

## New Orleans Updates from Sr. Maureen and her elves Friday, March 7, 2008– Part 1



Alvini Lee with Terri, Pina, Megan, and Judy

### This n' That

The Home Team provided almost 500 breakfasts, the makings for 500 lunches, and about 400 dinners. Thanks to Charlene, Cecilia, Doris and the teams for both weeks. The meals were prepared without the use of the Center's burners or ovens. The team used only crock pots and roasters. Pina Shaw made ham and eggs one morning. A special thanks to Ed and Doris Kalenda for providing fresh grilled Alaskan salmon and halibut each week

Five of us came down with pneumonia. Several people had bronchitis and other ailments. Our people were at urgent care almost every day in the second week.



Cecilia Roper, Sr. Maureen, and seniors



Catch phrase for the week

We all respect Dick Belprez and his organizational skills. We were mulling over how we could move the 131 four by twelve foot sheets of drywall at the Stevens house and asked the guru. He replied, "Well, I would start at the top."



Charlene Belprez and seniors

## New Orleans Updates from Sr. Maureen and her elves Friday, March 7, 2008—Part 2



Fr. Michael Jacques

### AT JOURNEY'S END

#### At Miss Edith's

Some work was done for her last year. This year, she requested that a wall be removed so that she could have a bigger bedroom. That was done.

#### Miss Eve

The team arrived and was suspiciously eyed by five young males across the street. The women were a little apprehensive but one went over and asked for a rake. Shortly thereafter, the young men arrived with a rake, a lawnmower, and a weed whacker. They worked alongside the STM workers and promised to keep up Miss Eve's yard in the future.

### St. Ann's Senior Home

Sister Maureen and members of team #2 took orchids to the ladies after church. This senior home was rehabilitated by St. Peter Claver church after Katrina. One resident, Miss Rosemary, wanted to show the visitors her room. A place setting with beautiful china and glassware was set. "You look like you are ready to sit down eat", said one visitor. "Oh no, that isn't for me. I always have a place set for Jesus."

### Sewing Vestments

Early in week #2, a call came from St. Peter Claver for seamstresses. Suzee Irwin and Judy Mitchell spent Thursday and part of Friday adding new "Kenty" cloth to the vestments needed for the church dedication which took place on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Four bishops attended the ceremony. Miss Pearl gave the sewers some samples of the cloth to show the parishioners at STM.

### Victoria Stevenson

Her house needed some paint. Suzee Irwin and Bev Thornburg went over on the last Saturday. Ms. Stevenson has a historic house, directly across from the church offices. She gave the ladies a tour which included the former slave quarters in the back.



St. Peter Claver Church

## New Orleans Updates from Sr. Maureen and her elves Friday, March 7, 2008—Part 3



St. Peter Claver Choir

### Diane Blanks and her son, Ferdinand

A crew was prepared to install a new drywall ceiling until they peeled back some partial drywall covering the area above the fireplace. The ceiling was 11 ½ feet high. Serious water damage from years ago prevented executing the project. However, they were able to fill cracks and seams and do some prep work. A team from Christ the King in Seattle has scheduled a contractor to fly to New Orleans and do an assessment of several projects. They will probably complete the work and we wish them well.

### Ottis Theresa Williams

Mrs. Williams is the 92 year old owner of the house with the Austrian curtains mentioned in a previous update. The damage to her house is extensive and was beyond our abilities. Again, we hope Christ the King church can repair her house.

### Alvin and Kathleen Lee

The crew from the first week repaired the damage to the roof from a tornado on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The team from the second week was able to completely insulate the rooms and begin installing the drywall.

The Lees brought dinner to us on the final Saturday night. By then, our workers had dwindled to ten. Stella Johnson, who had provided a great lunch to us when we were doing Garmanne Mack's house the first week, called and wanted to fix a catfish dinner but the Lees were en route. We invited Stella to our dinner. She told her tale of Katrina. She was moved five times to various cities. They felt very unwelcome in some towns and were warmly received in others.

### The End of Our Journey

We met so many wonderful, kind, grateful people. Each had a story to tell about the disaster and how they handled it. Some people lost every photo, every memento of their life, every tangible item gained from hard work and cherished items inherited from ancestors. Some lost family members or had to leave beloved pets behind to save their children, or parents, or themselves. Some live under freeway overpasses. Everyone that we met said, "***I am blessed.***" We were blessed to meet these struggling Christians and to help them try to become whole again.