

Catholic Charities Mission Trip Proposal

Prepared For Parish Groups of Youth Ages 14 and Above

With Parish Staff, Parents, and Chaperones

Summer of 2009

Overview – Hurricane Katrina hit landfall, centered on New Orleans, LA and 100 miles each direction, on August 28, 2005. Hundreds of thousands of homes were damaged and in New Orleans alone over forty thousand families are still rebuilding their homes in the autumn of 2008.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown has had a steady presence of volunteers assisting the rebuild through Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans as well as with Habitat for Humanity and Crossroads Christian Ministries. While volunteers ages 14 and up through retirement age are welcome and have successfully served in this ministry, specific trip options are required when some members of a mission group are under 18 years of age. Volunteers are assigned to tasks based on their skills and are encouraged to learn new ones, too. It is always well to include people who have some repair/building skills in the formation of a group.

Volunteers have reported that they have grown in further sense of:

- Church mission and outreach
- Spiritual response to poverty
- Beauty of creation
- Community building
- Personal appreciation of God's blessings
- Collaboration, teamwork, and belonging
- Respect for others
- Career/vocation discernment
- Stewardship

This proposal includes accommodations and arrangements which support and comply with the current Diocese of Youngstown's Child Protection Policy/Ministerial Guidelines.



Cathedral of St. Louis, King of France in New Orleans, LA
(a minor basilica established as a parish in 1720 A.D.)

Itinerary –

- **Day 1 Sunday:** Depart in vans with travelers' or pilgrims' blessing after last morning Mass
 - Lunch and supper enroute
 - Bunk and retire at a *Nashville budget chain motel*.
- **Day 2 Monday:** Depart 7am
 - Continental Breakfast at motel
 - Lunch enroute
 - Arrive in New Orleans
 - Check into *ST. JUDE CENTER* rooms
 - Neighborhood tour of some damages
 - Welcome supper at *Taylor's* home
 - Spiritual reflections
 - Return to St. Jude Center, bunk and retire.
- **Day 3 Tuesday:**
 - Breakfast at St. Jude Center (Team prepares meal at 6:30am, others eat 7:00am-7:45)
 - Depart for *worksite* 8:30am
 - Lunch delivered to jobsite
 - Conclude workday at 4:00pm
 - Return to St. Jude Center for ablutions
 - Supper at *Café Reconcile*
 - River Crossing
 - Return to St. Jude Center for spiritual reflections
 - Spiritual reflections in *Bishop's Room*
 - Bunk and retire.
- **Day 4 Wednesday:**
 - Breakfast at St. Jude Center (Team prepares meal at 6:30am, others eat 7:00am-7:45)(Optional Mass across street at 7:00am)
 - Depart for *worksite* 8:00am
 - Lunch delivered to jobsite
 - Conclude workday at 3:00pm
 - Return to St. Jude Center for clean-up
 - *Mardi Gras Museum* Tour
 - Supper at St. Jude Center
 - Mississippi River crossing
 - Spiritual reflections
 - Sundaes on Wednesday
 - Bunk and retire.
- **Day 5 Thursday:**
 - Breakfast at St. Jude Center (Team prepares meal at 6:30am, others eat 7:00am-7:45) Optional Mass across street at 7:00am
 - Depart for *worksite* 8:00am
 - Lunch delivered to jobsite
 - Conclude workday at 1:30pm
 - *Honey Island Swamp* tour 2:30
 - St. Jude Center for clean-up
 - *Bubba Gump* Farewell 6:30pm
 - *Café Dumond*, for Beignets and coffee
 - Souvenir shopping

- Spiritual reflections in *Bishop's Room*
- Bunk and retire.
- **Day 6 Friday:**
 - Check-out of St. Jude Center and depart at 7:00am
 - Mississippi River crossing by ferry boat
 - Breakfast at *Shoney's*
 - Spiritual reflections in *Shoney's* meeting room
 - Mississippi River crossing by ferry boat
 - *Petroleum refinery* (drive-through)
 - Lunch at Subway Sandwich Shop enroute
 - Supper at CiCi's Pizza enroute
 - Bunk and retire in Nashville budget chain motel.
- **Day 7 Saturday:**
 - Depart 6:00am
 - Continental Breakfast at motel
 - Lunch enroute to Youngstown
 - Arrive at local parish late afternoon/early evening.

Estimated costs per van load of 12 people (count the driver, too) – To determine the cost of your trip, please contact Fr. Brienz at 330-744-5233

CCDOY Responsibilities –

- Fr. Brienz leads the mission and tours in New Orleans. He will be in New Orleans prior to group's arrival and will remain in New Orleans until group departs past the Exxon Refinery.
- Maintain accessibility for communications among Diocese, Parish(es), participants and families by means of meetings, discussions, phone, and e-mail.
- Direct the student group reflections with collaboration from parish staff and chaperones.
- Advise and coordinate on travel/worksites issues.
- Provide safety/health instructions and encouragement.
- Advise on purchases to keep in budget.
- Provide Farewell & Appreciation Luncheon at *Bubba Gump's Restaurant*.
- Provide expenses for Fr. Brienz' travel and rectory lodging.
- Run errands, grocery shop before group's arrival in New Orleans, support group needs at worksites, coordinate meals, laundry, entertainment, and logistics.
- Be creative and flexible in case of unforeseen circumstances and issues to be resolved.

Parish Responsibilities -

- Schedule and host pre-trip planning meetings.
- Schedule and host post-trip follow-up reunion.
- Screen parishioners, students and chaperones for appropriateness to participate.
- Provide two lettered tee-shirts, one ball cap and one journal per group member.
- Provide additional vans and chaperones/drivers as needed. (CCDOY provides one van and driver as donated by a volunteer).
- Provide chaperones and ministers who will supervise the youth in compliance with DOY Religious Education Department Guidelines and Child Protection Policy.
- Provide fees as estimated above per each person participating plus group meals and activities in New Orleans for Fr. Brienz.
- Some items are paid with partial deposits. Rooms are to be reserved in name of Parish.
- Ensure a current Tetanus shot for each participant, along with signed waiver of responsibility and parental permission slips.
- Ensure that each participant brings a sleeping bag, pillow, bath towel and wash cloth.
- Share group leaders' cell phone numbers (at least one per van) with CCDOY personnel (Fr. Brienz, Driver Joseph Fraser).
- Assist students in "phoning home" as needed.
- Keep tabs on students' medical and special needs, communicating these to Fr. Brienz as needed in a timely fashion.
- Provide NAB Bibles for group study during trip.
- Be creative and flexible in case of unforeseen circumstances and issues to be resolved.

Adult Chaperone Responsibilities –

- Be in compliance with current DOY Child Protection Policy.
- Assist in supervision of youth as parish staff and diocesan personnel may indicate.
- Participate in activities as able.
- Assist in fundraising activities.
- Furnish clothing, sleeping bag, Tetanus shot, etc. as do participants.
- Be creative and flexible in case of unforeseen circumstances and issues to be resolved.

Student Participant Responsibilities –

- Commit to teamwork and cooperation.
- Be safety conscious, especially on work sites.
- Be candid regarding health and medication needs, allergies, etc.
- Respect others
- Share:
 - Prayers
 - Time
 - Space
 - Needs
 - Talents.
- Since all travel, meals, housing, and sightseeing are covered as a group, no cash is needed except for souvenirs, if desired. It is recommended that students bring no more than \$20.00 each.
- Electronics are not needed for this trip and their safety cannot be guaranteed. Their use may be prohibited when it conflicts with the activities and spirit of the moment. It is suggest that students share just a few cameras and then share pictures afterward. They can use staff's phones to call home as needed.
- Participate fully:
 - Meeting and being with new friends.
 - Preliminary planning meetings.
 - Group work projects on New Orleans houses and neighborhood yards.
 - Joining a trip van team.
 - Name the team
 - As a team, keeping dorms and vans clean
 - As a team, assist with meal set-up, serving, clean-up
 - Other tasks as needed for a smooth trip.
 - Fund-raising activities.
 - Prayerfully considering spiritual questions and then sharing responses in daily discussions.
 - Representing parish and families in the image of Christ.
 - Have a valid Tetanus shot.
 - Bring own sleeping bag, pillow, bath towel and wash cloth.
 - Bring clothing and toiletries as needed.
 - Wear group Tee-shirts on group activities.

Proposed timeline sequence of steps –

- Meeting of Fr. Brienz with parish ministers
 - Set dates
 - Decide whom to invite to participate
 - Estimate number of participants
- Meeting of parish ministers, Fr. Brienz, and potential participants with their parents/chaperones
 - DVD presentation
 - Questions and answers
 - Preliminary commitments
 - Update participant census.
- CCDOY and parish make reservations as needed based on actual names plus estimates
- Parish funds vendor deposits as needed
- Parish fundraising
- 30 days before trip set solid numbers of commitments (generally must fall within 10% of reservations made)
- Pre-trip planning meeting 7-14 days before departure includes Fr. Brienz, parish ministers, chaperones, parents and youth participants
- Travel and serve others as planned
- Post-trip reunion and reflections 10-14 days after arrival home.

Issues to follow-up:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____