

Some signs of life, hope after Katrina's fury



ST. ANTHONY Mission, Venice, was built in 1973 after its old building was severely damaged by Hurricane Camille in 1969. The compact building served as both church and community center.

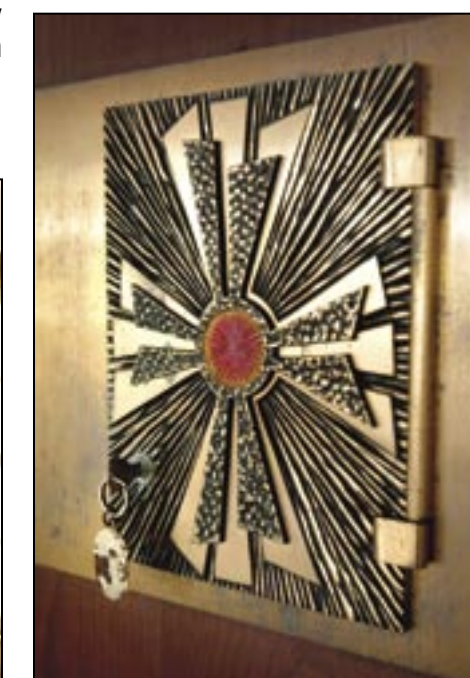


Signs of recovery

St. Patrick Church in Port Sulphur was one of many scenes of devastation from Hurricane Katrina, below, in lower Plaquemines Parish. Today, the church, above, restored with the willing and eager hands of volunteers, attracts about 140 people to its Sunday Mass, said Father Gerard Stapleton, pastor. "It couldn't have been done any other way," he said, "because the money wasn't here to hire workers." The statue of the parish's patron, St. Patrick, stripped of color and damaged by its immersion in flood waters, is back on his pedestal to gaze serenely at the congregation. Even the pews in the restored church were donated from another congregation, with St. Patrick only having to pay freight costs.



RISING WATER buckled the floor of Our Lady of Good Harbor, Buras. The Venice church is a mission of Buras, and like its mission was rebuilt in 1973 following damage from Hurricane Camille. A lone banner announcing the Lord's coming flutters out of one of the side windows.



ST. JUDE Church, Diamond, has been cleaned out and cleaned up but stands open to the elements. The rusted key still hangs in the tabernacle door, left. The Blessed Sacrament was removed before the storm. The school, below, which closed three years ago, is still showing the effects of the maelstrom which blew through its windows and halls. The church was constructed in 1957 and, under the stewardship of longtime pastor Franciscan Father Alvin Deem, the parish expanded to include a school, parish hall and other facilities.

