



# Magnificat House e-Newsletter

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## "I wonder what is going to be your next step in life..."

These words from Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. to a young friend come to my mind often as I participate in the events at Magnificat House. After engaging with the women who come to our home, I do wonder what their next steps in life will be and I know that they come to Magnificat House because they, too, are wondering. To "wonder" is to be attracted to, to dream, to explore, to look at possibilities, *and* to ask questions. Our April Mmmm Night explored this question: "How do I know I am called to be a Sister or a Nun?"

Mmmm Nights always begin with Mass and we were privileged to have Father Raymond Ibogidi preside. His carefully prepared homily on the fundamentals of discernment provided a foundation from which the "How do I know" question could be further explored. After dinner, Sister Gloria Murillo, STJ, provided practical nourishment, drawing on her own experience of coming to know her call to religious life. Blessed with the love of family and friends (and a fiancé), with a fine education and material success, she nonetheless wondered, longing for "something more," and eventually finding it in religious life. Sister Gloria stressed the importance of paying attention to one's feelings, one's deepest desire, in coming to know God's will.

Kara Davis, a postulant with the Daughters of Charity, then told her story. Full of energy and good humor, she echoed much of what Sr. Gloria had earlier described. Both told of how their friends knew the path that their life would take even before Sister Gloria or Kara were able to articulate their call. Both spoke of coming to the awareness that "This fits me!"

Please join us for our Farewell on June 30<sup>th</sup> for those associated with the house who are taking their next steps, or come pray and have supper with us on an evening that fits your schedule. Most importantly, if you are drawn to living in community with other women who are also discerning a vocation to religious life, please contact one of our mentors, Sr. Theresa or Sr. Cecilia. Contact information, as well as more information about Magnificat House may be found on our Facebook page: NOLA Vocations.

Let us pray for each other...and trust the God of Life!

Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.



*Magnificat House mentors, discerners and friends attended the Archdiocesan Vocations Mass celebrated by Archbishop Aymond at St. Louis Cathedral on April 17, 2016. Read more about the experience on page 2.*

## Upcoming Events

July 30 4PM

Farewell Celebration for those taking next steps. Come celebrate and wish them well!

July 31

Completed applications due for potential residents for Fall 2016.

Sept. 20 6PM

Mmmm Fall 2016. Topic to be announced.

*Follow us on Facebook to stay updated on activities and future events!*

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# Magnificat House of Discernment e-Newsletter

## Hearing the Shepherd's call

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the mentors, the current discerner, and several friends of Magnificat House attended the Archdiocesan Mass for Vocations. During the homily, Archbishop Aymond shared a story about getting lost on a trip to New Orleans and what a comfort the voice of OnStar was as it safely guided him and his passengers to their destination. The archbishop connected this to listening for the voice of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who guides our own lives. Not only will the Lord guide our lives when we take time to listen to him in prayer, but He may call us, even though we may feel unworthy, to be shepherds guiding others as well, especially through the call to clergy or religious life.

After the Mass, friends gathered for a simple lunch at Magnificat House. One, a high school campus minister, said, "I'm so glad I can do this with you. I've wanted to come [for an Mmmm night] and it hasn't fit into my schedule." As she shared about a recent campus ministry retreat, I could hear the voice of one who listens for the Good Shepherd as she ministers to her students. As she spoke with us at Magnificat House, it seemed that she found others who understood the journey in both her personal and professional life. May our Good Shepherd continue to guide her and others like her who are listening for the Shepherd's call to "Come, follow me."

Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ

## Mmmm Nights and More from MHD



*Above: On March 29, MHD mentors and friends participated in the monthly Peace Prayer Walk sponsored by the archdiocese and Catholic Charities.*



*A sampling of photos from Mmmm Nights in April and May. A very special thanks to Sr. Gloria and Sr. Susanna and to all who attend for Mass, a meal and more!*



## Celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week!

The annual National Catholic Sisters Week celebration took place from March 8–14, 2016. This event, created to honor women religious in the country, was an opportunity to instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus to the lives of women religious and to bring as many young women as possible to learn about women religious.

Magnificat House celebrated by hosting a webinar about religious life with Loyola University Institute of Ministry and by visiting two local colleges: Loyola University and Xavier University for Cookies and Selfies with the Sisters. Several gift items were available for grabs and the students loved every one of those items.

Religious from seven orders ministering locally participated and all were impressed with the students who stopped by for questions, conversation and cookies. Two young women in particular from Loyola University were very excited to have run into us because one said she was, just that morning, considering becoming a Christian and did not know how to go about it. The second young lady wanted information about religious life but did not know where to go to get what she wanted.

What a "joy" to be a "witness" on local college campuses.

Sr. Cecilia Dimaku, SSH



If you (or someone you know) is seriously considering a call as a Religious Sister, why not join us!

Deadline is July 31, 2016

Click [here](#), email [magnificathouse@arch-no.org](mailto:magnificathouse@arch-no.org), or call 504 861-6281 to request an application.