



Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter

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First Mmmm Night – A Nourishing Event

On Friday, October 26th, a diverse group of about 25 people including professed religious (some still in the initial stages of formation) as well as lay men and women gathered in the Dining room of Magnificat House to celebrate the Eucharist with Fr. John Morin, OMI, followed by an abundant pot-luck supper featuring homemade bread, red beans and rice, cheesy potato casserole and cucumber salad. Afterward the group retired upstairs to the living room where Dr. Tom Neal, of Notre Dame Seminary, presented a concise and fascinating history of religious life in the Christian church. Sr. Rita Hickey (OSC) and Sr. Noel Toomey (OP) spoke movingly of their own experiences of living monastic and apostolic life, respectively. Heads nodded as Sr. Rita spoke of the need to discern the “little word” that God has spoken in creating each of us in order to answer the question of how we are to best put our gifts and talents to work. And there was much agreement among the members of apostolic communities present as Sr. Noel spoke about the relief and joy she experienced once Vatican II cleared up the confusion that had forced many women called to an active life of

service to God’s people to try and live within the rhythms of a monastic tradition. From the merely curious to the seriously committed, everyone who attended left full of new insights into an ancient yet still vibrant way of life.



Don't miss our next exciting M m m m m Night . . .

Join us on **Friday, November 30th at 5:30 PM** for Mass followed by a potluck supper and a discussion of *Missionary Life in the Catholic Church Today*. Speakers include **Sr. Judy Vollbrecht (RSCJ)**, recently returned from Haiti, **Mr. Matt Rousso** of the Maryknoll Mission Education Office and **Sr. Cecilia Dimaku (SSH)** from Nigeria. Anyone 16 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please rsvp to Sr. Diane at droche@rscj.org. Magnificat House is located at 2729 Lowerline St. (just down Walmsley from the Seminary) in St. Rita Parish rectory.

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Give Thanks, Fall in Love:

Reflection by Discerner Alice Snee

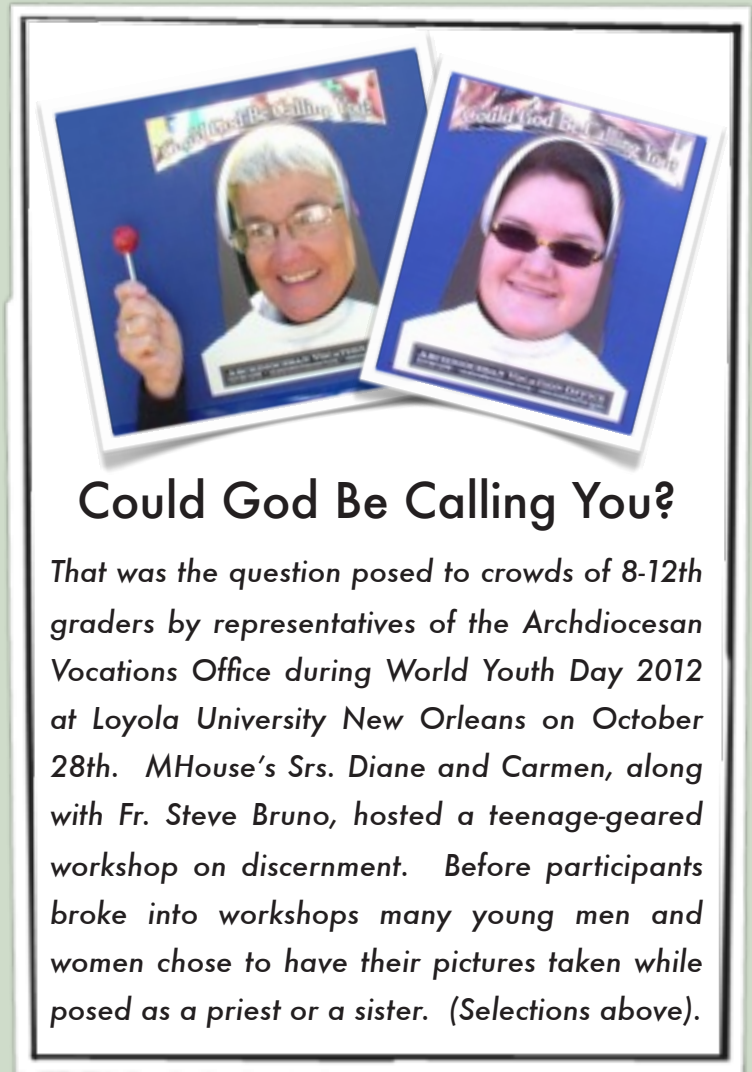
While recently reading some selections from St. Francis de Sales God gave me the grace to see that the simple act of giving thanks is so much more than a mere courtesy. In giving thanks we recognize and appreciate the goodness within a person. The more we recognize this goodness, the more we appreciate and admire those persons that make us feel thankful. This is how we fall more deeply in love - by repeatedly recognizing and appreciating the goodness within a person. This is also how we can fall more deeply in love with God - by repeatedly recognizing and appreciating the goodness of his creation. Heavenly Father, help us to increasingly recognize the goodness of your creation and to always take the time to thank you for it.

Are You Being Called? Ask Yourself: What Are Your Interests?

Besides your regular occupation what other interests do you have: hobbies, sports, parties, etc.?

- * Do any of your interests conflict with the important things in your life? How?
- * Do you feel that any of these activities are an escape from the pressures of real life? Do these interests bring you in closer contact with others?
- * Do any of these interests have a bearing on your desire to become a religious? In which way?

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



Could God Be Calling You?

That was the question posed to crowds of 8-12th graders by representatives of the Archdiocesan Vocations Office during World Youth Day 2012 at Loyola University New Orleans on October 28th. MHouse's Srs. Diane and Carmen, along with Fr. Steve Bruno, hosted a teenage geared workshop on discernment. Before participants broke into workshops many young men and women chose to have their pictures taken while posed as a priest or a sister. (Selections above).



Catholic Women in Action members and discerner Renee Brown enjoying some good tea and conversation.

Tea with Catholic Women in Action

On October 27th the Magnificat House community welcomed six members of Catholic Women In Action (Barbara Windhorst, Judy Salathe, Edna Centola, Jane Nalty, Cindy Nolan and Ann Fuselier) to an afternoon "Tea Party" to thank them for their financial support. While there was great diversity of age and experience in the group, there was also much laughter and appreciative nodding as each one told her story of God's action in her life. Before leaving, the group gathered in the chapel to recite the Rosary together, finding common ground in this ancient expression of faith that has been bringing women together for generations.