



Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter

Inside this issue . . .

- Magnificat House Announces
- Discernment Workshop
- Magnificat at W.Y.D
- A Retreat Experience

Coming soon at MHouse . . .

- MMM Day in January 2015
- Weekly Discernment Class

MAGNIFICAT HOUSE ANNOUNCES!!!:



Photo caption . . .

As we begin a New Year, God who is mighty has done another great thing for the Women of Magnificat House! On January 10, Sister Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ will join Sister Cecilia Dimaku, SSH in mentoring the women living here as they continue to explore the possibility of a vocation to religious life.

Sister Theresa, a native of Huntsville, AL, is a member of the Congregation of Saint Joseph and has lived in community for fifteen years. She received an undergraduate degree in music therapy from Loyola University in New Orleans and a graduate degree, also from Loyola, in Pastoral

Studies with a concentration in Christian Spirituality. For nearly three years, Sister Theresa has been Pastoral Care Director at Wynhoven Health Care Center, a ministry she will continue as she assumes the position of mentor. Wynhoven has graciously agreed to allow her to minister there four days a week in order that she might be available to our discerners.

Sister Theresa's gentleness, her gifts in pastoral care, in spirituality and in music, and her congregational charism will be such a support to our community life here at Magnificat House. Sister Cecilia and I are grateful to her and to her congregation for this generous "yes" to God's call. Our discerners, Melissa Fisackerly and Stephanie Roca, join us in extending a warm "welcome" to Theresa!

May Saint Joseph, a man of silence, of dreams, and of willingness to protect and nourish new life, intercede for her and for all us.

- Sister Beth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.

Accepting Applications for 2014-15

If you think God may be calling you to explore life as a woman religious, why not apply to live for six months to a year at Magnificat House? Mentors help residents to find a spiritual director who will assist them with a formal discernment. Residents will also have many opportunities to spend time with various religious communities both within the New Orleans area and across the country. Click here to download the application or call (504) 861-6281. and request that an application be sent in the mail



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MAGNIFICAT HOUSE HOSTS DISCERNMENT

The House of Discernment hosted a Discernment workshop in November given by Sr. Gloria, a Teresian and a staff of the Archdiocesan Retreat Center.

I have learned from my own experiences that discernment is a lifelong commitment with the intention of coming to a decision with God. What became clearer to me after the workshop was what discernment is and how to “do” discernment. I appreciated Sr. Gloria’s description on what discernment is – a “way of life/a process of prayer.” Learning and “doing” discernment has helped me to be where I am today. Discernment is, “discussion with God; discernment is a revelation which in turn means, God communicating with me and my responding with God in faith.” Discernment is simply allowing myself to speak to God and allowing God to speak to me. Discernment requires patience and contemplation and then the action will follow. If I allow God to converse with me I will begin to learn who God is for me and who I am to God. Once I have a close relationship with God, I will be able to see God in my ministry with the eyes and heart of Jesus Christ. Like Sr. Gloria said, discernment *is* a way of life. The human experience becomes *real* to me in my ministry and daily living. The only source for me to have my human experience comes from prayer! My prayer life is what energizes and keeps me aware of where I experience God most in my life. The way I live out my prayer life reflects my discernment. There is an attentiveness that needs to be taken into consideration as well when discerning the will of God. Sr. Gloria reminds us throughout our workshop that, “our goal is Mary’s goal, which is to be with God.” When I set aside prayer time with God and listen intently what He is asking of me, then I can have a personal experience at my ministry and in my daily life, and of course prayers get answered.

Melissa Fisackerly



MAGNIFICAT HOUSE AT W. Y. D

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. (Mt. 9:37)

Magnificat House getting ready to spread the good news of Consecrated Life at the Archdiocesan World Youth Day in New Orleans.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt. 9:38)



Magnificat House Community

GREETINGS FROM MAGNIFICAT HOUSE

We at the Magnificat House of Discernment wish all of you a joy filled Christmas Season and a Happy, Healthy and Graced 2015. In this Year of Consecrated Life, it is our prayer that many young women and men will embrace the call to a life

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MELISSA SHARES HER ONLINE RETREAT EXPERIENCE

In October 2014 I made an online retreat given by the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity Federation. On this online retreat I was given a director who would pray with and for me, walk with me, help me communicate what God was revealing to me. At the time of my retreat I reflected on what ‘unrestricted readiness’ means. I prayed long and hard because it didn’t quite register in my heart. However, it did register in my thoughts. As I was praying just this week this St. Vincent De Paul’s “Unrestricted Readiness” came back to me. I realized how much it resonates with me. As I discern the different events of my life I wondered “what did I say ‘no’ to in my ‘yes’? I realize what being completely available to God and allowing the Holy Spirit work in my discernment means. This enabled me to discern on a deeper level and respond to God accordingly.



During our Discernment Workshop Sr. Gloria reminded us of the need to ask questions in prayer - why am I doing this? Am I being fed from God? What is God’s image for me? If I am *only* being fed in my prayer and not in my ministry or daily life, then I need to take a closer look at “why am I doing whatever I am doing” And if I am only being fed in my ministry and not in my personal prayer, there is still a problem.

To conclude, I will leave you with a quote from St. Vincent De Paul which I learned during my online retreat: “God never calls anyone to do some tasks unless He sees in her the appropriate qualities to carry it out, or which He plans to give her. Therefore, it is He, who by His grace, has called and united you.”

NUNS RUN PARTICIPANTS VISIT MAGNIFICAT HOUSE OF DISCERNMENT

Participants at the recently organized Nuns Run visited the Magnificat House of Discernment. Who knows? Maybe one or two will one day decide to join the Discernment Community



MMMM Day Event

Our next Magnificat Mass Meal & More Event comes up on January 17, 2015. Eucharist celebration begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by other activities. This time we will hear from first three Religious Congregations who have a long and rich history in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

They will address the question **“What in your Congregations' Charism and ministries will appeal to or inspire young women to be interested in your Congregation today?”** There will be opportunities for reflection, conversation and questions. We will conclude with lunch at about 12:30 p.m.