

News from New Orleans

Friday, February 9, 2007 and Saturday, February 10, 2007

What an amazing week this has been for all of us here. Whether we pulled off plaster, pounded nails, prepared meals or delivered supplies to the sites, each of us were inspired by the faith and hope of the families we supported. Friday morning we gathered in the garden for a group picture. Our photographer, George, who temporarily lives at the center with his wife, Mae, is a professional photographer who was displaced from his home by Katrina. As you can see, George knows how to get a group picture done right!



STM volunteers who helped our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in New Orleans

At lunch, Vera Bayliss presented handmade quilts to Garmane Mack and Edith Reed, two of the home owners we supported. In time, Vera will send quilts to the other home owners as a keepsake from our parish. We also have funds set aside for two of the families to continue their own rebuilding efforts. Each team leader is also designating something to be purchased above and beyond the studs and nails for each home site.



Vera Bayliss presents her homemade quilts to Edith Reed and Garmane Mack.

Our teams completed much of their work today. Of the seven homes, two are fully rebuilt now and five are ready for the next team of volunteers and family members to work on. We were fortunate to have both the prayers and financial support of so many STM parishioners and the Sisters of St Joseph. As we worked with rebuilding, we had the resources we needed to purchase all the materials necessary for every job.



Lucy Viramontes, Doris Kalenda, Andrea Voss, Nancy Gayvert, Marge Gillen, Charlene Belprez and Judy Smith were on the dinner team.

We gathered Friday evening at five for a group reflection and then had dinner out in the French Quarter. Each of us gained so much from the interactions we had with St. Peter Claver families and one another. On Saturday morning the final work groups went out to finish last minute details and gather up the tools from the sites. Our last group meal at the center on Saturday evening was funded by the Community Church of Coronado. We enjoyed New Orleans specialties including sweet potato pie and bread pudding.