



Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Interview with new Discerner * Info on upcoming Mmmm Night * Vocation questions * Discerner reflection * MHouse Mentors Hit the Road 	<p>Feb 15th Mmmm Night 6pm</p>	<p>Feb 23-24th "Nun Run" from Jackson, MS</p>

Heart-to-Heart with Discerner Martha Knox



Martha arrives with full hands and a full heart in New Orleans Airport

Alice: Hello, Martha, and welcome to Magnificat House!

Martha: *Why Thank you, I am glad to be here.*

A: You came quite a distance to get here. Where did you grow up?

M: *I grew up all over the West Coast. I was born in California but spent most of my young childhood in Nevada. Later my family moved to Washington and Arizona. I attended high school in Arizona. I've lived in Twisp, Washington since 2006.*

A: How did you first hear about Magnificat House?

M: *I was at Echo Camp 2012 in Covington, Louisiana. I was having a conversation with Fr. Steve Bruno. I mentioned that I was wanting to discern my vocation alongside other young women and he told me to check Magnificat House out. I still have the business card he wrote Sr. Sylvia Thibodeaux's contact information on for me.*

A: How did God continue to call you to here after that?

M: *I've been discerning for about 2 years. Throughout that period I've had family dilemmas and emergencies that I feel have interrupted my discernment. When I heard about Magnificat House from Fr. Steve at Echo Camp I was very excited about the possibility of coming.*

Soon after that, my brother-in-law passed away. I redirected my focus to helping my sister and her family. Throughout this time I continued to pray about my discernment and continued to feel as if God was calling me here. Eventually

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Mmmm Night Praying with Scripture . . .

Join the residents of MHouse on **Friday, February 15th at 6:00 PM** for their next "Mass, Meal, and More!"

Liturgy will be celebrated by **Fr. Howard Byrd (SSJ)** followed by a Lenten supper of shrimp and grits. **Sr. Rita Darensbourg (SSF)** and **Sr. Suzanne Brauer (OP)** will be part of a panel sharing helpful ways to use Scripture in prayer, especially during Lent.

All 16 years and older are welcome to attend! If you are able to **bring bread, dessert, or a salad**, that would be great but is not required.

Please rsvp to Sr. Diane at droche@rsqj.org.

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Continued from page 1 I prayed that if God wanted me to go to Magnificat House he was going to have to make it happen.

Two days later someone handed me a plane ticket! I sought advice from my spiritual director and then decided to come.

A: So, now that you are here, how are you liking it?

M: *Loving it so far. It has been an adjustment culturally and weather-wise – I'm used to about 3-feet of snow this time of year. I love having a Chapel right downstairs and doing prayer with the community has just been really good for me. I'm definitely feeling the internal struggle that comes with discernment right now and being here – in a space where I feel comfortable and feel the love of God so clearly – is a tremendous help.*



Martha (center) joins existing Discerners Paige and Alice (left) and Mentors Sr. Diane and Carmen (right) for quick pic after prayer in Magnificat House Chapel

Discerner Reflection by Martha Knox

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [. . .] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth . . ." Jn 1:1, 14

As I settle into my new home I find myself contemplating these words. Jesus, who died for us, is the Word that became flesh. What we know and believe help form the words we speak with our mouths and body, and those words ripple out from us and effect the world. This thought leads me to a great sense of awe and gratitude for the One who loves us into being every moment. In the celebration of the Holy Eucharist we prepare ourselves to become one with Jesus – the Word made Flesh, who if we let him, fills us with his grace and truth. MHouse manifested from words shared between a young woman eager to do God's will and a man who has dedicated his life to saying "Yes" to God. We too manifest the grace and truth of Jesus in the world when we say "Yes". When we still our minds and hearts to listen to his voice and say "Yes", we allow Jesus to effect the world.

Magnificat Mentors: Hitting the Road, Spreading the Word

During the months of January, February and March Sr. Diane Roche (RSCJ) and Sr. Carmen Bertrand (SSF) have been out visiting parishes and campus ministries throughout the New Orleans Area in order to get the word out about the programs being offered at Magnificat House. They have come up with three ways that people can help:

- #1. Forward the MHouse Newsletter to young adults on their mailing lists.
- #2. Advertise the possibility of living at MHouse for any young woman who is 21 years of age or older and who thinks she might be called to serve the Church as a religious sister (costs are \$400/month, includes room and board).
- #3. Invite Sr. Carmen and Sr. Diane to come out to give a presentation, either about vocations in general or about MHouse.



Mentors on the move!