

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thus says the Lord: You say, "The LORD'S way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When a virtuous man turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if a wicked man, turning from the wickedness he has committed, does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins which he committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 18:25-28



Brothers and sisters, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others. Have in you the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11



Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

Matthew 21:28-32

McQuade spokesperson for Pro-Life Secretariat

WASHINGTON-Deirdre McQuade, formerly with the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has been named Director of Planning and Information for the Pro-Life Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). In this position, Ms. McQuade will be the primary media spokesperson for the Secretariat, and will assume responsibility for planning major outreach and advertising campaigns.

Msgr. William P. Fay, USCCB General Secretary, announced the appointment. "In addition to her impressive educational background, Deirdre McQuade's experience in ecumenical outreach, her work with

young people, her experience in counseling and assisting pregnant women, as well as her work with Feminists for Life, provide a perfect background for making known to a broad audience, secular and religious, Church teachings concerning the sanctity of human life," Msgr. Fay said.

Ms. McQuade, noting that the Catholic Church is the nation's most prominent pro-life voice, said she looks forward to "helping direct the Church's educational and public outreach efforts on pro-life issues. There is a great need for people to learn to raise questions about abortion," she said, "especially in terms of its impact on women and our larger society."

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)

Diocesan, parish efforts aid evacuees

BY MORRIS LEBLEU
Editor, Catholic Calendar

From the many truckloads of relief supplies, including water, food, and clothing from various entities to individual church parishes doing their part to care for the spiritual and physical needs of evacuees, to the enrollment of more than 300 students in the Catholic Schools, the Catholic faithful of the church communities of the Diocese of Lake Charles are doing their part in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Deacon Ed Lavine, the Director of the Catholic Service Center, oversaw the unloading on Wednesday, Sept. 14, of a 18-wheeler full of supplies from International Orthodox Christian Charities through the work of Catholic Charities, USA. The 30,000 pounds of supplies were coordinated through the Diocese of Lake Charles and partner members of the Coalition of Ministers in the area. "It was a way to provide humanitarian aid on an ecumenical basis to church shelters in the area as well as individual families within church communities who are sheltering evacuees," Deacon Lavine said. Trucks and trailers from various churches in the area waited their turn to load up needed supplies for their shelters. Members of the various churches waiting in line assisted with the initial unloading of the truck. Deacon Lavine also had assistance from several local companies in unloading the truck as well as storing the supplies that remained. "Utility Trailer and Equipment Co. (UTEC) donated a forklift, a handlift, and the driver to unload the supplies," Deacon Lavine said. "In addition, Affordable Towing delivered the forklift and returned it to UTEC and L & M Warehouse and Freight Co. is providing space for those supplies remaining from the delivery."

"Catholic Charities is working with many different organizations to help send supplies to areas of greatest need," Deacon Lavine said. Deacon Lavine also welcomed another large truckload of goods from Second Harvest on Sept. 26.

A similar truckload of goods came to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Sulphur on Saturday, Sept. 10. The humanitarian aid was the brainchild of John and Barbara Yolda, a private trucker from Danielson, Conn.

Father Brian Schloth, M.S., associate pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, had previously ministered at St. James Church in Danielson.

"The people at St. James People wanted to help people right away," Father Schloth said. "They collected things and sent everything down to me, to make sure it was used right away." Father Schloth expected the entire truckload of supplies to be distributed by Friday, Sept. 16.

On the truck, which was loaded from front to back with items collected by members of the parish and the parish school, were bottled water, canned goods non perishable



Members of the Our Lady of Prompt Succor religious education program, the parish's youth ministry program, and a number of adults help unload an 18-wheeler full of supplies sent to the Sulphur Church by St. James Church in Danielson, Conn. The relief supplies were sent to Fr. Brian Schloth, M.S. to distribute to those in need in the Sulphur area. Fr. Schloth served previously in the Connecticut parish and parishioners there wanted to do something for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

items, toiletries, clothes and some children's toys.

"The truck was unloaded by youth from our religious education program, our youth program and many adults who just came on their own to help," Father Schloth said. The Connecticut parish also provided a cash contribution to the aid effort.

Individuals in the 38 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles have been doing their part as well. Many are volunteering at the official Red Cross Shelters at the Lake Charles Civic Center and Burton Coliseum. "Folks are trying to support the efforts of the Red Cross," Rev. William Miller, pastor of St. Margaret Parish. The parishes are also seeing larger than normal crowds at the liturgies. Mass has been celebrated at the Civic Center and on Sunday, Sept. 11, a Mass was celebrated at Christ the King Church on the Gulf Highway for Catholic evacuees at Burton Coliseum.

"Many of our parishioners also have family members from New Orleans living with them now," Father Miller said. "It's been estimated that there are 10,000 evacuees in the area and with about 3,000 in official shelters that leaves 7,000 in hotels and private homes."

Much has happened with relief at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. The Family Life Center's activity room was converted into a donation station, having received clothing, bedding, towels, shoes, toiletries and various other items. Volunteers were putting in 10 to 15 hours a day to sort the donations. More than 100 evacuee families were aided by those donations.

Rev. Edward Brunnert, Administrator of Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Jennings also noted that many of the families in parishes all across the Eastern Deanery have taken in families of evacuees or, in some instances, provided people with the use of camps at Lake Arthur. "That's kind of a fluid situation," Fr. Brunnert said. "There have been people coming and going" He also noted that one Help of Christians family has taken in 13 people. About 3,000 evacuees are estimated to be in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Two Red Cross shelters have aided evacuees in Jennings - one at First Baptist Church and the other at the Fairgrounds. The latter site sits across the street from Immaculate Conception Church, where Fr. Brunnert's brother - Fr. Jude Brunnert - serves as pastor.

"Immaculate Conception is allowing a doctor from Lafayette to use one of their classrooms as a clinic," Fr.



Deacon Ed Lavine, Secretary for Pastoral Services and Director of the Catholic Service Center, awaits a plastic bag of clothes being tossed by his cousin, John Lavine, from the back of the 18-wheeler that brought relief supplies to Lake Charles. The forklift, which was donated by Utility Trailer and Equipment Co. along with the operator, takes off the first of 26 pallets of relief supplies provided by International Orthodox Christian Charities to assist churches and individual families sheltering and providing for evacuees from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Brunnert said. "He is there five days a week to aid people with medical problems."

Another relief organization in the eastern part of the Diocese is Caring Hands, headed by Deacon Ed McNally of Our Lady Help of Christians. "They have been working to store and hand out relief supplies that have come to them." The group, which is housed in a building next to the Tupper General Store Museum in downtown Jennings also aided displaced school children with backpacks and school supplies.

The parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians have taken up the task of providing meals for evacuees in the shelters. "Our Catholic Daughters and other ladies of the church have provided a chili meal. About 25 people prepare enough for 10 people each and you have taken care of the approximately 250 evacuees," Fr. Brunnert noted.

Fr. Brunnert also pointed out that he had been contacted by a parish in Pennsylvania that wanted to assist. "The pastor called and said they had taken up a collection among their school kids and picked up \$400 and that he was adding another \$100 to the donation," Fr. Brunnert said. "They also collected \$9,000 in their Sunday collection for relief efforts."

In the Western Deanery, Msgr. Vincent Sedita at Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood said, "We have a number of families who have taken in evacuees. In fact, one man who recently became Catholic has taken in 26 people. The man has said that if this (the hurricane and its aftermath) had happened before he came Catholic, he probably wouldn't have been as generous."

"He said coming into the Church made him realize how important people are over things," Msgr. Sedita said.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles registered, as of Sept. 14, 306 students from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Individuals schools and the number of transfer students who are evacuees are Immaculate Conception Cathedral School 5, Our Lady Immaculate 35, Our Lady Queen of Heaven 78, Our Lady's School 20, Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel 26, St. Margaret School 43, Holy Family School 24, and St. Louis Catholic High School 75. According to Deacon Michael Mathews, Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles, many of the diocesan schools are close to full. He also reiterated that tuition is being deferred for the transfer students, noting that registration fees are being waived as well and that students are being accepted without the benefit of their school records.

"The Archdiocese of New Orleans has told us that they are willing to transfer tuition paid to schools in the Archdiocese," Deacon Mathews said. Earlier in the month, Catholic schools in a number of New Orleans parishes reopened but many have already said the 2005-2006 school term has been lost.

"There still may be some parents who are hesitant to place their children in Catholic schools here," Deacon Mathews said. "They hope they will be able to go back soon."



The office and Family Life Center staffs at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church have taken on many additional responsibilities in assisting evacuees, including converting the Family Life Center Activity Room into a donation station. The Center has received clothes, bedding, towels, shoes, toiletries and various other items. Many volunteers have been sorting these items 10-15 hours each day. Over 100 evacuee families have utilized these donations.