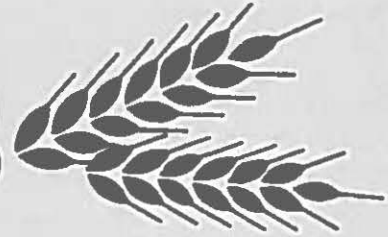


In Focus



www.stpatsurbana.org

This summer 28 teens and 12 adults headed out on Mission to Dunkirk, New York, where they participated in the local YouthBuild Dunkirk program at three work sites (and the Disabled American Veterans clubhouse) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for four days. Their tasks included putting the finishing touches on homes being rehabilitated, landscaping, putting in firewalls, roofing, doing masonry work, and ever so much more, in Dunkirk.

To prepare for the Mission trip CREW members were required to attend religious education classes and complete at least 20 service hours. Service might include helping the Knights of Columbus or the St. Vincent de Paul Society with projects, or helping at the Catholic Worker House, empty tomb, and Crisis Nursery. In addition, they must have completed 15 fund-raising hours and participated in CREW's Service Auction. As one CREW member remarked, "We had to do a lot of service work to go on this trip!"

The theme of this year's Mission trip was "We Speak to Nations," and speak they did through the work of their hands, their cheerfulness in undertaking the tasks put before them, and their interactions with co-workers from other places and residents of the community. They experienced moments when Jesus spoke of his love through their companions, speaking in and through one another.

Again this year participants were treated as celebrities. The Mission

SPECIAL EDITION

St. Patrick's CREW On Mission, 2003

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.
(Mt 28:19-20)



The 2003 CREW participants ready to leave on the 2003 mission

made the front page in the local newspaper, *The Observer*, and the Mayor of Dunkirk presented CREW with a Certificate of Appreciation. The Seneca Nation invited them to an evening social of food, music, and dance. The Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 142, sent a letter of appreciation and thanks for the work accomplished on their clubhouse: "We are in awe of your capabilities, your professionalism, and especially your kindness.... You are a credit to your church and your high school youth group. May God bless you all in your long life

ahead. God has blessed us in knowing you." And they returned home with many tokens of appreciation, including a paperweight from Ground Zero in New York City.

Comments shared by members of CREW and their adult chaperones in their Mission evaluation suggest that this was a life-changing experience. One teen found it impossible to name the best part of the Mission trip: "I don't think there is a best part, because it is all of it together that makes the trip what it is. I think the physical and spiritual are balanced well and

make up a fulfilling week of work, yet fun!"

In these pages you will hear from other teens and adult chaperones. During the coming year, when special fund-raising efforts are announced by CREW to finance their Mission trip next summer, remember them and help in any way you can: by your prayer, by your personal encouragement, by your financial support.

* * * * *

The following impressions are shared by Carol Retz, High School Youth Activities Coordinator:

During our traveling meditation on our Sunday's bus ride to New York we learned that "speaking to nations" is done not just with our lips. In the gospel story of the boy with five barley loaves and two fish, Jesus spoke of his love for them by taking the loaves, giving thanks, and sharing. Through the week I reflected on the many ways

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Jesus was speaking through the teens and adults on our Mission trip, the Dunkirk residents, and the YouthBuild program volunteers. One CREW group worked with the Disabled Veterans, another put finishing touches on a home, another did some landscaping, and yet another helped with major construction work.

The theme of water kept coming to mind. On the bus, we drove through what seemed walls of rain; would it rain all week? We'd be working in the rain; did we bring our rain jackets? Early each morning water jugs were filled with ice and water and totes to each work site. Who's in charge of the water jug at your work sites? Drink plenty!

On several afternoons, after leaving our work sites, we enjoyed the cool

flowing water of Lake Erie on tired, burning feet. Some of us ran, splashed, dunked completely under to refresh and revive ourselves. Others of us checked out the results of years of constant movement of the waters on the stones, smooth and polished and glistening.

I'm diving in, going in deep over my head... I want to be caught in the rush, lost in the flow... The water's deep, wide, alive—sink or swim, I'm diving in!



On the road!



Roofing together...

I am being called to witness to God's grace by realizing what volunteering means to other people, and the satisfaction I get from doing it is great.

Alec Vitosky

Even if you don't like someone, you put it aside when you are working. I want to continue to help others—there are less fortunate people all over C-U.

Sarah Burch

It has made me think a lot about how God wants me to act toward everyone.

Katie Schuh

What really stands out for me is not the difference that I've made for others but the change that they have made in me and how I view others and the world around me. Neilzen Damaso



After work, some r&r and then evening worship



Painting in tight spaces

There is a supernatural power in water. It can bring the dead to life, it can fill an empty soul... But we'll never know the awesome power of the grace of God unless we let ourselves be swept away into the water of God's life.

Water mingled with wine in becoming Christ's blood at Mass, where we reflected on the value of forgiveness, instant forgiveness. After the day's hard work we especially enjoyed washing up in the showers, always a perfect temperature.



Smile while you work!

On rainy Thursday evening we reflected on seeking forgiveness and the importance of forgiving others. We wrote our sins and concerns on pieces of paper that were then burned, and washed our hands before the altar in a symbolic cleansing of sin. Many of us received the sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr. Pat Elis, chaplain of the Newman Center at Fredonia State. Most teens mentioned Fr. Pat Elis's presence for Reconciliation and his blessing with a relic of St. Patrick as the most meaningful spiritual activity of the Mission.

We spent Fun Day at Niagara Falls, "Great Thunderer of Waters." For Native Americans the Falls carries spiritual significance; a powerful, demanding god dwells in the cataract. One look at the tremendous spill of water can literally take your breath away! Riding in the boat "Maid of the Mist" we were soaked—and loved every minute of

it! Water—did someone say "water"?—the water was massive, powerful, awesome!

Water... God's gift of life... divine life in the Holy Spirit.

This comes from Bonnie Kimball, one of the adult chaperones:

This was my second Mission trip with CREW. After each one, I was filled with an enormous pride and respect for the teens who took part in the Mission. During the entire trip they continued to spread their Christian spirit through hard work, positive attitudes, and acts of kindness. Their desire to help others was genuine.

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The best part was ... the way I felt when I looked at what we had done—you feel so good because you helped someone who needed it.

Brianna Oliver

Touching St. Patrick's bones—it was amazing to be that close to something that did so much!

Patrick Hatch

I will try to have more patience with people and situations and try not to be so quick to judge others.

Rob Grove

The best part was working on the houses because it made me feel good that I was helping people.

Kelli Busey



Sponsors and Father Patrick at Bible Study

They cheerfully performed any task given to them (believe me, not all the jobs were glamorous!), and they worked with integrity. They made sure they did their job well. When they finished a job, they looked to see what else needed to be done. They were respectful, considerate, and polite, and they never stopped having fun—the week was full of laughter and good times.

Individually and as a group they consistently impressed everyone who came in contact with them. They were wonderful ambassadors for St. Patrick's Parish and for Christ. I want to thank everyone for your continued support of CREW. Your financial support helps to make these Mission trips possible, and your encouragement acknowledges our teens as important members of the Church and lets them know that you value what they are doing to help spread the message of Christ.



Break time!



Setting the ridge board

"I really liked the presentation by the Seneca Nation when they danced and sang and let us dance too. It was nice to learn about another culture and share and learn from them."



Seneca Culture Camp and Iroquois Social

CREW 2003 Mission Participants

Teens

Jessica Andrejasich
Emmanuel Bronson
Sarah Burch
Kelli Busey
Carrie Conner
Neilzen Damaso
John Danner
Maria Dorsey
Carly Eifert
Haley Eifert
Rachel Faught
Merla Hubler
Allison Jarrett
Kathleen Kelleher
Steven Kimball
Bridget Kimmey
Alex Long
Brianna Oliver
Lisa Portis
Megan Raab
Sarah Roberts
Katie Schuh
Katie Thompson
Alec Vitosky
Caitlin Vitosky

Adults

Mike Andrejasich
John Dorsey
Renee Eifert
Rob Grove
Patrick Hatch
Bonnie Kimball
Bob Kimmey
Mary Long
Kai Nielsen
Randy Pankau
Marcia Raab
Carol Retz
Jason Retz
Cindy Shaw
Blanche Vasnaik.



CREW 2003 mission accomplished!



*The Mayor of Dunkirk
and the director of
Youth Build Dunkirk
make a presentation to
CREW '03*



CREW Daily Prayer

When all was said and done, when all the weary, aching bodies were washed fresh and clean, this was the prayer they prayed:

O Great Spirit,
 whose voice I hear in the winds
 and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me!
 I am small and weak,
 I need your strength and wisdom.
 Let me walk in beauty
 and make my eyes ever behold
 the red and purple sunsets.
 Make my hands respect the things you have made,
 and make my ears sharp
 so I may hear your voice.
 Make me wise,
 so that I may understand
 the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons
 you have hidden in each leaf and in each rock.
 I seek strength,
 not to be greater than my brother or sister,
 but to fight my greatest enemy—myself.
 Make me ever ready to come before you
 with clean hands and straight eyes.
 So when life fades,
 as the fading sunset,
 may my spirit come to you without shame.



CREW at Niagra Falls



CREW gals



CREW Guys