

## **Preparing for the Journey**

You have been invited to assist flooded-out residents in New Orleans.

- 1) What might God be asking of you in the week to come?
- 2) Whose prayers do you wish to receive as you embark? Are those people (the pray-ers) aware you'd like to have them praying for you?
- 3) For what needs of yours might you be praying as you prepare to travel?
- 4) What connection to the Apostles do you see in your joining this mission trip?

## **Monday - Arrival in New Orleans**

2Corinthians 1:7 "For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow." We traveled over 1,100 miles and spent two days getting to New Orleans. We've begun to view neighborhoods that were severely damaged. We've not yet begun to fix homes and neighborhoods, but we've

extended a lot of ourselves to be with people we've not known before.

- 1) Have you noticed anything about someone along the way that reminds you of Jesus?
- 2) In what ways might the Holy Spirit have helped you on this trip?
- 3) Saints are people that the Church holds as models of holiness and virtue who have gone before us in faith. You selected the name of a Holy Saint when you received the Sacrament of Confirmation. You chose the Saint as someone for you to hold as an example for your life. That Saint also can intercede on your behalf in answer to your prayers. In your journey this week, how might your Saint assist you? Have you asked?

## **Tuesday - First Day on the Job Site**

John 15:9-17 "No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

- 1) Is there a difference between our labor in New Orleans and "doing chores"?
- 2) When did you become aware of this difference?

- 3) How can you describe this difference to a friend?

### **Wednesday - Midweek on the Job Site**

Luke 10:1-9 "The Harvest is abundant but the laborers are few." We've labored for two days after traveling 1,100 miles. Someone else started the job and someone else may very well finish the job. But we are adding our concern and blessing to the effort.

- 1) What can we learn from your experiences of taking nothing for the journey?
- 2) How is your experience of relying upon the hospitality of others to help you carry out the Lord's work?
- 3) How do you view the amount of harvest to be gathered compared to the number of workers?
- 4) What did you learn about the broadness of God's creation today? What do you wonder about God's creation today?

## **Thursday - Final Day on the Job Site**

Luke 2:1- "While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 8:8-20 "Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

Our mission was centered on helping families to have homes. In order to help, we each had to step away from our own homes for a few days. Many of our neighbors in New Orleans have been away for almost three years.

- 1) What can we learn from their faith during the Hurricane and its aftermath?
- 2) What appreciations for your family and home have been refreshed this week for you?

## **Friday - The Journey Home**

Revelation 21: 1-5 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away.

The one who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new'."

We've done what was asked of us in coming to New Orleans to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

- 1) What needs remain for the people of our "adopted city" of New Orleans?
- 2) What hope do you see for their needs to be met?
- 3) What needs might travelers like us have upon returning home?
- 4) What do we want to share with others about our experiences?