

**Campus Ministry Alumni Service and Immersion Program in
New Orleans 2008
Canisius College**

A Photo Essay



We visited the lower ninth ward which was the neighborhood hardest hit by Katrina. This foundation is all what remains of one of the homes. We met and visited with the families in the FEMA trailers. (pictured)



There are thousands of homes still left untouched. The "graffiti" are codes from the American Red Cross survey teams looking for survivors just after the storm.

We performed Habitat for Humanity type work with Operation Helping Hands.



We finished painting the exterior of a home and started interior work in another house.



Pictured top to bottom: Mary and Paul Synor, '66, and Tim Blewett, '67



These are two of the children that lived in one of the homes that we painted. To show their appreciation for our work, the boy played *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

We visited two housing developments built by faith-based organizations after Katrina. They provide signs of hope and renewal.



The photo to the right is Musicians Village and built by Habitat for Humanity.
http://www.habitat-nola.org/projects/musicians_village.php



The Harry Thompson Rebuild Center serves the large homeless population in downtown New Orleans still displaced after Katrina. We toured the facility in addition to preparing and serving a meal to the homeless.



This is one of the three Jesuit Volunteer Corps members we met that work at the Rebuild Center. They do about forty commercial loads of laundry for the homeless each day

We prepared and served about 200 meals for the noon lunch.



We all had a spiritual experience when we met the poor. We experienced gratitude. We experienced God. Upon reflection our group felt we experienced God most directly through service.



Sister Inid Storey, PBVM, pictured with Tim Blewett, '67, told us the depth of faith of the homeless is incredible. Everyday someone tells her "Sister, I am so blessed."



Mary Synor signs the appreciation wall, which is displayed at Catholic Charities Operation Helping Hands headquarters.



After Sunday mass at St. Augustine's R.C. Church. St Augustine's is the oldest African-American parish in the country and the site of the tomb of the unknown slave.
<http://www.staugustinecatholicchurch-neworleans.org>

We went with the anticipation of helping and serving others. We found that we were served far beyond what we could have ever imagined. We felt blessed. We had a profound sense of gratitude for one another and for God.