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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MOTHER CABRINI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BRING HOPE AND HEALING
TO “SISTER SCHOOL” IN NEW ORLEANS**

New York, NY, April 20, 2007 – The Cabrini connection inspired 12 students and two faculty members from Mother Cabrini High School to dedicate their spring break in service to the students and families of Cabrini High School, New Orleans.

Under the guidance of Campus Minister Matthew Bizzarro and Religion teacher Theresa Donnelly the student volunteers raised the funds necessary for this trip. During their stay, they were housed on the third floor of Cabrini High School’s historic Esplanade Avenue building. The great Southern hospitality was at its best as students and families from Cabrini High School welcomed and cooked meals for the New York visitors.

The visit began on a spiritual note as the students participated in the Easter Sunday liturgy at Our Lady Star of the Sea with Deacon Uriel Durr. Each evening the students gathered together to pray and reflect upon the day’s events.

The students’ itinerary included gutting and repairing a retreat house for the Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary and two homes belonging to families of Cabrini High, along with painting and repairing religious education classrooms at Our Lady Star of the Sea. The young missionaries also attended a special assembly given by the Cabrini High student body, and they toured devastated areas throughout New Orleans. During their stay, the young ladies from New York were paired with a student from Cabrini High School in New Orleans.

Campus Minister Matthew Bizzarro reflects, “While it is painful to see how much work still needs to be done in New Orleans, it is also inspiring to see the immediate, tangible effects of our students’ work down there. The repair projects we participated in don’t only improve a student’s house or classroom; our work also serves as a reminder that people haven’t forgotten about the struggles the residents of New Orleans still encounter daily while picking up the pieces of their lives. This mission trip is truly an education of the heart.”

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Junior Rosa Cortes agrees, saying, “This was a life-changing trip for me. The wonderful people in New Orleans lost everything except hope. It was a privilege to spend time with them and help play a role in rebuilding their lives. There is still work to be done, and I can’t wait to go back next year and continue our mission.”

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Editor’s Note

Photos attached:

Photo A – from left to right (front): Mother Cabrini High School students Taisha Jerez, Sofia Polanco and Diane Aponte take a break from heavy lifting to pose with other students from their sister school in New Orleans.



Photo B – Mother Cabrini High School students Rosa Cortes (left) and Sofia Polanco (right) removing debris from a home.



Mother Cabrini High School is an educational institution sponsored by the
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Twice recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a
“Blue Ribbon School of Excellence”
Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.