

The Carrigan family was among the 200 families to have their photos replaced by the nation's top photographers last month. Photographer Denis Reggie shot their picture.



Photo | COURTESY RENATA GRZAN

# Family memories restored

By Renata Grzan  
Contributing writer

Family photographs are among the most grieved lost possessions. Often survivors of natural disasters will return home and dig through rubble, looking for images that documented their history.

The victims of Hurricane

Katrina had a unique opportunity last month to have new photographic memories made by photographers attending a Pictage Partner Conference in New Orleans.

Through a joint effort between Pictage and Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, about 200 families participated and took home a

disk of images. A box of prints were to follow.

The Carrigan family (pictured at left) was photographed by Denis Reggie, a nationally renowned celebrity and society wedding photographer, whose weddings included Maria Shriver to Arnold Schwarzenegger and John Kennedy Jr. to Carolyn Bessette.

Kelly and Danielle Carrigan's story is typical of many Katrina victims who had lost everything. They were denied adequate funding and support from insurance companies to rebuild their home and were also denied assistance from FEMA because they still had a toilet and a sink, regardless of the house being unlivable.

Today, Kelly Carrigan is the family's sole provider, working as a campus police officer while they are living at their in-laws' house so that they can save enough money and slowly rebuild their home and their lives.

Kelly said the greatest burden, as a man, is not being able to adequately provide a home for his family. He also said if it were not for the prayers and support of the community and their faith in God and each other, he didn't think he would even have a marriage left.

Stories like this and meeting such strong people as the Carrigan's left the photographers feeling inspired, humbled and profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to give of their time and talent to create new family photo heirlooms for these special families.

Renata Grzan is a Catholic wedding/portrait photographer from Maryland.



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