



Magnificat House of Discernment

..... Newsletter

Inside this issue . . .

- Mmm... Day
- Community Retreat
- Discernment

Coming soon at MHouse . . .

- Magnificat House Mini-reunion
- MMmmm ... Day—March 28

MAGNIFICAT, MASS, MEAL & MORE! Mmmm.... Day

At our last Mmmm.. Day, three Congregations: Sisters of the Holy Family (SSF), Sisters of Mt. Carmel (O.Carm) and Ursuline Sisters (OSU) shared their unique charisms and how their histories are intertwined in their ministries to the people of New Orleans. Participants reflected deeply on what they heard from each of the presenters and asked questions relevant to their own life and discernment.

Don't miss our next Mmmm... Day on March 28!

The Sisters and Daughters of Charity will share how they live out the vision of St. Vincent de Paul in their ministries to the poor in our world today.

Magnificat House Mini-Reunion!

By the time this edition is published, former and current residents will have gathered for Mass and a potluck supper as a mini-reunion spearheaded by Sister Dianne Roche, RSCJ, a former mentor at Magnificat House.



We're Accepting Applications for 2015-16

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 packet](#) or call 504 861-6281 and request one be sent in the mail.

Magnificat House of Discernment Newsletter

Magnificat Community Retreat

It was especially timely for the members of Magnificat house to be together on retreat January 30th-February 1st at the Teresian Spirituality Center in Covington. The retreat not only started our new calendar year, but also gave time and space for us to come together as a new community. A wise woman once said that anytime a person moves into or out of a house, a new community is formed. Magnificat house has experienced both recently, having said farewell to Margaret as she joined the Dominican Sisters of Peace, and welcoming Sister Theresa as a new mentor.

The retreat provided reflection time to nourish our individual spiritual lives as well as time for sharing to know each other better on our life's journey. Sisters and discerners prayed with scripture as well as poetry, with God's laughter and with the beauty of nature. Toward the end of the retreat, we planned events for the next few months, events as the mentors continue to walk with current discerners invite others to Magnificat House. The weekend concluded with Liturgy at St. Joseph's Abbey and a delicious lunch! We are grateful to the Teresian Sisters for their gracious hospitality.



MHouse discerners and mentors with the visiting religious sisters at the last Mmmm Night



How Do I Know?

The Art of Discernment

By: Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ

"Should every good idea be acted upon?" "How do temptations change as I grow in my spiritual life?" "When I've made a decision, how do I seek confirmation that it's right?" "When I'm experiencing great joy, how ought I respond?" "And when difficulties come, how do I know whether to 'tough it out' or if I need to change course?" These and similar questions were asked by participants during Sister Dorothy (Dot) Troclair's classes on discernment.

During a series of classes attended by mentors and discerners at Magnificat house, women in formation with the Daughters of Charity and Sisters of the Holy Family, and their directors, Sister Dot laid out the basics of spiritual discernment. We must believe that God acts uniquely in each of our lives, and calls us by name! God is a loving God, who leaves us free and will not force love upon us. The discerning person must be rooted in prayer; not just in saying prayers, but in being present to and with God. And discernment involves listening, both during prayer and during other interactions, to the interior movements that one feels in the heart and mind. When we pay attention, we will notice which of the movements lead us toward or away from God. This is the purpose of discernment.