



Neighbors cross the border today

| Saturday, April 19, 2008

ST. JOHN | "It's an opportunity for us to leave our community and show people in surrounding areas that we care," said Keith Burke, *St. Joseph the Carpenter Ministry* coordinator from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, of today's special project.

St. Joseph the Carpenter Ministry is collaborating with *Neighborhood, Inc.* of Hammond to help residents "across the border" in Calumet City, Ill. clean up their neighborhood. Volunteers from many communities in Northwest Indiana will work in the 5th Ward of Calumet City to pick up trash around homes and in alleys.

Alderman Tarka is coordinating a central gathering place at Pulaski Park, across from city hall on the corner of Wentworth and Pulaski roads. Eager volunteers will begin the day at 9 a.m. and work as many hours as they can, with a majority of the volunteer group ending the day uniting with the residents to celebrate in fellowship and with refreshments at approximately 2 p.m.

Inspired by his faith to help others, Burke said, "This is the second community event conducted by *St. Joseph the Carpenter Ministry*." The last community event occurred on Oct. 6, 2007 in collaboration with the City of Whiting to assist four homeowners with home repairs.

Typically, Burke has recruited volunteers of all ages and of all faiths to conduct home repair projects twice per month on a Saturday since the ministry's inception last June. *St. Joseph the Carpenter Ministry* has positively impacted the lives of many seniors, people with disabilities, or those who are living below poverty level in the communities of Chicago, Gary, Munster, Schererville, St. John, and Whiting, with hopes of adding more communities to the list in the future.

On May 10, *St. Joseph the Carpenter Ministry* has scheduled its next community event in Gary, uniting with the Catholic Diocese of Gary and a local Mosque to complete home repair and clean-up projects at Tyler and 7th Avenue, near the diocese's Holy Angels Cathedral.

"What an excellent opportunity for us to serve our neighbors!" said Burke.

For more information about volunteering or to support this community initiative with donations, e-mail sjcm@stjohnparish.org or call Burke at (219) 365-4185.

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