

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



SPECIAL EDITION

## St. Patrick's CREW on Mission 2009

### Getting there was the easy part

While the world was mourning the death of "the king of pop" in the land of "the king of rock and roll," a band of St. Patrick's high school students and adults were busy doing the works of "the King Who Rocks My Soul."

On Sunday, July 12, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass, 23 teens, 3 young adult chaperones, and 12 adult chaperones set off from St. Patrick's headed for Memphis, Tenn. The theme of this, the tenth CREW Mission Trip, was "The King Who Rocks My Soul." The group set out to work with MIFA, the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association, a 40-year-old faith-based organization whose mission is "...to help our community by helping change lives" ([www.mifa.org](http://www.mifa.org)).



CREW arrived without mishap (you may remember stories of bus and A/C breakdowns on the last trip to Memphis) at about 4 p.m. and settled into dorm rooms at the University of Memphis (word has it that powdered eggs and grits were offered every morning). Each evening the group delved into social justice and Catholic teachings through simulations, discussions, and films relating to poverty, and racism. On the first night participants were part of a Hunger Banquet, which illustrated the vast differences in access to basic human needs that exist in the world today.

### Getting down to work

On Monday morning the group visited the National Civil Rights Museum ([www.civilrights museum.org/home.htm](http://www.civilrights museum.org/home.htm)), located at the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. This visit touched many students and chaperones in a deeply personal way. Then they set out to do some social justice work of their own.

This is the third time that CREW has



worked with MIFA, and Peggy Loftus, Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry, says they are a great organization. MIFA serves over 60,000 people in the Memphis area in three ways: (1) by sustaining the independence of senior citizens through home-delivered meals, handyman services, transportation, and companion services; (2) by stabilizing and transforming families in crisis through emergency services and funding, life-skills learning opportunities, and housing support; and (3) by equipping urban teens for success by offering life-skills and college readiness support to students in inner-city high schools.

The CREW worked on two homes, belonging to the Clear and Burks families, through MIFA's Handyman program and with MIFA's Meals on Wheels program by delivering hot meals to senior citizens Monday through Thursday.

### CREW found plenty to do!

Katie Clear's house is home to a pair of senior citizens, and it received some much-needed attention. CREW workers scraped and painted the exterior, reglazed all the windows, built and installed two new shed doors, replaced soffit and fascia pieces, and did major work on the kitchen floor, which was, in the words of Peggy Loftus "held together by layers of linoleum." On a scouting trip prior to the CREW Mission, Peggy Loftus and Chris Freidhof had determined that the floor would need to be ripped out and the underlayment would have to be replaced, but when CREW got to work, they found a pinhole leak in a water line under the floor and so the volunteers had MIFA call in a plumber to fix the leak. They laid new vinyl tile flooring in the kitchen, installed new kitchen cabinets, and replaced drywall, too.





Kenisha Burks, the mother of 3 children under the age of 11, lives in a ranch house that has been added onto several times, with the result being a "challenging" roof. It had no correct "valley" and water frequently pooled in several areas, creating leaks in the kitchen and family rooms. The CREW team ripped off all the shingles, sometimes finding numerous layers (6+ layers in some places). They replaced sheathing and tar paper. On Thursday morning, a thunderstorm struck from 5 to 8:00 a.m., and it drizzled until noon, destroying drywall under the unfinished roof. By late that evening, the team had built a "bridge" to correct the roof layout and laid new sheathing and tar paper. MIFA was to have a contractor out that weekend to re-shingle the entire roof. On Wednesday, teams worked in 100 degree heat, on the roof, and in jeans!





**Hard work was followed by a good time**

Friday was the traditional fun day for the trip. The group played at the Memphis zoo, then headed downtown to stroll along Beale Street and its environs. On the road home, CREW stopped in Sikeston, Mo., at Lambert's Restaurant, home of "thrown rolls." ([www.throwedrolls.com/](http://www.throwedrolls.com/)), where they not only caught many rolls, but filled up with so much food they thought they were going to go "CREW-bloody!" The group arrived back at St. Patrick's at about midnight on Friday, July 17.



## Taking a look back

How did the mission trip affect its participants? Denise Freidhof, an adult chaperone, reflected that "We're all in need of social justice. If we are all "the Body of Christ," then if one of us is in need, isn't it our own body in need?" Tyler Faught, teen CREW member, noted: "We are called to help those who receive an inadequate amount of resources by donating, praying, and helping directly." Chris Mathy, CREW teen, came away with "more ideas on how to live in this world filled with racism" as well as with new work skills.

Another adult chaperone found that a specific racism exercise, where everyone was assigned a specific category and moved around as a person of "that" category, brought interesting discussion among the participants.

CREW member Katherine Floess reflected that "it is far too easy to slip into the personal concerns of daily life when returning home, but I vow that returning to Champaign-Urbana will not be the end of my mission, but the beginning."

Cora Freidhof came away knowing "I can always do something for people in need even if it is only something small."

And another [name withheld by request] noted: "I'm also working on finding ways to live more simply and to empathize with the poor."

From an adult chaperone: "I was very aware of what my reaction would be had it been my house (that was in need of such work)."

## Looking ahead

You will hear more individual stories and see the picture slide show of the trip during all weekend Masses on Sept.19-20. On Saturday, Oct. 3, the parish is planning a jubilee celebration in honor of CREW's 10th Mission Trip! It will be an all-parish celebration, with dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, and a "tool shower"- monetary donations to go toward the purchase of specific tools that CREW needs for its future mission work. Planning will soon start for next summer's trip.



**Mission 2009****Teens**

Mary Cimakasky  
 Luke Cottingham  
 Tyler Faught  
 Mike Fitzgerald  
 Katherine Floess  
 Chris Fowler  
 Cora Freidhof  
 Kelsey Kaiser  
 Jared Koerner  
 Jordyn Koerner  
 Will Laumann  
 Chris Long  
 Tate Long  
 Caitlin Lowry  
 Chris Mathy  
 Gracie Mayer  
 Sam Noonan  
 Kyle Ritten  
 Mark Sandwick  
 Betsy Schuele  
 Caitlin Schutz  
 Shelby Simmering  
 Andy Wszalek

**Adults and Young Adults**

Kathy Cimakasky  
 Susan Fowler  
 Chris Freidhof  
 Denise Freidhof  
 Sam Freidhof  
 Patrick Hatch  
 Bob Kimmey  
 Gary Laumann  
 Peggy Loftus  
 Jim Mayer  
 Pat Mayer  
 Alex Millar  
 Randy Pankau  
 Jim Westervelt  
 Marla Westervelt

