



### DIOCESAN MISSION TRIPS SCHEDULED

last week in October to Mississippi	first week in December to New Orleans
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The Diocese is planning mission opportunities in 2009. The missions will provide hurricane disaster relief along the Gulf Coast. The first mission is to Mississippi, the last week of October. The second mission is to New Orleans, the first week of December.

Episcopal Relief and Development has made a long-term commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Devastation from the hurricanes is so massive whole communities have been obliterated. The Diocese of West Michigan is partnering with the Diocese of Louisiana and Mississippi in this endeavor. Accommodations are provided once volunteers arrive at the mission site. Beds, lavatories with hot showers, stoves, refrigerators, phones, snacks, and necessary amenities are at each camp. Mission sites have a director and staff to address each volunteer organization's group and individual needs.

Most of the work is reconstructing homes. On site crew leaders provide basic instruction before each workday begins. Alternatives to construction may also be offered, such as meal preparation and serving, dispensing basic needs in the community, landscaping, clerical work, and camp maintenance. The work at the mission site changes weekly, sometimes on a daily basis.

Volunteers range from young adult to seniors. All work is valuable, and each mission volunteer makes a significant contribution to Gulf Coast renewal. Qualifications needed are the desire, time, patience, and flexibility to do what is needed to serve Christ. Volunteers work, eat, and sleep in a group atmosphere, and must have the ability to cooperate with each other at the work site and the relief center.

Travel will be by car pools. There will be one motel overnight to and from the Gulf Coast. All parishes will be asked by the Diocese to help defray the cost of the missions. No volunteer will be denied the opportunity of a mission trip experience because of finances.

For more information, or to volunteer for either or both missions to New Orleans and Mississippi, contact either Terry Dorcy, a member of St. Luke's in Kalamazoo, or Lynn Carson at Christ Church in Charlevoix. Terry's email is [tjdorcy@aol.com](mailto:tjdorcy@aol.com). His phone number is 269-349-3625. Lynn Carson can be reached at [lecarson2002@yahoo.com](mailto:lecarson2002@yahoo.com)

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