

# New Orleans Mission Trip Newsletter

St. Theresa of Avila Parish \_\_\_\_\_ April 15-21, 2018



## Our Story

From April 15-21, 2018, our group of 14 high school students and 3 chaperones from St. Theresa of Avila Parish traveled to the Archdiocese of New Orleans and participated in work projects to restore homes of those who have suffered from major flooding and hurricanes in Louisiana. We stayed in the town of Bogalusa and traveled to worksites in both Franklin and Angie, LA daily. From Monday to Thursday, we would wake up, attend daily Mass, work at our worksites, come home in the late afternoon to rest and clean-up, have dinner (usually a Louisiana favorite) provided by the local Knights of Columbus and then have community time in the evening full of games, talks, small group time and prayer. We worked hard during the day tearing up rugs, painting, joint compounding, caulking, sanding, replacing cabinet handles, replacing floor boards, etc. Through the service, the people we met and the faith that we shared, our group had an amazing time, full of many life-changing experiences. Thank you so much for your support which made this opportunity possible!





Above are the two daily work groups pictured with the two women whose homes we worked on during the week. We learned a lot from these two amazing women. They gave us much joy and a greater understanding of perseverance and hope especially in times of misfortune. It was such a pleasure to serve them!

### Student Stories

“I learned that continuing the mission of God can spread kindness. I also learned that by helping others we can create a better relationship with God and grow deeper in our faith. This experience opened new doors and helped me expand my knowledge of Catholicism.”  
-Ashley, BLS, Grade 10

“I enjoyed the mission trip a lot because it made me realize how lucky we all are compared to the people who don't have permanent livable homes and that we should all help those less fortunate than us. I think the overall experience strengthened me and my peers' faith as well as motivated us to do good things for other people.”  
-Julia, BLS, Grade 10

“This trip was not only fun because we had the opportunity to create new/strengthen friendships, play games, sing along with the piano and go to Sonic, but also because we had the opportunity to experience a new environment, in which so many were struggling due to the Louisiana Floods of 2016. It was shocking to understand that so many people were waiting for a group of teenagers to help restore their homes, but I am so glad that we were able to help these amazing people who have undergone unspeakable tragedies. This experience also allowed us to grow in our faith by attending daily Mass and praying with the community of Bogalusa. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to travel to Louisiana and help in any way possible while also exploring New Orleans!!”  
-Emily, BLS, Grade 10



Left: On Friday, we had a free day in the city of New Orleans. We explored the French Quarter, ate at the famous Café Du Monde, visited the world-famous WWII Museum, took a bus tour, tried fried alligator and so much more. We had an adventurous day! Right: In the evening, we also got to meet Archbishop Hughes (Archbishop Emeritus of New Orleans). He was actually born and raised in St. Theresa Parish so it was such an honor to visit with him, a fellow parishioner.