

## Katrina Remembrance Sunday in The Episcopal Church



August 31, 2008

*I*t has been said that 'you can give without loving, but you can't love without giving,' and I understand that more deeply now than before Hurricane Katrina ripped through our lives and ministry in 2005. We have been the recipients of your love and are truly grateful. —The Rt. Rev. Charles Jenkins, Bishop of Louisiana

## Katrina Recovery: Rebuilding the Beloved Community

*A message from the Dioceses of Louisiana and Mississippi*

**T**he Gulf Coast has been enriched by the thousands of volunteers who have come to Louisiana and Mississippi to share their gifts of time, talent, treasure and prayer in our recovery from the devastating hurricanes of 2005. The mission we have been called to since Katrina has transformed our dioceses and enabled us to focus on the work of Christ more clearly.

Thanks to the generosity of Episcopal Relief and

Development and supporters across the country, our ministries provided immediate relief to hundreds of thousands of people, and continue to serve tens of thousands of families struggling to rebuild their lives. Together we have come to understand ourselves as servants working to honor the God-given dignity of all members of our community, striving to renew an area suffering from the slow-healing wounds of an unprecedented disaster.



The work before us remains immense. To meet the grave housing shortage, we are rebuilding flooded homes with volunteer labor as well as creating affordable homeownership through Hallelujah Housing (Mississippi) and Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative (Louisiana). To bring our neighbors home, we offer case management and other direct assistance ministries, and work for equitable, responsive rebuilding policies. Creative programs build community resilience, as well as heal trauma.

Yet, the opportunities to live into God's transformation are great. We invite all Episcopalians to come and join with us in the ongoing Gulf Coast recovery efforts. Many meaningful work experiences ex-

ist, including opportunities with rebuilding homes, feeding ministries and health and pastoral care. Serving together has provided a rich context for spiritual growth for the thousands of volunteers who have come through the Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response and the Diocese of Mississippi's Camp Coast Care and Mission on the Bay.



To learn more about volunteering with the Diocese of Louisiana, visit our Office of Disaster Response at <http://odr.edola.org> or call 504.895.6634. Diocesan volunteer coordinator, Pete Nunnally ([pnunnally@edola.org](mailto:pnunnally@edola.org)), will gladly assist your group in planning a mission trip to New Orleans.



Visit [www.campcoastcare.com](http://www.campcoastcare.com) to learn more about the Diocese of Mississippi's Camp Coast Care or call 601.948.5954 or visit [www.dioms.org](http://www.dioms.org) to contact the Diocese of Mississippi.

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## Prayers of the People for Katrina Remembrance Sunday

In peace we pray to you, O God of steadfast love.

Lord God, with grateful hearts we thank you for the many blessings of our lives, for the joy of families reunited, and the hope of homes and communities restored. We give thanks, too, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in the continued prayers and presence of our sisters and brothers in Christ who have given so much to hurricane recovery. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

Protect us, O God, from the storms of life; help us to trust in you and open our hearts to care for one another. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

Guide all those who govern and hold authority, that they would act with justice and mercy for the good of all who share in our common life, especially along the Gulf Coast. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may remove the barriers which divide us and so inspire us to serve you in all members of our community. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and strengthen all those in any sorrow, need, or adversity, especially those grieving lives lost to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and those still seeking the shelter of a steady home. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially those who perished during and after the storms of 2005, and let light perpetual shine upon them. God of steadfast love, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**