

We especially appreciate the prayers of our parish community and, in particular, those who have promised to pray the rosary for us each day.

Day 3 February 19

We took the old composite siding off of Germanne Mack's house. We built scaffolding at Alvin Lee's house (see future story). Father Jacques requested that we removed wood siding from a church building and recycle it across the street at a community building.

Day 4 February 20

The teams placed flashing around all the windows and doors at Germanne's house and covered holes with plywood before beginning the wrapping of the house in Tyvek. A home health nurse, visiting next door, said that it was such a blessing to see people still coming because they still need help.

Another crew continued removing boards from one building and recycling them to another. Work continues at Alvin Lee's house as they wait endlessly for the city to send out an inspector for the electrical work.



