

clothing. Besides donating food to the Red Cross Center, where a number of people were temporarily staying, the Parish came together to prepare a dinner for them and we had the opportunity to meet and share with them our concern and willingness to help in anyway we could.

Some families have decided to remain in the area and we welcomed those who are Catholic into the Holy Cross Community. We are blessed to have them. Katrina had one

special indirect effect on the Parish: our completed plans to renovate the Church building were suddenly held up. The day when the contracts were to be signed,

the contractor who was going to do the work suddenly pulled-out. It seemed the company had major problems because of the storms. We happily found another contractor and the work will begin this month.

Hurricanes are fearful. They also reveal the deep faults within our society while also displaying the extraordinary goodness of people. We hope Katrina will be seen to be, as C. S. Lewis phrased it, a "severe blessing" that will awaken us to our responsibility

toward one another and sharpen our critical awareness toward defects within our political and social institutions. T

*We hope Katrina will
...awaken us to our re-
sponsibility toward one
another and sharpen our
critical awareness toward
defects within our politi-
cal and social institutions.*

from Senan Gallagher in Charleston

For the most part, this far north in Mississippi — about 270 miles north of the Gulf Coast and the furthest from the coast of all Missionary Servant missions — was spared any real damage from the storm.

I was in Florida when Katrina it hit and had to return by way of Georgia and central Alabama. Power outages were spotty in Charleston. The electricity was off here in the rectory when I got home and had been for about three days. It was about 95 degrees in the trailer and the food in the fridge and freezer was lost. Lucky for me, the power came on after a few hours after my return. I think most of the power in the area was restored in a few days.

There are a number of people in the area, storm refugees from New Orleans and the Coast, and

a few of them are Catholic. A priest and his mother and father were living at a hunting camp in the area, and a family with four young children was staying here with relatives. All came to Mass on Sunday. The parishioners have been very concerned about them. Most of the others refugees who came to the area were not Catholic and were staying at summer camps and are being cared for by other churches in town. We were involved with all the churches in providing help.

We thank God for being spared any real damage. Everyone felt blessed that we were only inconvenienced and that the rain with the storm was light and did not hurt the cotton crop, so important to the economy of the area. The main and continuing concern is for those in need and how we can help. T

*We were involved with
all the churches in
providing help....The
continuing concern is
for those in need.*

Send your articles and photographs to:
Edwin Dill, 9001 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD U.S.A.
E-mail: dill@trinitymissions.org