



# Magnificat House of Discernment

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Watch for our next newsletter this fall. Have a safe and happy summer!

## DISCERNERS SPEAK!



### Magnificat House Class of 2015

After this past year of discernment, I have begun my application with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. I have had the privilege and honor of ministering at St. Rita Catholic School, New Orleans, for three years. Because I will be leaving my beloved ministry and Louisiana, the next step in my journey is a bittersweet one.

We often say that God has a sense of humor – well, God does indeed. I reconnected with a friend that lived in Hammond and now I will be living with her in Louisville, Kentucky. I am also working on finding ministry in Kentucky, with hopes to move at the end of August 2015. The reason I mention “with hopes” is because I will not be officially accepted to the Sisters of Charity until August 22, 2015. Please keep this date in your thoughts and prayers as I continue to discern my call to religious life.

Melissa C. Fisackerly

***MAY GOD GUARD YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY***

### The who, what, why and how for you!

- Are you a single, post-college age woman?
- Are you discerning a vocational call to consecrated life?
- Do you desire a supportive community where you can deepen your relationship with God and discern your call?

Then Magnificat House of Discernment may be for you! We are accepting applications for the 2015/2016 session.

[Click here to download the application packet](#) or call 504 861-6281 and request one be sent in the mail.

# Magnificat House of Discernment Newsletter

## DISCERNMENT: A CHALLENGE AND A BLESSING



Being at the Magnificat House of Discernment has been, as they say, a challenge and a blessing. It was a challenge in that it, in effect, challenged my notion of what it means to discern God's will. When I came to the house, I came with an agenda—I was here to

discover whether religious life was for me. If not, then I would go to graduate school. If so, then I would be told what community and head off there, end of story.

To me, discernment was a black and white issue, but discernment is not black and white. When I failed to receive "answers," it became a blessing because it forced me to change my questions. I now ask myself "Who am I? Who is God for me? Who am I to God? What do I believe?"

I need more time to figure out who I am as an adult and a child of God. I decided to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for the 2015-2016 year. The commitment to simple living is intriguing to me because it's not so much about having less "stuff" but about the relationships—spending time with people rather than on our smart phones.

The night before "I made my decision" to join JVC, I sent to my best friend of eight years a paragraph-long text about the values of JVC, why it interested me, and how I thought it could help me. She replied with a sentence. "I think you've made your decision Steph." And the more I think about it, the more I agree.

Stephanie Roca



We had a wonderful day at Abbey Youth Fest in March! The mentors and one of the residents from Magnificat House of Discernment visited with youth, adult ministers, and others from across southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Festival goers were curious about who can come to the Magnificat House of Discernment and why there are different religious communities in the Church. Youth and adults asked about daily life, and discerner Stephanie Roca shared her experiences of communal prayer, meals, and other facets of daily life that assist discerners in knowing whether or not they are called to Religious life. In addition to answering questions, we shared information about our Mmmm... Morning to be held the following Saturday at Magnificat House of Discernment, and two women came as a result. Please continue to pray with us that some of these young women will choose to live at Magnificat House of Discernment to further discern God's call to them.

Sister Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ

## Mmmm... Night Small Groups Gathering

The Magnificat House of Discernment had its last MMM Night for the spring semester. This particular MMM evening was a time for a selected small group to come together and ask questions and hear responses from the Magnificat House of Discernment women. Stephanie, Alice (former discerner of Magnificat House) and I were given 3 to 4 questions about our next steps, how the discernment process has been, how has it helped, and did living in the house of discernment benefit our discernment?

It was really great to see JOY radiating out of each of us as we spoke about the next step in our journey. As we told our experiences and what it has meant and been for us to live at the Magnificat House of Discernment, many of our responses were the same. This is always a good sign. Hopefully this sharing helped the two women who participated to get a sense of what a house of discernment entails. It is a house of women who desire a similar sense of love, prayer, community, while discerning their call to religious vocation.

I tell people that every catholic diocese needs a house of discernment! A house of discernment fits the signs of the time in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is something that young adults are looking for and I can't express enough how important it is for the young adults and those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life to come together and create a space for prayer! I am ever so grateful for this opportunity of partaking in the House of Discernment!

Melissa C. Fisackerly