

# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

## Moving Forward in Ministry





**As I travel around the diocese** I am often asked "What is the diocese doing?" in relation to everything from evangelism to hurricane recovery. Indeed, our mandate is great and it has grown even greater since the storms that forever altered our lives.

I know that my life and mission has been altered, and so too that of the Diocese of Louisiana. Although hurricane rebuilding and recovery takes a lot of our time and treasure we have still made real internal changes to adapt to the larger numbers of employees and greater visibility.

Under the leadership of the Rev'd Canon Mark Stevenson, Canon to the Ordinary, we have implemented stronger internal financial controls and Human Resource practices into the office. Also, the position of Canon Missioner, served by the Rev'd Canon Scott Albergate, was created to promote the development of our existing congregations and campus ministries, as well to oversee the establishment of new congregations in high-growth areas of the Diocese.

The Director of Development, Dana Land, continues to help parishes institute planned giving and other resources into their stewardship profiles. Also, a Communications team compiles and edits the new Churchwork magazine, the E-DoLA newsletter, and a new website to help serve the diocese better and provide a "digital faith community."

This, in addition to the comprehensive ministry of the Office of Disaster Response, led by the recently appointed Nell Bolton, makes for a dynamic diocesan office engaged in the community and lives of the people throughout our diocese.

*Charles E. Jenkins*

# MOVING FORWARD IN MINISTRY

## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE/EMERGENCY RELIEF

In the early days after Hurricane Katrina congregations across the diocese responded in deep and meaningful ways. Outreach to evacuees in Baton Rouge, emergency goods to Bogalusa and relief supplies distributed in New Orleans are just a few of the ways in which the Episcopal Church responded to the needs throughout South Louisiana.

## LONG TERM RECOVERY & RENEWAL

- **Office of Disaster Response (ODR) Established**  
*Diocese & Episcopal Relief Development (ERD)*  
The ODR is serving families in the city of New Orleans and surrounding communities. The ODR administers a comprehensive scope of programming, from house gutting to reconstruction to providing food, pastoral care and primary health care. The case management program helps navigate the process of recovery and rebuilding. St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. Mark's generously house volunteers working on rebuilding projects.
- **Urban Ministry Center**  
An unprecedented domestic grant from ERD enabled the diocese to make a down payment on the purchase of the Victorian house that sits next to the diocesan offices in New Orleans. The Urban Ministry Center houses volunteers, the offices of the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative and provides a location for youth and family work.
- **St. Paul's Homecoming Center, Lakeview**  
The center offers assistance including child care on weekends for families rebuilding their homes, connections to contractors and builders, access to computers, fax machines, copiers and lawn equipment, and even an on-site laundromat. The center provides housing for volunteer crews who help families with cleaning up projects in the neighborhood. And, several case managers work out of St. Paul's.
- **Church of All Souls, Lower Ninth Ward**  
The Church of All Souls was born out of the ministry of presence of the Mobile Respite Care Unit on the corner of St. Claude and Caffin. The diocese currently leases a former Walgreen's to house the church and a community center in that neighborhood.

## NEIGHBORHOOD FEEDING AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

- **Mobile Respite Care Unit**  
*St. Luke's, Baton Rouge & Diocese*  
After Hurricane Katrina, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, purchased a motor home and dispatched it to the Lakeview area of New Orleans. The motor home was donated to the diocese and traveled to sites around New Orleans distributing goods and offering pastoral care. This program was phased out in September 2007, but consideration is being given to re-shaping the ministry to meet mental health care needs.
- **Mobile Loaves and Fishes**  
*Trinity Church, New Orleans*  
The Mobile Loaves and Fishes program is a ministry of Trinity, New Orleans. Volunteers prepare sandwiches six days a week and drive into neighborhoods to feed nearly 2,000 workers and residents each month.
- **Dragon Cafe**  
*St. George's & the Diocese*  
Every Thursday and Friday night the lines form along St. Charles Avenue waiting for the doors to open for a delicious free meal provided by volunteers.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

- **Grace Community Services, LaPlace**  
Case Managers meet with individuals to identify their needs, map out individual recovery plans, and link them to resources available to them. Each summer, children can attend Camp Noah, which is a free, week-long faith-based camp designed for children who have lived through a natural disaster.
- **New Orleans**  
Through the Katrina Aid Today consortium, the ODR assists survivors through the process of applying for and obtaining federal, state and private disaster assistance programs. Case managers are housed in sites around the city, including the Urban Ministry Center and St. Paul's Welcome Home Center.

## HOUSING

Affordable, safe housing is one of the biggest issues facing New Orleans. The devastation caused by Katrina, in addition to year of economic downturn, has left more than 70 percent of the housing stock uninhabitable in New Orleans.

- **House Gutting and Rebuilding**

*Rebuild Team & Diocese*

Volunteers from across the country helped families to clean out their damaged properties, and are now helping those families to rebuild their homes.

- Dollar Value of Gutting: 883 homes x \$6,000 =
- \$5.3 million value
- Refurbishing numbers: 38 homes as of December 2007.

- **Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative**

*Cathedral & Diocese*

Jericho Road was formed in 2006 with the purpose of creating community partnerships and collaborating to rehabilitate neighborhoods, empower families and transform communities throughout the city.

Jericho Road receives adjudicated properties from the city of New Orleans, and in turn builds affordable housing on the home sites. As of December 2007, 41 lots have been acquired and 13 houses have been constructed.

## HEALTH CARE & COUNSELING SERVICES

- **St. Anna's Mobile Medical Unit**

*St. Anna's & the Diocese*

The Rev'd Bill Terry and parishioner Diana Meyers, an RN who lost her nursing job following Katrina, noted the severe lack of medical care in the community. With assistance from the Diocese and other faith-based groups, an RV was secured to serve as a Mobile Medical Unit. Today, the medical unit provides free hypertension and diabetes screenings, occasional sample medication, and basic medical care with the part-time staffing of a doctor and/or nurse practitioner.

- **St. Thomas/LSU Health Clinic**

*Supported in part by the Diocese*

This clinic provides pediatric care, along with mammography and cardiology services, for uninsured and low-income residents of the city.

- **Suicide Intervention**

*Christ Church, Covington & Diocese*

Even before Katrina struck, the North Shore area had the highest suicide rate in the state. An emergency call center and counseling service has been established to serve this neighborhood.

- **Legal Aid**

*Chapel of the Holy Spirit, New Orleans, Loyola Law Clinic & Diocese*

Free legal aid clinic was established to provide basic legal services for local residents.

- **Hispanic Apostolate**

*St. Anna's & Diocese*

The Diocese has partnered with St. Anna's to deploy a bilingual priest to begin a ministry to the burgeoning Latino community of New Orleans, while Iglesia Episcopal de la Grazia, the long-time Hispanic apostolate of Grace, Canal Street, continues to grow.

- **Pre-School Programs**

The Diocese has helped to fund new pre-school programs at St. Andrew's, Grace Church and hopes to open a program at All Souls Churches in New Orleans.

## ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Since Katrina, Bishop Jenkins has reached out to pastors in the Central City neighborhood and across racial boundaries in the city. As rebuilding moves forward, the diocese has established itself as a trusted partner in that process.

Some Partnerships Include:

- Central City Renaissance Alliance
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Houston Diaspora
- Central City Pastors
- Renaissance Village organizing effort
- Louisiana Diaspora Advocacy Project
- REACH-NOLA resilience project
- FYRE Youth Squad at John McDonough High School

Krivot & Krivot, a Washington D.C. lobbying group, is helping the diocese to address the housing needs in New Orleans by accessing federal funds and monitor upcoming legislation that will affect New Orleans residents.

## HOUSE OF BISHOPS & ARCHBISHOP VISIT

A highlight in the life of the diocese since Katrina was the historic visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the House of Bishops to New Orleans in September 2007. At the invitation of Bishop Jenkins, the Archbishop spoke at an Ecumenical Service at the convention center to a crowd of more than 2,500.

The Office of Disaster Response (ODR) is funded mainly by a grant from Episcopal Relief & Development. But, the diocese also runs the Congregational Ministry Initiative Program (CMI) through donations made directly to the diocese.

The CMI program came into being as a result of the tremendous out-pouring of generosity from around the world in the days following Katrina and Rita. All gifts designated for direct human relief were put into a fund entitled Hurricane Relief. Very quickly, that fund grew to nearly \$1 million. The Bishop requested that the Executive Board develop guidelines for its use. Out of that request was born the Congregational Ministry Initiative program.

The stated purpose of the CMI program was and is to fund and empower ministry on a congregational level that provides relief and aide to those directly affected by the storms. Grants are given for up to \$100,000.00 for a period of one year, and a congregation may reapply for additional years. Episcopal Relief and Development was so impressed by this program and the ministries it allowed to happen that they made additional dollars available in 2007 to continue to fund it!

The CMI program is now well into its second year, and the current breakdown of congregations and their programs are as follows:

- Christ Church Covington Suicide Prevention (2 years) \$167,515.00
- Grace New Orleans Child Care Center \$100,000.00
- Holy Spirit New Orleans Legal Aide \$88,350.00
- St. Andrew's New Orleans Preschool (2 years) \$172,000.00
- St. Anna's New Orleans Mobile Medical Mission (2 years) \$200,000.00
- St. Anna's New Orleans Hispanic Apostolate \$100,000.00
- St. George's New Orleans Dragon Café (2 years) \$190,771.00
- St. Luke's New Orleans Food Pantry \$52,500.00
- St. Paul's New Orleans Administrative Support Coop \$57,141.00
- Trinity New Orleans Social Renewal \$84,440.00

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover: Bishop Kirk Smith, Diocese of Arizona, helps on one of Jericho Road's construction site during the House of Bishop's "Day of Service" on September 22, 2007. The writing on the house framing is from volunteers that have helped build the house. "The idea is that love and prayers are built into the home," Holly Heine, director of operations and communications for Jericho Road, said.

(From left-right):  
A volunteer with the Rebuilding Program works tiling a floor.

Shakoor Aljuwani and a group of young people from New Orleans advocate for equal opportunity.

Students from St. Paul's Day School, New Orleans, work in the Lakeview community garden.

Middle Panel: The Archbishop of Canterbury met with Bishop Jenkins and children from New Orleans during his visit to New Orleans in September 2007.

Back Cover: Ms. Cora, a resident of New Orleans, admires the work of volunteers with the diocesan Rebuild Team who helped reconstruct her damaged house.





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