



Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter

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Coming Soon to MHouse

November 8th ~ Overnight Discernment Retreat sponsored by NRVC Region V

November 15th ~ Mmmmm Night 6 PM "Our Multi-Cultural Church"

Welcome to Our New Discerners!

Magnificat House welcomed two new discerning women in September. **Maria Mondello**, is a 19 year old sophomore at Nichols State who began to feel a call to religious life after getting involved with several young missionaries from Mary Mother Church at the St. Thomas Aquinas Student Center. "Moving into the house has allowed me to give Jesus a chance to speak to me in a very intimate way, I am trying to allow Him to be in control of my life. Since moving here, my relationship with Him has grown only because I am allowing Him to treat me like the small child that I am." Mondello said. She will live at Magnificat and continue her coursework on-line.



Margaret Uche is a 47 year old Pediatric Nurse from Houston, Texas. Born in Nigeria, she has been in the US for the past 30 years but only began thinking seriously about religious life in 2009 when someone suggested that she start visiting the Blessed Sacrament frequently. As she began the practice of regular Eucharistic Adoration she began to feel a strong call to give her life completely to God. "I hope that during my time at Magnificat House I can find a congregation that will really be a good fit for me, especially

one that has a strong devotion to Mary."

Because last year's discerners asked for and were granted special permission to stay on for one more year, there are currently five women living at Magnificat House as they try and discern what God is asking of them. Sr. Carmen Bertrand, S.S.F., and Sr. Diane Roche, R.S.C.J., will continue as live-in mentor/directors until July of 2014.

Don't Miss our 1st Mmmmm* Night of the year, October 25th

Join us **Friday, October 25th** at **6:00 PM** for Mass celebrated by **Fr. Christopher T. Eggleston O.P.** followed by a hearty fall meal. After dinner Fr. Chris will join **Sr. Dot Trosclair O.P.** (Director of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center) and **Sr. Tracey Dugas F.S.P.** (local superior of the Daughters of St. Paul) to explore practicing discernment in everyday life. Anyone 16 years old or older (male or female) is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Magnificat-house@archdiocese-no.org or leave a message at (504) 227-3203. Contributions of salad, bread or desert welcome but not required.

***Magnificat Monthly Mass,
Meal and More**

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Martha Attends Catholics On Call

Chicago in August, warm breeze, beautiful greenish blue lake, 50 young adults and Jesus in our midst! This describes one week of my summer this year. Along with the exterior beauty, we talked about the beauty of vocations in the Church. In prayer and conversation with people from around the country and Canada I talked about the beauty and dignity of individuals and the call to ministry within our own vocations. We young adults were guided by a few priests, religious sisters, young adult ministers and a wise old Bishop from Green Bay. We worked alongside men and women who ran ministries for women in the Chicago area, worked to bring reconciliation to young troubled men, worked in parishes, and on college campuses, seeing firsthand the hard work and love that goes into living out these ministries. In a week the Lord was able to heal and transform lives right in front of me, including my own, causing a deeper love and understanding of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Magnificat House Holds Opening Retreat at Grand Coteau



(Pictured from left to right) Maria Mondello, Paige LaCour, Martha Knox, Sr. Carmen Bertrand S.S.F., Alice Snee (Sr. Diane Roche R.S.C.J. was taling the picture) enjoyed two nights of hospitality with the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, LA, over Labor Day weekend. One of the highlights was the visit to the shrine of St. John Berchmans, who miraculously cured a young Religious of the Sacred Heart (Mary Wilson) by appearing at her bedside. .

Getting the Most out of Spiritual Direction

On September 11th, Sr. Noel Toomey, O.P. joined the members of the Magnificat House community for evening prayer and dinner followed by a brief explanation of what Spiritual Direction is, the different forms it has taken historically and a description of the "Classical Form" most favored by women religious today. Sr. Toomey pointed out that the role of the director is to help the person learn to recognize the action of God in her life. A trained director is able to refrain from introducing his or her personal experience and opinions into the conversation and focuses instead on assisting the person in noticing her religious experience. Sr. Toomey emphasized the importance of seeking a director who has been professionally trained through a recognized institute such as Creighton University or the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has a set of guidelines for training programs for Spiritual Direction. Magnificat women are provided with a list of trained directors who are willing to offer their services for no fee, but if none are a good fit, they are also welcome to pay for the services of any of the trained spiritual directors on file with the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center.

Paige LaCour: A Summer of Loving Service

This summer I had the opportunity to visit and encounter many beautiful people. First, I was blessed to be part of a prayer team along side those who work with the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Florida. I recognize the profound significance of their mission: "Transformation in the heart of the Church". Inspired by the life and teaching of Blessed John Paul II, the JP II Healing Center is dedicated to healing broken hearts and restoring the image of God in the human person, as represented most fully by the hearts of Jesus and Mary. It was an incredible experience to witness the presence of the Lord in all of those who were present at the retreat this June. It strengthened my own hope to see the power of Christ's redemption within each person's healing process.



Then, I was blessed to spend a week working in the South West at the Lord's Ranch and also south of the border. The Lord's Ranch and the families in the Las Alas Church community reach out in many incredible ways to those in need in New Mexico, El Paso, TX and in Juarez, Mexico. It was an honor to be able to serve alongside people who are united in heart and prayer with the poor. We experienced the beauty hidden in a mental hospital, a prison, a home in need of cleaning, a blind community, and others who received weekly food donations from the faithful in the community. Through both my time in Tallahassee and at the border between Mexico and the US, I learned in my heart that God favors His poor ones. Lastly, before the fall semester began again, I was able to visit a religious community in Missouri. God's providential hand touched me as I experienced such variety of Christian expression. In Him, truly, we are all one magnificent mystery, the Church.