



September 2005

Development Directions

A free resource for pastors, principals, development directors, volunteers and anyone engaged in the ministry of Catholic development.

To All of Our Catholic Colleagues and Friends

This is an unusual newsletter for September, but then again, these are unusual times here in the New Orleans area. First of all, thank you so much for all of the e-mails, the phone calls, the text messages, and the communication from people all over the country who have been concerned about our families and our safety. Some of us at ISPD have had major losses, but we will rebuild; some of us have had to relocate, but we will be able to return home in the future; many of us are living with relatives who have so graciously opened their homes and taken us in. We are all fine. The recent tragedy that has struck the Gulf Coast region has brought all of us to our knees, as we have been humbled by the force of nature and heartened by the generosity of friends, and the Grace of our Lord.

As we all watch this human tragedy unfold before our eyes, so many emotions race in and out of our minds. For those of us who live in the area, we have the strong need to reach out and make it all better again – for those who were caught behind and for those who now have nothing. We struggle as we come to grips that our lives have changed and we live in a much different world than the one we had become accustomed to only seven days ago. Yet, we are among the fortunate ones. The need to return to our communities is so strong yet we know that this is not the time.

Now begins the arduous job of rebuilding – our lives, our communities, our churches, and our schools. We have found ourselves trying to focus on three steps:

1. Make sure we take care of our families – their health, their safety and their well being.
2. As a Catholic consulting firm, make sure we take care of our clients and continue to nurture our business through these unusual times.
3. As a Catholic consulting firm, make sure we reach out and help others.

The first and second objectives are now secured, and we must take on #3.

Let's Reach Out Together

There are hundreds of people across the country who have e-mailed or called us

other key organizations. Many are now asking ISPD to identify churches, schools and people they can directly help. As posted on our website the day after the storm, we have been working to set this up and now invite you to respond.

By going to the ["ISPD Hurricane Relief"](#) page on our website, you will see the names of specific churches and schools that need your help. We have listed their location and what they need. We will be adding to this list on a regular basis. We invite you to send money and supplies. **Please make all checks payable to the Catholic institution - and not to ISPD.** At this time, money is needed the most by these churches and schools. We invite you to send two types of supplies: First of all, please gather crucifixes, rosaries, prayer books, missal books, and songbooks. (We also invite you to have these blessed). Second, please gather work gloves, handiwipes, paper towels, Lysol, and garbage bags.

The first two Catholic institutions we are identifying are ***Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School in Slidell, Louisiana*** and ***St. John Vianney Church and School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana***. Our Lady of Lourdes is my home parish where the eye of Hurricane Katrina passed right over us. The massive roof of our church was blown off, leaving only an open and empty space where 2200 parishioners once worshipped. In addition to rebuilding our church and school, many families will need help when their money runs out from staying in hotels hundreds of miles away. [\(Photo\)](#). Our Lady of Lourdes needs money and supplies.

The second Catholic institution is St. John Vianney Church in Baton Rouge. Yesterday, in speaking with Father Tom Ranzino, their pastor, he indicated that their school is preparing to take on hundreds of displaced students. They have little room and not enough supplies, but they are "Opening Wide the Doors to Christ." Obviously, no tuition is being charged. They need financial resources.

ISPD will assure that all money and supplies are personally delivered to the specific churches and schools that are posted on our website. Please check this site regularly for additional institutions, and their situations.

And so, we carry on, and the reality of the word "steward" becomes so much more meaningful and comprehensive. Catholic development and stewardship will bring our communities together again; this ministry that you and we are involved in will reach out and help rebuild – our lives and our institutions. The entire concept of "faith community" has now become so much more acute in meaning. From the bottom of our hearts we say "thank you" to so many people.

In living day by day, we begin our path back:

- Taking care of our families
- Taking care of our ministry
- Reaching out to those we can help

God has not given us a mountain we cannot climb. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Yours in Christ,
Frank Donaldson, President

ISPD is in Operation & Conducting Business

Due to Hurricane Katrina, we cannot operate from our office in St. Rose, Louisiana (next to the New Orleans airport) until we receive further notice. Therefore, please use the following means of communication when you need to get in touch with us.

- E-mail Addresses:
 - **ispd@aol.com**
 - **fdonaldson@ispd.com**
 - **catholicdev@ispd.com**
- Frank Donaldson's New Cell Phone # (Until further notice):
 - **1-832-260-6328**
- New ISPD Office Number (Until further notice):
 - **1-281-812-0102**
- New ISPD Office Fax Number (Until further notice):
 - **1-337-237-1155**
- New ISPD Mailing Address (Until further notice):
 - **Institute of School and Parish Development**
PO Box 2076
Humble, TX 77346

In terms of our future operation:

- ISPD associates plan to resume client visits the day after Labor Day.
- ISPD workshops will be presented as scheduled:
 - **San Francisco, CA – September 8** (9AM – 2PM)
Attracting New Students
Holiday Inn—Civic Center
Presenter: Stephanie Greenwood
 - **Milwaukee, WI – September 16** (9AM – 2PM)
New Eager Faces (Total Stewardship)
Holiday Inn – City Centre
Presenter: Chuck Stelzle
 - **Indianapolis, IN – September 22** (9AM – 2PM)
Annual Funds and Capital Campaigns
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Union Station
Presenter: Frank Donaldson
 - **Newark, NJ – September 29-30** (2 day workshop)
"Charging Your Development Battery!"
Holiday Inn Newark on Frontage Road
Presenter: Frank Donaldson
- PLEASE REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE

UPCOMING FALL WORKSHOPS

Dynamic presenters share proven strategies and discuss development issues during one and two day seminars for Catholic parishes and schools. These workshops are conveniently held across the country at an affordable price of \$49-\$149 We hope you'll join us soon!

Topics Include: ** Attracting New Students ** Total Stewardship **

** Long-Range Planning ** Annual Funds & Capital Campaigns **
** Charge Up Your Development Battery! ** Building A Stronger Image **
** Involving More People in Your Catholic Institution **

Scheduled Locations: ** Denver, CO ** Dubuque, IA ** Harrisburg, PA **

** Indianapolis, IN ** Miami, FL ** Milwaukee, WI ** Newark, NJ **
** Omaha, NE ** Pittsburgh, PA ** San Francisco, CA **

- [Check Here for Details](#)

ISPD - Bringing people, process and ministry together to build the Kingdom of God

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think could benefit from this information. If there are any topics you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please contact us.

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