

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### First Friday Social

Friday, June 5  
5:30-7:30pm

### Day Retreat

Saturday, June 13  
8:30-4pm

### Agency Spotlight

A Volunteer  
Coordinator's  
Chance to  
Network

Monday, June 15  
5:30-7:30pm  
Dinner included.

### JustUs

a youth initiative  
in New Orleans  
Saturday, June 27  
10am-3pm

### First Friday Social

Friday, July 3  
5:30-7:30pm

For more information  
or an updated  
calendar of events,  
visit us online.

## Where Retreat Ministry and Direct Service Intersect

by Jocelyn A. Sideco

Many people ask what is it exactly that we do. My best image is the intersection where two (or sometimes more) kinds of ministry meet. For people working to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, we are a place for rest, prayerful conversation, thoughtfulness and care. For people seeking a quiet time and place to re-group and re-understand their own purpose or vocation, we are a place for service, for engagement, for connection, for usefulness.

But what is it that we actually do? Rooted in the Good News, we are inspired and guided by Gospel Values. Daily prayer is a time of relating to God in our

humility, our earnestness, our hope. We work hard to care for our own needs so as to care for others better. With regular dinners we create a rhythm of consistency for ourselves and others amidst the chaos of the emergency-driven way of living in New Orleans.

Then we befriend people. We take much of our time to connect with others around a common interest, a common goal, a shared vision. We listen to others and help to network people with others. We share ideas that eventually

improve our lives and see who gets inspired and runs with it.

CIA Agents bring peace of mind to a stressful situation and are advocates for those whose stories seem to be untold. We introduce people to this wonderful city of New Orleans and we make connections everywhere we can so as to benefit every person and to privilege our dignity in the image and likeness of God.

This intersection can seem quite busy, but our purpose is to be still as it reads in Psalm 149: "Be still and know that I am God." The more we are still, the more we are at peace, and the more we are able to be present to others in their time of need.

### UPDATE

#### ENDURING HOPE

Thank you to all those who supported Susan Haarman and her encouragement of the recovery in our region. She finished the IronMan 70.3 in 7 hours and 9 minutes and was greeted at the finish line by a group of 25 boys from Xavier High School, some friends from Wheeling Jesuit and other CIA agents. We raised \$3,907.09! Thank you Thank you! Thank you!

We were so excited that Susan has already signed up for next year's race.

So, if anyone is interested in racing in either a relay or by yourself, we would love to host more CIA agents for April 18, 2010!



Ann Karp's reflection of a Contemplative in Action... where diligent prayer and hope meet.

### UPDATE

#### PROJECT MARLO

Marlo spent 10 days in the Milwaukee/Chicago area to spread the word about Project Marlo. She met friends from Marquette University, Bayview United Methodist, Mount Mary College, the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public TV's Black Nouveau, and St. Gall.

While Marlo was away we were able to put up 2 new fences, re-stud, re-organize and paper the garage, demolish the falling addition, remove all debris, and maintain the lawns on all her properties.

To donate and for regular updates, go to [www.projectmarlo.org](http://www.projectmarlo.org).

### HELP US COLLECT PENNIES!

- Change your default page to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com).
- Select Contemplatives in Action as your non-profit.

For every search, we get a penny!

# The Revolving Door

*We are blessed to have had so many visitors. Here's the roll call! We hope we didn't miss anyone...*



Dan Quigley posing after a day of planning out Project Marlo priorities.

**Matt DeBoer** (Jesuit Volunteer in NOLA), continues to help out with our projects and convinced his housemates **Brendan Sculley, Julie Nolan, Shelagh O'Donnell, and Caitlin Ruddy** to do the same. Thanks for the weedwacking and hole-digging folks! **Dan Quigley** (MA) spent almost 3 weeks working with us on Project Marlo. He built a fence and a door and re-roofed and house wrapped the garage. **Mark LaHood** (NOLA) has been a pretty consistent CIA Agent over the last few months picking up skills along the way. Thanks Mark for working with us! **Jamie Broussard** (NOLA) started spending more time with us over the past few months. She's a wonderful baker and friendly face for our ministry! **Peter Bacon** (NOLA), **Julie Ward** (NOLA), **Elizabeth Ward** (San Diego, CA), **Leora Ward**, and **Clint Senning** (Washington D.C.) all put in a few hours to help out with Project Marlo. Who knew that the iPhone had a leveler application?!?!?! Thanks Peter, for your mad skills with setting our posts! **Caitlin Reilly** took a break from all the volunteers with us... now she wants to work on some of our projects! **Sharon Thelen** came to visit her son, Dan. **Peter**

**Krempel** came to visit us for a few days. This time in addition to bringing us donations for our Youth Initiative and Project Marlo, he spent some time writing and taking some time to pray. Thanks to Peter, our guests can enjoy new wooden chairs on our back deck! Mardi Gras brought us **Morgan Elzey** and **Kelly VanPelt**, two volunteers from Common Ground Relief. **Pat Landry** (Chicago, IL) came for some perspective during a Science Teachers Conference. He met Marlo and then hosted her in his classroom in Chicago. Marlo had a blast with his junior high kids! **Dan Pitera**, Director of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, spent a few days in New Orleans helping to record the history of the creation of the St. Joseph Rebuild Center. **MaryLu and Mark Stenson** (CO) spent a quiet weekend with us and the students from St. Francis High School (Mountain View, CA) (they had a BBQ at our house which included a DDR (Dance Dance Revolution)-esque celebration). Jazzfest brought us **Brandon Becker** from Building Detail (a building company from Detroit), **Matt Glaab**, **Brittany Desrocher**, and **Tony Giacco** who worked with the St. Joseph Rebuild Center in addition to helping us with Project Marlo. They spent time tearing down and dismantling the weathered addition to Marlo's restaurant

and improving our garage walls. Thanks again for the new-to-us sink!

**Sr. Kathryn Keenan and Sr. Kathy Camacho** with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur stayed with us for a few days while they came to visit their full-time AmeriCorps volunteers at their placements. **Nick Albares** (NOLA) and **Lauren Pelascini** (NOLA) continue to be great CIA agents for us. Our coffee, A Sign of Relief, continues to be introduced to folks in New Orleans as an easy and effective way to participate in fair and right relationships.

## BOOK NOW!

If you are interested in making a retreat with us...

If you are interested in volunteering by yourself or with a small group...

If you are interested in volunteering as a Thoughtful Response Team of 5 or more...

email  
info@contemplativesinaction.org.

The earlier you we get your dates, the better we can accommodate you.

PLEASE PRAY  
FOR US DURING  
THIS HURRICANE  
SEASON.



Finally! We put up a fence thanks to all those who dug for hours and Dan, the JVs, Mark, Peter and Julie!

## Thoughtful Response Teams

These past three months have been graced with multiple schools and friends to help out. Thank you to following groups:

St. Mary's Student Parish (Ann Arbor, MI)	St. Francis High School (Mountain View, CA)
Loyola Chicago Medical School (Chicago, IL)	Bishop O'Dowd (Oakland, CA)
Marquette University (MU Action Program Trip)	St. Patrick-St. Vincent (Vallejo, CA)
friends from MARDI GRAS (Milwaukee, WI)	St. Martin de Porres (Cleveland, OH)
Immaculate Conception Academy (San Francisco, CA)	Xaverian Brothers (Westwood, MA)
Mount Mary College (Milwaukee, WI)	Cannan group (Rochester, NY)
St. Joseph's Preparatory (Philadelphia, PA)	Washington University (St. Louis, MO)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)	Canisius College (Buffalo, NY)
Brebeuf High School (Cincinnati, OH)	Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, IL)

## JustUs

Initiated by AmeriCorps Volunteer, Andrew Ryan, JustUs is a monthly youth initiative in cooperation with the New Orleans Recreation Department to provide a day of activities, lunch, and a raffle in underserved communities. Thanks to many donations we were able to play baseball, soccer, basketball, paint, read, and play music.



Before this picture, Genasis never knew how to ride a bike. That all changed after a day with Notre Dame AmeriCorps Member, Shanelle Staten

For May's event, Andrew recruited fellow AmeriCorps members to plan and work the event. We had about 20 kids from the Lower Ninth Ward for most of the day.

Thanks especially to Tara Chase, Notre Dame AmeriCorps Site Director, for her leadership and direction for this program.

Our next event is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 from 10:30-3pm.

## CIA welcomes a whole new Krewe of thoughtful agents!

### Our Part-Time Staff

**Caitlin Reilly** is our new Site Supervisor. As a transplant to New Orleans after the storm, Caitlin has managed many volunteers with Common Ground Relief in the Lower Ninth Ward. Her new role with CIA will complement her role with Bayou Rebirth, a non-profit that preserves and restores communities in South Louisiana through hands-on wetlands restoration and stewardship projects. Caitlin will serve as an on-site manager for both Project Marlo and our Christmas Tree Project.

**MacKenzie Baldwin** is our new Program Coordinator. In addition to working full-time at The Elms Mansion in event planning, MacKenzie will coordinate our work with VolunTour Gumbo, a collaborative venture that provides service opportunities for conference go-ers and other tourists through partnerships with local hotels.

**Shauwea Hamilton** is an MBA student at Fordham University. After her experience in New Orleans this past February, Shauwea served as a fantastic CIA Agent bringing our coffee, A Sign of Relief, to folks in the New York area. At the recent Brooklyn Food Festival, she and her mom served over 200 cups, sold 25 lbs, and educated people about Post-Katrina New Orleans.

**Brittany Barton** is returning to New Orleans after a year of living and working in Atlanta, GA with families living with children with autism. Brittany's energy will offer great motivation for our youth initiatives. She may consider working more consistently with us...

**Sareca Hoskins** is a Master's in Music Therapy student at Loyola University New Orleans. Her faith and spirituality led her to CIA where she will spend time being a Minister of Hospitality engaged in creating a peaceful space for those we serve.

### Our Interns

Our interns are people who are looking to deepen their experience and understanding of the connection between retreat ministry and direct service. Our intern program introduces participants to concepts within Ignatian Spirituality that guide our ministry in New Orleans. The interns live in community with us and learn how their interests and gifts and talents can best be of service to others.

**Allie Malenfant** (University of Michigan)

**Molly Ryan** (Marquette University)

**Angela Montesano** (Wheeling Jesuit University)

**Katrin Sticha** (Mount Mary College)

### Our Volunteers



We are an intentional community that believes in a God whose mercy and compassion compel us to be women and men for others in imitation of Christ.

We value responsible and strategic ministry as we contemplate God's presence in today's New Orleans.

We provide hospitality and relief to those affected by Hurricane Katrina, both the storm and the flooding.

We help to create a space for rest, prayer, and a thoughtful response to our current situation.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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 New Orleans, LA 70115  
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 info@contemplativesinaction.org  
 www.contemplativesinaction.org  
 ... an urban ministry and retreat experience in New Orleans...

**CONTEMPLATIVES  
*in*  
 ACTION**

**CIA and the IRS**

CIA is in the final stages of finalizing our tax exemption status with the Federal Government. We hope to make an announcement in our favor within the next month. Thanks for your continued support and encouragement.

**WANTED: CIA Agents**

Because we rely on the generosity of others in order to be present for people in New Orleans, please help us by throwing a fundraiser to celebrate the 4th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina Saturday, August 29, 2009.

Host a party that will benefit others.

For more information on how to get involved, email Jocelyn at [jocelyn@contemplativesinaction.org](mailto:jocelyn@contemplativesinaction.org).

<p><b>AGENTS</b>  in <b>New Orleans</b></p>	<p>Anna Villanueva  <a href="mailto:anna@contemplativesinaction.org">anna@contemplativesinaction.org</a></p> <p>Jocelyn A. Sideco  <a href="mailto:jocelyn@contemplativesinaction.org">jocelyn@contemplativesinaction.org</a></p>
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**Wishlist**

**Help Us Help Others Better**

- Names of people we could pray for
- A Volunteer Licensed Louisiana Contractor
- Gift Cards
  - to purchase laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels (Target)
  - for gas (Chevron)
  - for groceries (Rouse's, Winn-Dixie)
  - to Home Depot for bricks for our walkway
  - To Linens N'Things, Pier 1, or World Market
  - for office supplies (Office Depot)
- Booklets of stamps
- Children's Books and New Toys/DVDs for ages 3-16
- A Lawnmower and Weed Wackers
- Insurance for our vehicles