

# Hurricane Katrina and Rita causes millions to be homeless in the United States of America



Photo Courtesy: BBC News ©

As the hurricane moved on, the scale of the devastation in coastal areas became clear. Up to 80% of New Orleans, 6ft (2m) below sea level, was flooded after defensive barriers were overwhelmed. Photo Courtesy: BBC World

**-30 YCSers and 26 former members in New Orleans lost their homes and displaced by the Hurricane Katrina and Rita.**

**-All documents and archives of the Vietnamese YCS in United States of America buried by mud and covered with water !**

*A edited version of the Letter from Margaret XD Nguyen, VYCS Liaison Facilitator from Houston-Texas on 9 September 2005*

**Dear IYCS Team and YCS Friends,**

Since August 28, 2005, I am not settled down yet, during the IYCS Week Celebration, I am back and forth between Lafayette and Houston to assist different Vietnamese YCS and their families. Fr. Louis Vu, The National Associate Chaplain welcomed 8 YCS Hurricane Katrina victims and their family, a total of 40 displaced persons, including me, with his open arms and with an opened heart (his heart was also operated/double by-pass just 6 weeks ago! He needs our prayers).

Two families left us last Saturday; on Sunday I brought 3 families to Houston-Texas to stay at the Vietnamese Martyrs Church's Hall which belonged to Fr. Joe Thanh Vu (Fr. Lou's brother) and found schools and universities for the YCSers.

Yesterday, I came back to Lafayette-Louisiana to help 2 YCS families members to apply for the unemployment, the Social Assistance and paper works before I returned to Houston to help several jobless YCS leaders to search for temporary jobs with me.

It was like a nightmare for people lived in Greater New Orleans, especially in East New Orleans where there had been afflicted most, by the Hurricane and broken lives and families. The Whole area was flooded and most of the roofs were destroyed, unfortunately , among those were my house, 30 YCSers and 25 former YCSers house!  
**We are homeless and empty handed now!**

**All my belongings, VYCS documents and books were buried by mud or covered by water!** With this situation I doubt that we would able to afford to send 2 representatives to Rome for the International Student Congress organised by the Pontifical Council for Migrants in the coming December!

We are sad to announce that VYCS New Orleans is now temporarily inactive due to Hurricane Displaced Period. (We are scattered in 9 different States now, but majority in Houston). On Tuesday, we were able to gather 12 YCSers from both East and West in an informal meeting at the Vietnamese Katrina's Displaced/Refugee Centre in Houston.

Please, pray for us to be faithful and trust in the Providence at this difficult time, and that VYCS will be back in complete, and that New Orleans soon be restored to a normal healthy city to live in.

In the Spirit of Service and Solidarity,

**Margaret XD Nguyen,**

**VYCS International Liaison Facilitator**

[mxdenguyen@hotmail.com](mailto:mxdenguyen@hotmail.com)

[vycsno@hotmail.com](mailto:vycsno@hotmail.com)

[vycs\\_usa@yahoo.com](mailto:vycs_usa@yahoo.com)

**P.S. For further information on the situation please contact:**

**Fr. Lois Lam Vu at 201 Church Street, PO Box 410, Youngsville, Louisiana 70592-0410**

**Tel: +01.337.856.8212**

**Fax: +01.337.856.8277**

**E-mail: [frvu@bellsouth.net](mailto:frvu@bellsouth.net)**

**IYCS expressed our solidarity and prayers to all the victims of the hurricane Katrina and Rita in the United States of America. Early this year during the Tsunami we also lost one of our members in Sri Lanka: Ms. Roshini De Silva.**