



Magnificat House e-Newsletter

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Jesus Youth Visits Magnificat House

For four days, eight young women of the Jesus Youth Summer Mission Exposure Program enjoyed the warm hospitality of the sisters at the Magnificat House of Discernment in New Orleans. Jesus Youth, an international Catholic movement that began in India about 30 years ago, has a missionary charism specifically geared towards leading young people to a renewed life in Christ. As a fruit of this maturing relationship, they become missionary disciples themselves. Fostering a personal relationship with the most Holy Trinity, the Jesus Youth lifestyle is rooted in six fundamental daily pillars: personal prayer, sacraments, Word of God, fellowship, evangelization, and the preferential option for the poor.

In the Summer Mission Exposure Program, college aged Jesus Youth set apart one month to live these pillars more intentionally. Beginning with a personal retreat, the youth realized the true source of any missionary activity: Christ Himself. The 10 participants and 3 young adult leaders then traveled to Haiti for a 12-day mission exposure. These youth volunteered with religious men and women in the most destitute areas of one of the poorest countries in the world. The participants learned from the counter cultural self-gift of the Missionaries of the Poor, Misio Belem brothers and sisters, and lay volunteers.



Upon returning from Haiti, they traveled to New Orleans to continue their mission experience. The young women of the group stayed at the Magnificat House in order to learn about a more ordinary, everyday mission, which nonetheless conveys the importance of radical self-gift and living counter culturally. Many of the girls were deeply impacted by the sisters' attentiveness to their needs and authentic generosity. "If being a sister can be this joyful and beautiful, why don't I discern more?" one participant mentioned after she first met Sr. Beth, Sr. Gloria, and Sr. Theresa.

After daily Mass, the entire group made themselves at home and enjoyed the sisters' graciousness in using the kitchen, chapel and common areas to begin each day. This gathering space beautifully fostered the mission experience of the participants and leaders alike! In between physical labor in the Lower 9th Ward's community grocery store and internet café, group and personal prayer time, daily Mass at St. Rita's Church, and sharing their experiences with a local youth group, the young women also sat down with Sr. Beth to learn more about the mission and vision of the Magnificat House. Following their four-day stay in New Orleans, the Jesus Youth journeyed on to Houston, where they will continue to deepen their relationship with Christ and His Church through authentic living of the six pillars.

- Katie Heitmann, Friend of Magnificat House

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 17th - 6 - 9 pm *Sisterhood Salt and Light's* video Introduction (7-part series)

Saturday, November 11th - 9 am - 2 pm *Sisterhood Salt and Light's* video series

Tuesday, December 5 - 6 - 9 pm Christ in the City

Saturday, December 16 - 5 pm Advent Vespers & Christmas Party

Follow us on Facebook at @NOLAVocations for the latest!

Magnificat: My Soul Proclaims Your Magnificence, O My God

My brother-in-law, John, upon hearing that I would serve as mentor at the Magnificat House of Discernment said, "You're going to the Magnificat house!"

John is not a Catholic, and I can understand how "Magnificat" and "Magnificent" sound similar to his ears. Without wanting to be too bold, after two and a half years of living at the house and sharing prayer, cooking duties, cleaning, planning and evaluating after programs, I agree with him. "Magnificent," not in the sense of being lavish or a palace (though we do have a pleasant atmosphere and ample space for discerners, classes and programs), but magnificent in what God has done and in what I hope God continues to do in the future.

God has: brought together diverse women's communities who continue to collaborate with each other and the archbishop to make this house of discernment possible.



- deepened my own relationship and identity as a Sister of St. Joseph while simultaneously enriching my life through the living examples of other Sisters and their charisms.

- let me "give back" through my own formation and life experiences to the women who have come to discern and to guests seeking hospitality.

- fostered growth in the lives of the residents, giving each a space to ask questions, share their faith journey, love God, serve their neighbor, and better know themselves.

As I prepare to leave Magnificat House and remember God's works listed above and also simple joys, such as sunsets from the kitchen window, I proclaim with Mary, "Magnificat!" And with a little interpretation from my brother-in-law, "Magnificent!" My soul proclaims your magnificence, O my God! Amen.

-Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ

Rejoice Heartily!

Thus says the Lord: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! (Zechariah 9:9; Reading 1, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The Women Religious who are associated with Magnificat House and those who worship daily at St. Rita's Church did rejoice heartily on the evening of July 8, 2017 with our pastor, Father Jim Wehner, parish administrator, Father Peter Finney and other friends of Magnificat House. Our celebration was trifold: we rejoiced in the presence of sisters from six congregations who worship at St. Rita's on a regular basis, we commemorated the fifth anniversary of the opening of Magnificat House (August 15, 2012), and we gave thanks for Sister Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ who has served as a mentor at Magnificat House for the last two and a half years.

Our evening began with the Vigil Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Father Jim expressed gratitude for the presence of so many women religious in the parish (19 were present that evening) and presented each with a red rose --- compliments of Father Peter! An added blessing was Sister Gloria Murillo, STJ, our Magnificat House mentor, who spoke of her congregation's mission in Cuba, Africa and asked for assistance in providing for the needs of those with whom they minister.

Following Mass, sisters, priests and friends gathered upstairs in Magnificat House to continue our rejoicing with refreshments, and more prayer --- a prayer of grateful remembrance of former resident discerners, associate discerners and mentors. Seven resident discerners or associate discerners have gone on to enter religious life, or are entering in the near future. Others continue to discern, or have come to greater clarity regarding their discernment of marriage. We are so proud of all our discerners!

We prayed with special gratitude for Sister Theresa whose love for religious life and whose wise, gentle and inspiring presence has been a

blessing to all associated with this house. She leaves us to begin a ministry at Hundred Oaks, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Assisted Living Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

Magnificat House began more than five years ago as a collaborative initiative between the women religious in the archdiocese and Archbishop Gregory Aymond. The spirit of joyful collaboration, which characterized the beginning of this ministry has continued to permeate our ministry here in this house and in this parish. REJOICE with us!

-Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O.Carm., Vicar for Religious



MHD hosted the 2nd Annual Sisters of the Holy Rosary Come and See gathering this summer welcoming seven young women to learn more about religious life.

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

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