



# Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter .....

### Inside this issue

- Christmas Camping Trip
- Hiking in Haiti
- CCRNO Retreat

### Coming Soon to MHouse

- Dr. Tom Neal talks about the History of Religious Life, Friday January 24, 6 PM
- February Mmmmm Night will explore Marian Devotion. Friday, February 14th, 6 PM

## Christmas Camping Trip

To usher in the New Year, we (Martha Knox, Alice Snee, and Paige LaCour) went on a camping trip to Lake Charles. Time together in community proved to be delightful as we ventured to Sam



Houston State Park, The Creole Nature Trail and Holly Beach (known as the "Cajun Riviera." We met a plethora of friendly neighbors while camping. This included Mr. Tommy and Mr. George, who joined us for prayer and breakfast one morning and who were kind enough to dog-sit for us that

day. A little deer named Maggie came to visit us daily, giving Macs (Paige's Labrador) a real fit of excitement. Together we cooked, played cards, and hiked to gather bundles of wood for our new year's fire. We gave thanks around the fire for the gifts God had blessed us with during the first year of the Magnificat House. Refreshed and filled with gratitude we are ready to begin the next step of discernment with Jesus!

### Next Mmmmm Night

Join us **Friday, January 24** at 6:00 P.M. for Mass celebrated by **Father Peter O. Akpoghiam**, Vicar/Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and head of the Archdiocesan Tribunal. After dinner, **Dr. Tom Neal** (of Notre Dame Seminary) will lead us in an exploration of the history of religious life. Anyone 16 years old or older (male or female) is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to [Magnificat-house@archdiocese-no.org](mailto:Magnificat-house@archdiocese-no.org) or leave a message at (504)227-3203. Contributions of salad, bread or dessert are welcome but not required.

## Magnificat House of Discernment Newsletter

### Christmas in Haiti (by Sr. Diane Roche R.S.C.J.)

December 25<sup>th</sup> found me on a crowded plane headed to Port au Prince where I planned to spend a day with the Religious of the Sacred Heart there before driving up to Verrettes, a small town in the Artibonite Valley about two and a half hours away. The huge refugee camps that had filled every inch of open space in Port au Prince after the earth quake three years ago have melted away into fenced in pockets where some people still live crowded together under tarps and in make shift tents.

The roads, both within Port au Prince and leading to Verrettes had been greatly improved, apparently by donations and construction crews from Germany. While there were still huge piles of garbage at various intersections, city trucks came by regularly to clean them up and solar panels provided street lights in several neighborhoods.

I had gone to Verrettes to visit a school that had been built with funds channeled from a Canadian foundation (Acceso) through the Religious of the Sacred Heart's program there, called "Timoun Tet Ansanm" (Children Working Together). Getting to the school required a three hour long hike up to the top of a mountain where 450 children live with their parents, tending small gardens and selling the produce down in the Valley every Wednesday and Saturday. The trail was arduous but beautiful, requiring a bit of rock climbing up a small waterfall at one point.



**(Haiti Cont.)** After several days of visiting with old friends from my four years in Haiti I returned home to New Orleans, feeling proud of the way our Haitian colleagues have built upon the foundation laid by the Religious of the Sacred Heart and how they are beginning now to take the work into their own hands. I look forward to continuing to work with them as they move toward complete autonomy over the years ahead.

### November Mmmmm Night



Sr. Ann Marie Khoung F.M.S.R. enjoys a remark made by Fr. Tony Ricard at our **November Mmmmm Night**. About 15 people gathered for an ethnically diverse meal of Vietnamese Fried Rice, Enchiladas and Collard greens followed by a lively discussion about our Multicultural Church.

### Discerners Minister at CCRNO Teen Retreat

The first weekend of January, Alice, Martha and Paige joined with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) to encounter the Living God with 350 teenagers and young adults for the annual Youth Retreat. The Holy Spirit was present and moving during the Liturgies, preaching, prayer sessions, and presentations! It was incredible to see how receptive to God the young people were as they opened themselves to the care of the prayer ministers and adults. They entrusted themselves to Jesus with great generosity. We praised God for the gift of our Baptism, when God choose us to be his beloved sons and daughters. Our prayer is that we may all be faithful to our Baptismal vows; to live in the life of Christ. We were especially encouraged to see the mass of young people who made a concrete stand for Jesus by gathering at the front of the room to receive a prayer of encouragement from the rest of the community. We tasted the power in the precious name of Jesus and felt renewed grace to live in His freedom

