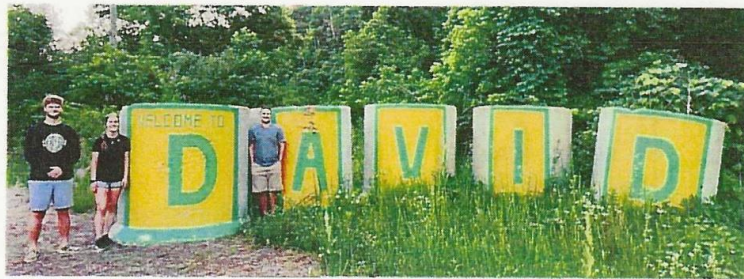


St. Gabriel Parish  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
Newsletter  
JUNE/JULY 2024



SERVING GOD BY SERVING COMMUNITY

St. Vincent's Mission Trip - David, Kentucky  
Our 2024 Participants: Adrianna Maziarz, Ethan Heller, and Roger Bauer. Chaperone: Misty Michelle.

God is Good! All the time! Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunities to serve others in Your name, for Your glory! We were so excited to finally embark on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mission Trip to St. Vincent's. Our group was small this year but what a blessing that proved to be! Each participant brought a different skill set and knowledge base that allowed us to make an even bigger contribution to the community we served. In addition, all pride and doubt aside, these young people took turns leading projects while supporting and teaching one another. We learned that we are meant to answer God's call even if we don't succeed in the task - obedience above achievement. We also learned more about knowing our limits and humbling ourselves to ask for help when needed. We gained confidence and knowledge, opened our hearts to loving others and opened ourselves to RECEIVING love from strangers, strengthened friendship bonds, and endured intense heat and long hours while offering it up as sacrifice. Above all, it was the experience, interactions, and strong presence of God that we have come to anticipate. Thank you all for your continued support in offering our students these opportunities! Here are a few comments about their experience:

*"I gained the knowledge of learning to overcome obstacles and, I thought, even in the short time we were there, we made a good impact in the residents' lives by reducing the worries of their needed home repairs. My overall experience was really good! I feel that since it was a smaller group, we had a closer bond between all of us and it allowed us to work better together." ~ Roger*

*"Despite the small group and my hesitation to go this year, it really turned out to be a great trip. It was a lot of work compared to the last trip and it was really hot in those small spaces, but the people there made it worth it. The outpouring of gratitude, humor, and endless food was amazing. To see those with so little give so much was truly God's presence." ~Ethan*

*"On our trip, we were able to help those less fortunate. As we worked together to fix homes, I saw how generous people could be even if they didn't have much. Every day we were fed lunch as a thank you from one of the neighbors. We spent time talking with them, getting to learn more about their lives. There is a large sense of community there, and it's amazing to see everyone take care of each other. Not only did I build friendships, but this trip also taught me to be thankful for what I have and to help others when I can. It showed me that not everyone has the same life or circumstances, but working together can make a huge difference in people's lives." ~ Adrianna*

