

News from New Orleans: Monday 5 Feb 2007

Team members anxiously got started today working on the seven homes that we had been assigned. In each case the team works closely with the owners and in some cases side by side with family members, as well. Father Joe, pastor of the Center for Jesus the Lord, sent us off today with a prayer for our shared compassion. He reminded us to look at our hands as the hands of God, here to seek the best way to serve and remember that compassion is truly “with the passion” of Christ.

In this spirit, the seven teams set out to listen and to work with home owners. We got into the labors at each home as walls were built, insulation installed, tools shared with other workers on site, old lath and plaster removed, studs exposed and plumbing restored. The weather has warmed up and today was a wonderful day to work.

Meanwhile back at the Center, the housekeeping and cooking teams cleaned, shopped and prepared an evening meal for the all to come back for. We also met at lunch time at St. Peter Claver to hear updates from each team leader and celebrate the opportunities to serve our friends here.



Signs of desperation and hope!



Kathleen and Alvin Lee's house still with post flood search information.



Veronica Stevenson's house: Wall and ceiling prep before texture coat.



Veronica Stevenson's house: Baseboard prep before Ed Kalenda's texture coat.



Garmane Mack's house: Sister Maureen gets into the swing of things by helping strip off damaged plaster.



After a hard day's work, the STM community gathers for dinner at the Center of Jesus the Lord