

# Houston Mission Trip Newsletter

St. Theresa of Avila Parish

April 14-19, 2019



## OUR STORY

From April 14-19, 2019, our group of 22 high school students and 5 chaperones from St. Theresa of Avila Parish traveled to Houston, TX and participated in work projects to restore homes of those who suffered from Hurricane Harvey in the summer of 2017. For four days, Monday to Thursday, we woke up, attended daily Mass, worked at our three different worksites, came home in the late afternoon to rest and clean-up, had dinner and then had community time in the evening full of games, talks, small group time and prayer. We also enjoyed two free days in Houston. On Sunday afternoon, we went to the Johnson Space Center (NASA), and in the evening, we enjoyed dinner at the Kemah Boardwalk right on the Gulf of Mexico. On Friday, we traveled downtown to tour the JP Morgan Chase Tower and the city's underground tunnel system. Then, we had a slight turn of events on Friday evening when our flight back to Boston was cancelled, but after 24 extra hours in Houston, we were able to get on a flight and return home just in time for Easter! Overall this trip was a wonderful experience full of learning new skills, growing in community and faith and enjoying the time to meet and help people in need. Thank you so much for your support which made this opportunity possible! Read about our three different worksites next!

#1

### MELVIN'S HOME

We put siding on the house and cut and installed dry wall.



"I really enjoyed going to Houston this year! It was so much fun and I learned how to do new things. On one of the days we were working, a relative came in and started crying because of the progress we had made on the house. This really showed me the impact we make by going on these trips and helping people in need. I am so glad I had the opportunity to help the people of Houston!" -Kate, Grade 11, BLS

#2

### MS. DUNLAP'S HOME

We were the first group to work on this house since Hurricane Harvey. We did demo and mold removal.

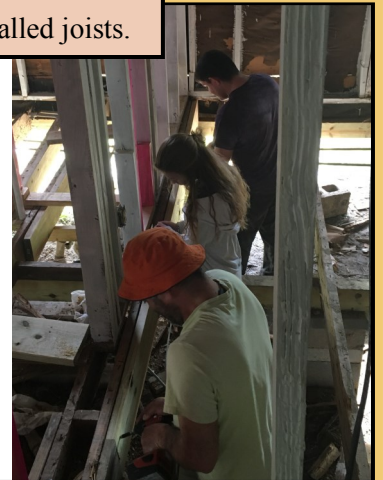


“This trip to Houston was an amazing learning experience and opportunity to create and reinforce friendships. On the first day at Ms. Dunlap’s house, we worked on demolition. We ripped up tiles, tore down cabinets, removed mold, and more. It’s hard to comprehend living in a house that stood in such horrible condition, and even harder to imagine how the homeowner felt. Ms. Dunlap was displaced from her home, and even though progress is underway, her struggles are insurmountable. Thus, being able to help her, even if only slightly, was extremely heartwarming and rewarding.” -Emily, Grade 11, BLS

#3

### MS. LEWIS' HOME

We measured, cut, placed and screwed in subflooring and installed joists.



“I’m so grateful I got to go on this trip. Thank you so much for all the help in making it possible for all of us to go! In Houston I worked on Ms. Lewis’ house and she got to come over a couple of days and see her house’s progress. She also told us what it was like to be in all these hurricanes and to not be able to live in her house over the past couple of years. This really put into perspective how lucky I am to not have to worry about things like this. In the house my group got to work in, we put in the floor boards for the whole house...Overall Houston was so much fun and a great life experience!” -Kelly, Grade 10, BLA

#### MORE WORDS FROM THE STUDENTS

“I am so happy that I went on this year’s trip and am thankful to everyone in the parish community who supported us, and look forward to where the parish trips go in the future.” -Taylor, Grade 10, BLS

“Since this trip, I have realized to not take things for granted and to really appreciate what I have in comparison to others.” -Hailey, Grade 9, BLS

“Not only did this trip deepen my faith, but it deepened my appreciation for my friends and family as well.” -Ashley, Grade 11, BLS

“It felt really good being able to help someone with something they will use every day for the rest of their life.” -Sirio, Grade 9, CM

“I’m glad I went on this trip because I was able to see the conditions these people were in and have been for many months. It was a lot of fun and I’d like to thank all who contributed to the trip.”  
-Michael, Grade 9, BLA

“This year in Houston I was happy with all the work we did. The house we worked on we put in the sub flooring and when we got there, there was only about one floor done but by the end of the week we had finished all of the sub flooring. I felt so good with all the work I did over April break and would happily do it again.” -Tim, Grade 10, CM