



# Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter .....

**Inside this issue . . .**

- Time to Apply for 2014-15
- Abbey Fest
- Retreat at Teresians
- National Catholic Sisters Week

**Coming soon at MHouse . . .**

- Farewell Liturgy for Mentors and Residents June 26
- Thank you for MH Supporters June 24 4-6 PM

## Magnificat House Accepting Applications for 2014-15

Magnificat House of Discernment provides single, Catholic women between the ages of 20 and 50 with an opportunity to experience and share in a life that includes prayer, communal living study and/or ministry. If you think God may be calling you to explore life as a woman religious, why not apply to live for six months to a year at Magnificat House? Mentors help residents to find a spiritual director who will assist them with a formal discernment. Residents will also have many opportunities to spend time with various religious communities both within the New Orleans area and across the country. [Click here to download the application packet](#) or call 504 861-6281 and request that an application be sent in the mail. Applications must be received by July 15 in order so that interviews can be conducted and recommendations received in time for the September 1 opening retreat.

## First Time Abbey Youth Fest Experience by Margaret Uche

I had the opportunity to attend Abbey Youth Fest 2014 and joined about 4500 teens and young adults from all over the country to experience great speakers, the Ike Ndolo Band, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a beautiful liturgy.



Inspired by the AYF 2014 theme, "Made for Greatness", our group from the Magnificat House presented a "Destined for Greatness" spin-the-wheel game (created using an upside-down ironing board and a bicycle) with four categories representing things that help on the journey of life such as community, prayer, self-knowledge, and discernment skills. Participants got a prize bag

containing materials related to the category they landed on, such as a link to a discernment quiz, prayer cards, Rosaries, pens, medals, and contact information for various communities. Even after all 300 prizes were given away young people kept coming up to spin the wheel and discover what they needed to realize their potential for greatness.

I was happy to be a part of this year's Abbey Fest and thank the Monks at St. Joseph's Abbey and everyone at Dumb Ox Ministries for this great experience.



## Last Mmmmm Night of the Year

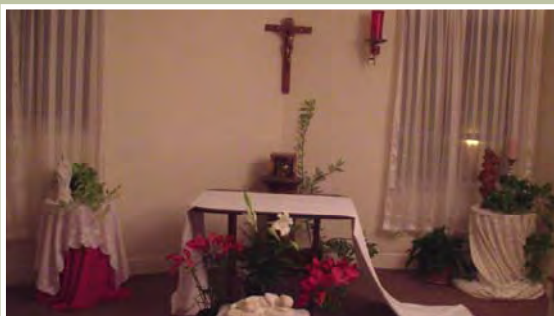
The final Mmmmm Night of the year was held on Friday March 28. Sr. Mary Ann Stachow, S.B.S., Ph.D joined the Magnificat House community and several guests for a Lenten meal of shrimp and grits followed by an exploration of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. Her many years of experience teaching New Testament at Xavier and her obvious love of scripture made for a lively and thought provoking evening.

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## Magnificat House Residents Attend Lenten Retreat

On March 7, 8, and 9 Martha, Stephanie and Alice attended a Lenten retreat hosted by the Teresian Sisters at the Avila Center in Covington, Louisiana. The retreat was titled "Change My Heart, O God" and it explored God's willingness to do just that when one invites Him into her heart. Talks and reflections focused on women who interacted with and were profoundly affected by Jesus during his ministry on Earth, including Mary Magdalen, the Adulterous Woman, Martha and Mary, and the Samaritan Woman. The retreat was planned and administered by Sr. Gloria Murillo, S.T.J., and Sr. Marina Aranzabal, S.T.J. All retreatants agreed the experience was beautifully powerful and a perfect way to begin their Lenten journeys.

## MH Chapel Blooms with Easter Joy



## St. Scholastica High School Returns to MHouse

During the past two years, Magnificat House has seen many visitors, some needing quiet, some curious about how the house runs and others looking to learn more about their faith through attending an Mmmmm Night presentation. Others, though, have come to see if God may be calling them to a deeper commitment of service. One such group visited in March. The students from St. Scholastica Academy in Covington came and spent a morning with the discerners and sisters asking questions, touring the house and hearing vocation stories in the pews of St. Rita Church. After spending the morning with us they made their way back home with a deeper understanding of religious life and what it means to discern the will of God. May God bless them in their lives and give them the grace to hear his voice daily.



## National Catholic Sisters Week

by Catherine Fisackerly

I had the opportunity to attend the inaugural event of the first ever National Catholic Sisters Week. The event took place at St. Catherine's University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, from March 7-9, 2014.

This gathering brought together students and religious sisters to figure out ways to promote the beauty of religious life and to share the stories of women religious who have lived and continue to live that life. It began a three year program/experiment intended to encourage the sharing of oral histories, discussions about religious life, and the creation of a network of college women and sisters.

I am grateful I was able to share in this experience!  
[For more information about National Catholic Sisters Week click here.](#)

## Transitions ahead at Magnificat House

The time is fast approaching when the Magnificat House's first two mentors and its first group of discerners will be leaving. Several religious have expressed willingness to serve as mentors for the next two year term and are in the process of being interviewed and securing recommendations. Meanwhile, the discerners are praying about and working on the details of where God will take them next. A special edition of the Magnificat House Newsletter will be published in June, and will focus on everyone's next steps. Be sure to check your inboxes!