



Magnificat House e-Newsletter

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Magnificat House: Remembering 2015... Anticipating 2016

I love to cook. Some of my happiest Magnificat House memories from 2015 are memories from the kitchen: preparing Monday night suppers for our local community and preparing meals to accompany various house events. Because I am not responsible for the various liturgies and presentations that Magnificat House offers, I am free to focus on offering a good meal to our visitors.

While my hands are busy washing, peeling and chopping, my eyes are free to contemplate the ordinary beauty of vegetables and fruit. My mind is free from concerns or worries of the day, my heart is free to love God whose gracious goodness provides us with nourishment and to love and pray for those for whom I am cooking. Cooking is contemplative time for me, time to "take a long loving look at the real," as my Carmelite brother, William McNamara puts it. Cooking brings me joy.

Perhaps it is the aromas coming from our kitchen, perhaps a desire to offer one's own gifts, but invariably the Magnificat House sisters and residents and guests are drawn to the kitchen with the question: "Is there something I can do to help?" My first inclination, especially when it is a guest, is to say, "Oh, thanks, but I have it covered." Often, the response is, "Please, I really want to help, I like to help." And then the space opens for conversations about religious life that perhaps would have been awkward in a more "programmed" setting; in the kitchen they flow with ease, with laughter and with greater insight. The very act of preparing nourishment together nourishes us. To borrow a line from Mary's Magnificat, "He has filled the hungry with good things." God has indeed filled us with good things---some edible, some spiritual---all GOOD!

Come, join us for our 2016 spring events---and come visit me in the kitchen!

-Sister Beth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.
Vicar for Religious and Magnificat House Resident

Upcoming Events

Sunday Feb. 14th, 2016

Join us at Tulane Catholic Student Center's
6 PM Mass and Supper

Wed. Feb. 24, 2016 6:00 PM-9 PM

Magnificat House Mmmmm...**Mass and Movie!** Ordinary People, Extraordinary Gifts: The Road to Sainthood

Monday March 7, 2016

National Catholic Sisters Week Webinar
(Details to follow)

Sat. March 12, 2016

Check us out at our booth at Abbey Youth Fest!

Fri. April 15, 2016 6-9 PM

Magnificat House Mmmmm....How Do I know if I'm called to be a Sister or Nun?

Sunday April 17th, 2016 11 AM

Mass for Vocations at St. Louis Cathedral

Sat. May 14, 2016 9 AM-1 PM

Magnificat House Mmmmm...The Role of Blessed Mother as a Model for Religious Life

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Magnificat House of Discernment e-Newsletter

Mary: A Mother and Inspiration for Christian and Muslim Women

On December 9, Magnificat House attended an interfaith discussion which explored Christian and Muslim teachings about Mary. The event, held in the chapel of St. Clare's Catholic Monastery, featured the dialogue of a young Muslim woman and a Poor Clare Nun as they shared their perspectives on Mary. The women discussed Mary's theological significance, compared and contrasted their understandings, and, in closing, expressed who Mary is to each of them. A sweet and striking similarity was revealed as they shared who Mary is to them- to each, Mary is mother.



- Mary D.
Magnificat House Discerner

"How very good and pleasant it is when sisters gather together in unity and joy! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the face of God's consecrated."

(adapted from Psalm 133: 1&2)

A Mentor's Gratitude

In looking back over this past year at Magnificat House, I am filled with gratitude. As one of the mentors, along with co-mentor Sr. Cecilia, I have had the privilege of journeying with three women who have resided in the house and several others who have come for Mmmmm... days, the discernment retreat, and other events this past year.



As I listen to each woman, I am reminded that this is a sacred time. They explore, sometimes with a mixture of both fear and hope, their desire to follow God's will and to live lives of love, prayer, and service. Whether the journey leads to entering a religious community or to exploring possibilities for single life or marriage, I see amazing growth in self-acceptance, in trusting God's action in her own life, and in joy.

I am grateful for these brave women who risk saying, like Samuel, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!" I pray for the grace to serve with joy, honesty, and love, each discerner that God sends to us in the New Year.

- Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ

Reflecting on the Magnificat House Christmas

The quote above adapted from Psalms 133 describes the feeling I had on the night of December 18, 2015 when we had a "Christmas Social" at the Magnificat House. Sisters came from different congregations within New Orleans to celebrate the joy of Christmas and of one another. Highlights of the day included a sing along of Christmas carols led by one of the mentors, Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ. Sr. Theresa - a Music Therapist - brought her talent to bear that night on her guitar and joyful sounds; the delicious Gumbo made by a great cook: Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O' Carm. For Sr. Beth, cooking is not only an art, but a prayer, a time with the quiet, a relaxation and nerve calming activity. No wonder her food turns out so delicious!



In attendance also were some sisters in formation - a novice of the Sisters of Mercy, a postulant of the Poor Clare Nuns, past and present discerners - and sisters from about 8 other congregations. The atmosphere was one of joy and laughter. It was so nice to see everyone present so relaxed and enjoying every minute.

I am very sure I was not the only one that enjoyed that evening. Ever since the celebration, every Sister I have met who was present that day has commented on how great the night was. It indeed put all of us in a Christmas celebration mood. To God be the glory!

- Sr. Cecilia Dimaku, SSH

Do you think God may be calling you to explore life as a woman religious ?

Consider applying to live at Magnificat House!

Call 504 861-6281 or email magnificathouse@arch-no.org to request an application.