

**Prayer and Action
for
Justice One Year after Katrina**

Among the 1600 congregations of the Gamaliel Network



August 29, 2006

A Litany for a One-year Anniversary Remembrance of Katrina

Litany – A One-year Observance of Katrina

- L: God of mercy, hear our prayers for all those struggling still to find new opportunities after the numbing losses of Hurricane Katrina.
- C: Hear us, O God.**
- L: God of grace, forgive us for embracing normalcy instead of hearing in the wind a call to stand for the values we profess that promise opportunity for all.
- C: Forgive us, O God.**
- L: Forgive us for not bringing to justice those who in the midst of this devastation, have stolen from the poor.
- C: Forgive us, O God.**
- L: God of creativity unleash among us new resolve to end the hopelessness that results from economic and racial isolation. Inspire us to see new hope in the diversity you have created.
- C: Move us, O God.**
- L: Strengthen the hearts and the hands of those who seek to rebuild their lives and communities.
- C: Strengthen them, O God.**
- L: Grant that the Children of Katrina enjoy the opportunities promised to all American Children.
- C: Help them, O God**
- L: Let the voices of your people be heard in our congregations, communities, and in the halls of government for justice, peace, opportunity and new beginnings.
- C: Empower us to speak, O God. Amen.**

Permission is granted to use or adapt this litany in ways appropriate for your community.

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One year later we still wonder how much things have changed for the residents of the gulf-coast and New Orleans.

We hear of

- neighborhoods where the children of the working poor once played remain empty and the rubble blowing in the wind.
- people still waiting for their trailer to be delivered so they can sleep in safety and rebuild their lives.
- layers of bureaucracy that have made it easy for the rich to steal from the poor.
- of opportunity lost in delay, fraud and waste
- insured people waiting for claims to be settled so they can rebuild
- national policies for this region that do not reflect the values shared by our people.
- no clear plan to end decades of disinvestment in this region
- no unified voice calling the people of the region to action.

We hear the anger of our sisters and brothers whose lives are still uncertain and for whom justice seems far away. We desire to join our voices with theirs. Today our faith community is joining 1600 Gamaliel Congregations in prayer for new beginnings that reflect the values that have always guided our American democracy.

We are encouraging our members in ways that seem appropriate to them to call on one another to work to establish policies and plans that reflect values that need to be honored if the people in the gulf region are to find new life and new participation in America's future.

As we observe the one year anniversary of this devastation you are encouraged to enter into a conversation with your elected representatives regarding the values that need to guide decisions made on behalf of the storm ravaged people of the Gulf region.

The world is still watching to see if America is the kind of nation that keeps its promises to its people. Value based decisions are critical months in the years ahead. The hope of thousands of people to participate in our countries dream of a better life through opportunity hangs in the balance.

Resources for Prayer and Action after Katrina
may be found at

www.gamaliel.org/katrina