

Magnificat House Of Discernment



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ADDRESS

The Magnificat House of Discernment is located at:
2729 Lowerline
New Orleans, 70125

We may be reached at:
(504) 227-3203

Day 1 in the Magnificat Discernment House

There is always a bit of anxiety in moving into a new home. I imagine this anxiety should have been compounded by moving into, not just a new home, but a discernment house. However, my excitement easily overwhelmed any anxiety on August 18, 2012, when Paige LaCour and I became the first resident discerners at the Magnificat House of Discernment in New Orleans, Louisiana.

I arrived first and was cheerfully greeted by House mentor Sr. Carmen Bertrand, SSF, and a whole company of Marianites of Holy Cross that stopped by just to make us feel welcome.

Paige arrived soon after my mom and I unpacked my things. After settling in, she, Sr. Carmen, my mom, and I shared a delicious meal. Then I said goodbye to my mom and went upstairs to begin my new life as a resident discerner.

Living at the Magnificat House has been an experience of repeated blessings, beautiful prayer and reflection, genuine, faith-filled people, and a lot of hearty laughter.

I praise God that He has brought us to this place and ask His blessings on all those who were instrumental in it's founding.

By Alice Snee, MH discerner



Above, discerner Alice Snee moves in with help from her mother, Madeleine Snee, and Srs. Annette and Carmen. Below, discerner Paige LaCour moves in with help from her friend, Daniel LaCourage.



Coming soon . . .

October 26 5:30-9pm
Mmmmm Night

October 27 2:30pm
Gathering of Catholic Women in Action
tea/fellowship/rosary)

October 28 all day
World Youth Day
Vocations booth

Join us for our first
Mmmmm Night
October 26th at 5:30pm
Details on Page 2

**Magnificat's
Monthly
Mass,
Meal, &
More**

**You are
invited!**

**Magnificat's Monthly Masses, Meals, & More
begin on October 26th at 5:30 pm!**

Mass!!!

Come join us at the Magnificat House of Discernment as we host the first of a series of Friday night gatherings for men and women 16 and older who are discerning a vocation to religious life. (Location information for Magnificat House provided on Page 1).

Dr. Tom Neal of Notre Dame Seminary and a panel of religious will discuss:
"Apostolic or Monastic, What's the Difference?"

Potluck!

Mass will begin at 5:30pm followed by a potluck dinner (main dish will be provided, participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert). **RSVP to Sr. Diane Roche at droche@rscj.org.**

**The Magnitude of God
A Reflection by Discerner Paige LaCour**

"When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips were songs....What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sewing in tears will sing when they reap." Psalm 126.

How marvelous is the Lord's generosity?! In many ways this first month of the Magnificat House of Discernment has been like a dream. With hearts opened and disposed to the Lord, I think Sr. Carmen, Sr. Diane, Alice and myself are all experiencing a new spirit of gratitude; a deeper insight into the magnitude of God's generosity.

Great is the number of people who have generously offered themselves, their time, their prayers, their furniture, their money, in order to create this space for us to encounter Jesus and hear His voice in our hearts. Great also is the number of people who have caught wind of our new endeavor and want to hear of the blessings that God is pouring upon us.

The magnitude of the Magnificat experience both within our immediate community and our extended one has indeed been milieu in which our bondages are broken. If we were bound by our own limited view of who God is, certainly He is widening our view now. If we were bound because we encountered the drought of acedia, certainly our dry land is tasting streams of Living Water now.

St. Paul understands this great mystery in his intercessory prayer to the Ephesians. He says: "May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life. Thus you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, and experience this love which surpasses all knowledge, so that you may attain to the fullness of God himself." How could we resist rejoicing!? What could keep us from singing? Lord, open us more and more to your magnificent love. May the Magnificat House of Discernment continually be your special dwelling place and a tangible reflection of our own grateful hearts.

"To him whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end. Amen" Ephesians 3: 17-21

Are you being called? — Ask yourself, "how did it all begin?"

- When did you first think of becoming a religious?
- Has this desire of your been constant?
- Have you thought of entering another profession? Undertaking another occupation?
- Has this affected your wish to be a religious?
- Do you think the origins of your desire to become a religious could be found:
 - Through any particular people?
 - Through any situations?
 - Through any special events?
- How did your desire to become a religious become clear or grow in your life?

*Look for more questions adapted from
Discernment by Sr. Gloria Urrabazo, MCDP, in next month's issue!*

**A Look in the
Rearview Mirror
A Vocation Story**

by Sr. Paula Derise, O.Carm

When I was fourteen, my mom died. As an only child I was spoiled by my dad. My dad remarried six months later. My life then changed in many ways. Since my mom had always been sick and in and out of hospitals I grew up as the head cook, cleaner, and decision maker.

When my dad remarried I had a mom who wanted to do the things I always did and two-step brothers and one step-sister. I, even at fourteen, knew I could break up this marriage. So to not interfere, I went to board with the Sisters of Mount Carmel in Abbeville.

I had always wanted to be a teacher and changing schools was a good experience for me. Living with the Sisters led me to see what good women they were.

Another boarder had already decided to become a sister. I did not like the idea. I am quite sure the prayers of the sisters are the reason I entered the convent and have remained there for fifty-four years.

If you are interested in submitting your vocation story for our readers please contact Sr. Diane Roche at droche@rscj.org.

