



Service Trip to New Orleans

Reflections by Katie Sclafani and Sister Maryanne Tracey, SC



Sister Maryanne Tracey, Stephanie Dempsey and Katie Sclafani at a service site in New Orleans.



Group of young women volunteers praying together during the service trip to New Orleans.

Katie Sclafani: While I was in New Orleans, I learned that a majority of the residents have been forgotten. They are still suffering the effects of natural disasters, particularly Hurricane Katrina. With our big group of volunteers, we were able to tackle large projects. This included the cleaning and organizing of homes and apartments. From moving furniture to organizing clothes and playrooms, we did it all.

I was particularly touched when we helped a woman clean up her home from a recent flood. As she saw our progress, she was motivated to clean as well. She expressed her hope that 2019 would be a better year; in witnessing our efforts, we had sparked the flame to start anew. Seeing how she appreciated our contribution brought me great joy. It's up to individuals like me to really make a difference.

Sister Maryanne Tracey: I visited New Orleans for the third time in four years as part of a service project with two students from the College of Saint Elizabeth. We stayed at the House of Charity which was specifically built for volunteers by the Sisters of Charity Federation for various groups who come to work on service projects. It is a wonderful opportunity for young women from the different branches of the Federation to come together and share prayer, community, fun, and service.

My observation is that there is still much to be done in New Orleans; there are neighborhoods that have yet to be revitalized. But the hope and tenacity of the people of this great city continue to bring light for the future. It is through the generosity of thousands of volunteers, who give their time and energy, who make this hope a reality.

Friday Night Supper and Story

by Emma Cicala



The evening I spent with the sisters was one filled with games, laughter, and joy. Having the opportunity to meet and bond with sisters from all different Congregations was eye-opening and quite educational. I learned countless interesting facts and heard many varying stories about the life experiences of women who chose this vocation. At table five, we played very intense games of Jenga and got to know each other very well through icebreakers and other activities. Next year I hope I will get the opportunity to participate in another evening of fun-filled activities, singing, and prayer!



Vocation Receives Mini-Grant

The Vocation Office received a mini-grant for National Catholic Sisters Week 2019. The funds can be used for interactive events that honor our sisters during the week of March 8-14. Do you have an idea for an event you'd like to see? We'd welcome anyone who'd like to collaborate with us to honor our sisters this week.

Take Ten Returns

Last year, a charitable initiative called "Take Ten" was launched by the Vocation Office. We are happy to announce that "Take Ten" is returning in the early spring. We are partnering with the College of St. Elizabeth and the Academy to spread the Good News that acts of kindness can be achieved in as little as ten minutes. Ideas for acts of kindness will be shared online on Facebook and Twitter pages; they will also be printed and placed in bowls throughout the Motherhouse and campus.



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