

A Time to Tear Down and a Time to Build

Ecclesiastes 3:3



The Marianists Respond to Hurricane Katrina

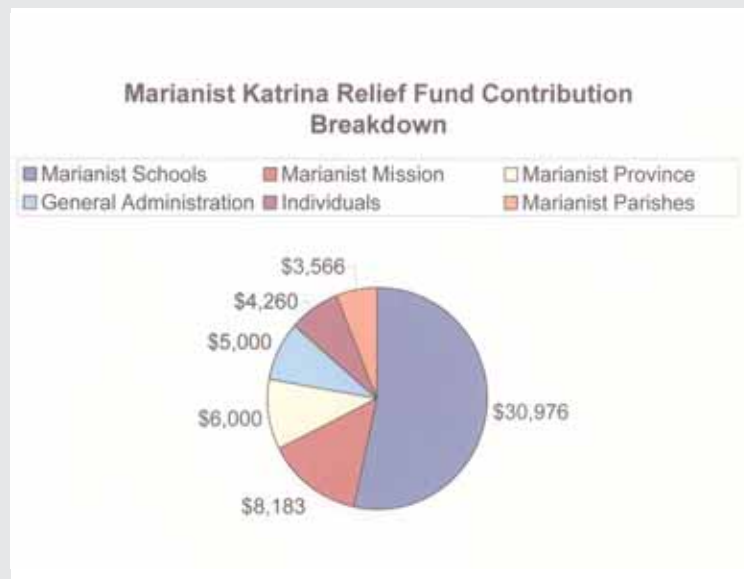
In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest and costliest hurricanes in United States history, devastated the Gulf Coast region. Hurricane Katrina is responsible for over 1800 deaths and damages in excess of \$80 billion. In the aftermath of the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, we were struck by the disproportionate effect on those who were poor and unable to escape. We are called in the spirit of Chaminade to reflect on the "signs of the times" and help transform our country into one where economic security for all is truly available.

Marianists Respond

Over 2,000 members of the Society of Mary and other individuals associated with the Family of Mary, including faculty, students and parents from our Marianist schools and universities, volunteered in the Gulf Coast and New Orleans this past year lending physically, spiritually and financially support. Over \$250,000 was contributed by schools, parishes and others, \$60,000 of which came from the Marianist Katrina Relief Fund.



How the Contributions Were Spent



St. Joan of Arc Parish, New Orleans, reopening school, \$9,000

Habitat for Humanity, Slidell, La., construction of 100 houses, \$7,000

St. Raymond and St. Leo Parishes, New Orleans, assistance, \$7,000

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Slidell, school reopening, \$5,000

Operation Helping Hands, gutting and reconstruction, \$9,000

Province sponsored Immersion Programs, \$6,000

Refurbishment of Volunteer House, \$4,000

Witness to the Devastation Province Immersion Program

From March to June 2006, 65 members of the Society of Mary, associates and faculty, students and parents from Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Chaminade Julianne High School in Dayton, Ohio, participated in three province sponsored immersion trips to New Orleans. They witnessed the catastrophic damage first hand and learned with their eyes, ears, hands and hearts. They gutted nine houses and worked on the construction of two others. They met many people and heard many stories about the disaster and its causes. Most of all, they gave the people of New Orleans hope in the knowledge that there are people who care.



Through the Eyes of Our Volunteers

This was one of the most intense five days of my life, filled with stories of suffering and hope and the opportunities to put compassion into action.

Jim McGinnis
Institute for Peace & Justice, St. Louis



While we witnessed some hopeful signs of rebuilding...we also saw all the more clearly in these hardest hit and lowest income areas that such rebuilding demands not only more state and federal funding but a vision of community that the poor can trust.

Jeff Campbell
Lay Marianist, Cleveland

One day we cleaned out a first grade classroom and we saw of the students names neatly lettered on there desks. I kept thinking about what happened to those young people and how their lives were disrupted. It was quite a profound experience.

Bro. Ray Fitz, SM
Dayton, Ohio



As a country, we have an opportunity for raw analysis of poverty, racism, political corruption and environmental degradation in the example of New Orleans. I would recommend any one who is able to travel to the Gulf Coast as an act of solidarity with those who were affected.

Alison Radelet,
Religion Teacher, Chaminade Julienne

The Next Steps

The rebuilding of New Orleans will be at least a 10 to 15 year process. The Marianist Province of the United States and its communities, schools and parishes will continue to make a difference. In 2006 2007, the Marianist Volunteer Program will have two dedicated volunteers working in New Orleans to coordinate volunteers and relief efforts for the Marianist Family. In addition, the University of Dayton will focus a significant part of its volunteer program and a portion of its service learning programs on New Orleans.



The Marianist Family will be working with four parishes and two schools in the New Orleans area to assist people in some of the most devastated areas. We are committed to bringing in volunteers to assist Catholic Charities Helping Hands Project and Habitat for Humanity to rebuild the homes of those who have no other means of doing so. Finally, we are committed to organizing more immersion trips in the coming months.

How You Can Help



Volunteer to gut and rebuild houses. There is a need for small (5-10) person groups of skilled and semi-skilled volunteers from Marianist communities, schools, universities and parishes to come to New Orleans for a week beginning in October 2006. The goal is to sponsor at least two Marianist groups a month through spring of 2007.

Become part of an immersion program. During this four-day experience you will have the opportunity to meet the people who are the victims, help them clean up and rebuild, learn more about poverty and racism and how it impacts critical decisions in cities not just New Orleans.

Support the Marianist Katrina Relief Fund. Your financial contribution will enable more groups to assist in the New Orleans and Gulf Coast relief efforts. Volunteers have suggested a number of projects in need of support, but your help is needed! Contributions can be sent to: Katrina Relief Fund, The Marianist Province of the US, 4425 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

For more information, contact Myles McCabe or Sue McKamely at 314 533 1207. Or by E-mail to: mmccabe@smusa.org; smckamely@smusa.org