



New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Monday, February 25, 2008– Part 1

Christian Stevens

Christian Stevens told the group his family's story. His father was a Deacon at St. Phillip the Apostle. Mr. Stevens had prepared the altar for Mass with the white cloth and Sacramentary vessels on Saturday night at St. Phillip for Mass the next day but Katrina prevented that service. The Stevens' home was flooded twice—first by Katrina and then by hurricane Rita. Christian's family fled to Houston and eventually to Philadelphia.

Christian returned about two months after the flood had receded. The water, of course, had destroyed the interior of the church. Incredibly, the altar had floated several feet to a corner in the front of the sanctuary. However, not one thing on the altar was disturbed. One stained glass window was broken and the colored shafts of light shone on the cross hanging from the ceiling.

Deacon Lee's house had been gutted on the first floor in preparation for new plumbing and electrical. Drywall was on-site but it was an overwhelming project for Christian. The house had been used many times by parishioners at St. Phillip and St. Peter Claver because it had a spacious back yard with a swimming pool, hot tub, and decorative pools. The vines were re-taking the yard. The fence was down



Dick Belprez, Always Thinking



Megan Helzendeger

and the pool was a hazard to neighborhood children. Christian explained that when resources had become available, Deacon Lee would ask them to go to other houses because he and his wife remained in Pennsylvania. Thus, 2½ years later, the house needed much work to make it livable.

For team #2, their first full work day was at the Stevens house. While electricians worked at re-wiring the entire house, our crew raked and weeded the yard. The debris was 6 inches thick. Bob Carter, Dick Belprez, and Christian dug new post holes and set them in cement for the new fence. Then the real work started—the whole crew sans Dick moved 131 pieces of 4 by 12 drywall from the carport to the house. Each piece weighed 75 pounds, which means that they moved over one ton including the metal fencing.

New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Sunday, February 25, 2008—Part 2



Sr. Ingrid with Ice Bag



Sr. Maureen

New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Sunday, February 24, 2008—Part 3



Cecilia Roper, Lucy Viramontes, Doris Kalenda



Dick Belprez and Disabled Cars



Dick Belprez in Week #1



Repaired Roof

Jeff Gibbons and Danny Treat



New Orleans Updates

from Sr. Maureen and her elves
Sunday, February 24, 2008—Part 4



High Wire—Loretta Graskemper, Gail Carter, Wilma Rolland



Tom Brault, Wilma Rolland, Joan Jones