



# Magnificat House e-Newsletter

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## "Thanks and Yes!"

This summer has been a bittersweet time for the residents of Magnificat House. Bitter, as we experienced the departure of two of our life-giving members; sweet, because of the great gratitude we feel for their presence.

Sister Cecilia Dimaku, SSH completed her two-year commitment as a mentor at Magnificat House. Her prayerful spirit, her love for religious life coupled with her desire to share this life with the next generation, and her skills in discernment have greatly enriched the Magnificat House community. As a native of Nigeria, she brought an international perspective to our prayers, to our meals and to our conversation. After a month-long visit in Nigeria, Sister Cecilia will return to her position in the finance office at St. Mary's Academy and to establishing a Sacred Heart Convent in St. Maria Goretti Parish in New Orleans East.

Our discerner, Mary D, brought a joyous spirit, enthusiasm and many new friends to our home. Eager to discover God's will for her life and eager to learn about religious, Mary's questions prompted the religious to think about our life in fresh ways. Mary's year of discernment has led her to the awareness that while religious life is not her vocation, a life of service is her call. She is beginning nursing school in her native Lake Charles this fall.

On the evening of July 30, the Magnificat House of Discernment community gathered with many religious in the archdiocese and our friends to celebrate the gifts of these two wonderful women. Prayer, laughter and good food shaped this evening of thanksgiving.

Departures become arrivals and we give thanks for Sr. Gloria Murillo, a Teresian Sister who will succeed Sr. Cecilia. Sr. Gloria is an Associate Director of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center and has been a presenter for several of our programs. Her gifts in discernment and her concern for young women make her a "natural" for this position. She will join the Magnificat House community in early September.

With Dag Hammarskjöld we say "For all that has been, Thank You. For all that is to come, Yes!"

- Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.



Magnificat House mentor Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ; outgoing mentor, Sr. Cecilia Dimaku, SSH; Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O.Carm. and new mentor, Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ

## Fall Events

**Tuesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** 6-9PM

Mmmm...Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, and Religious Sisters

**Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**, 9AM-1PM

Mmmm... Titles of Mary, The Blessed Mother

**November 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Vocations Awareness Week

**Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**, 6-9 PM

Mmmm... Movie: *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Gifts: The Road to Sainthood*

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Save the Date! Details to Follow.

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** 5 PM

Advent Vespers and Christmas Party

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@MagnificatHouseNOLA



NOLAVocations



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**NEW ORLEANS**

## Magnificat House of Discernment e-Newsletter

### My Two Years - a Reflection

How time flies! It is hard to believe I have completed two years at Magnificat House of Discernment. It has been two years of God's abundant blessings. I am very grateful to God for the wonderful opportunity of being part of this laudable project.

I requested to serve at Magnificat House of Discernment because I believe in what the House stands for. I believe, like Archbishop Aymond always says, that God is still calling young women and men to service in God's vineyard. I believe this call is a gratuitous gift of God "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draw him/her" (Jn. 6:44). I believe this call comes in a gentle whisper because God does not shout to get our attention. I also believe that hearing God's call requires a gentle listening. This is where Magnificat House of Discernment is a gift to women who are seeking to hear God's call. It is a place to hear that gentle whisper of God and discern what God is saying.

Discernment is a journey we must take if we desire to say yes to God's invitation to being coworkers with Him through a life of consecration. We need that quiet moment to listen to God. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46: 10)

I appreciate God's gift of my vocation to life consecrated for love and service. I thank God for the great privilege of being part of MHD. I am grateful for the opportunity of sharing life with the wonderful women I lived with at MHD – Sister Beth Fitzpatrick and Sister Theresa Pitruzzello and the women who have discerned God's will for them through MHD during the two years I have been in this wonderful loving community. God is constantly inviting us to deeper relationship with him. "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your heart" (Psalm 95:8). Stop! Listen! Discern!

- Sister Cecilia O. Dimaku, SSH

### Welcome, Sr. Gloria!

For the past few years I have enjoyed visiting with the women in discernment here at the Magnificat House of Discernment. Today, in accepting God's invitation as resident mentor for the next two years, it is my hope to be able to participate in the spiritual growth of the women discerners seeking and listening to God's presence in the process of discerning their vocations. One of the greatest joys and privileges of being a Spiritual Director in my ministry at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center is to celebrate with persons who experience the grace of God's presence in every moment of their daily lives. To join the discerners in singing their Magnificat to God for the "...great things He does in [them]..." is a second hope I look forward to experiencing as my mission at MHD unfolds.



- Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ



### The Shoes You Choose



Kara Davis finished her postulant year in New Orleans with the Daughters of Charity. She is moving on to seminary (similar to novitiate for other communities) in St. Louis. Kara was a frequent participant and also guest speaker at Mmmm... events. Our prayers go with you!

-Sister Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ  
Magnificat House Mentor

As I was preparing to enter the Seminary (similar to novitiate for other communities of religious women), folks often asked me if I was nervous or excited, or what I found to be difficult or easy about the transition. Typically, I would tell people, the most difficult part of preparing for Seminary was choosing the right pair of shoes. As materialistic as that might sound, it is the truth. I anguished over finding the perfect pair of shoes: the most functional, the most comfortable, the most durable, and just the right shade of navy blue. I would be wearing these shoes practically everyday, and I wanted a pair that could walk in the park, as well as genuflect at mass. The more I scrolled through websites of shoes on the Internet, the more I realized that this obsession was not about shoes at all.

Just as there are fifty million different pairs of shoes, different colors, styles, and purposes, there are fifty million ways to live out our vocation to love. With all the different religious communities out there, or even men to marry, how do I know that becoming a Daughter of Charity is the right fit? Thankfully, I have been trying on this pair of shoes for about two years, and I have found that though it might have taken a little time to get my feet comfortable in the shoes, this choice provides the best support and foundation for my walk with Christ.

-Kara Davis

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](mailto:magnificathouse@arch-no.org), or call 504 861-6281 to request an application.