

Magnificat House e-Newsletter



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A Life of Liturgy

For those of you who haven't met me, I'm the girl who leaves the Magnificat House every morning with a bright blue bike to make my commute to Grow Dat Youth Farm, where I am happily interning for the spring.

My experience in New Orleans has been unique, captivating, and memorable. I could talk about a singular celebration dear to the Crescent City and, now, to me – Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, or St. Joseph's day – but what I have found most worthy of celebration is the routine that defines the everyday here, the "liturgy of life."

I believe one of religious life's greatest treasures is a love and a talent for weaving ritual into daily life. Joining the sisters for prayers, meals, and even the nightly news - as well as having my own rituals of biking to the farm and working joyfully with the soil, plants, and people there – has been unexpectedly rewarding and has brought me to a sense of peace and purpose that I haven't felt in a while.

I have learned that when I live a "life of liturgy," I am better able to notice the extraordinary hiding in the ordinary. Because of regular interactions with the sisters and everyone else I encounter, insight and awe and gratitude arise out of and enrich every day. Engaging conversations over dinner, a striking psalm during morning prayer, a new face passed on my commute all stand out as extraordinary because of the "liturgy" and the ordinariness they are contained in.

I know I will miss New Orleans and the Magnificat House. But I will remember them for helping me to find a bit of purpose and celebration in every day of this life.

-Maggie Weighner,
Magnificat House Resident



Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ, Maggie Weighner, Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ and Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O. Carm.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 8th 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lenten Day of Prayer at Magnificat House of Discernment

Sunday, May 7th 11:00 a.m.
Vocations Mass at St. Louis Cathedral

Thursday, May 11th, Mmmm Night 6:00 p.m.
Different Forms of Prayer



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Magnificat House and
NOLA Vocations Awareness!



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Magnificat House of Discernment e-Newsletter

Discernment: Making a Difference In Our World Today

Why do we do the things that we do? The reasons are many and the motives often mixed. However, I hope and pray that one reason is to make the world a better place by using our gifts and talents for our own good and for others. In the language of prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," not just when we ultimately reach heaven, but also, "on earth."

During the Peace Walk at Loyola University, professors, students, and others spoke, sang, and played (the trombone!) to share how they, through their field of study, work for the good of others "on earth." They have discerned how to put their faith in action not

just in theological or religious studies, but also in business and economics, in music and the arts, in outreach, justice and service, in scientific endeavors and care for the earth.

Discernment is both a skill and an art, an endeavor that benefits from both study and practice. Discernment is woven into the fabric of Loyola University and also of the Magnificat House of Discernment. How appropriate that the residents of Magnificat House participated in the Peace Walk at Loyola University, joining with others to make the world a better place.

- Sr. Theresa Pitruzzello, CSJ, Mentor

Shekhinah in Magnificat House

Magnificat House invites women to experience the everydayness of Religious Life. These past few months "Shekhinah" (Where God's Presence Is) has been evident as we practiced the gift of Hospitality.

In our parish, St. Rita, we served and shared a meal with the Isaiah 43 Ministry and with parishioners at the Parish Lenten Pot Luck and Prayer evening. Our community at large includes neighbors who struggle to find daily food and shelter. With the Joy of the Spirit, we have prepared simple meals, spent time with them and sometimes assisted our neighbors in finding shelter for the night. Shekhinah was manifested as we greeted and hosted old and new friends visiting from Belarus, Texas, Alabama, Michigan and even here in New Orleans. We are grateful to be able to witness our Religious Life by living Hospitality in our Magnificat House community.

- Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ, Mentor

(below) Sharing a meal with the family of Magnificat resident Maggie Weighner as they visit. Practicing and experiencing Hospitality is one way mentors and residents experience the "everydayness" of 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.

Visit <http://NOLACatholic.org> for more.



(above) Magnificat House residents and friends making a difference in our world today at the March 28th Peace Walk held at Loyola University

Capacity for Delight

"No one ever enjoyed life as Jesus did. He gathered up the color, sound, touch, meaning of everything about Him and united it to the most exquisite sensitiveness, the most pure capacity for delight!"

These words from Caryl Houselander capture something of the delight that the Magnificat House residents and friends experienced at an evening parade the Thursday before Mardi Gras. The setting was magical: Venus shining in the West, the rose window in Rayne United Methodist Church gleaming red and gold, flambeaux, color wobbling down St. Charles Avenue under a canopy of oaks, trees glimmering with beads, the laughter of children and adults who have retained their childlike hearts. The Magnificat House women who live in a home dedicated to the praise of God, were there to relish this delight--- together!

Enjoying the fullness of life as Jesus did gives me the desire to enter into the soberness of Lent---an experience that he also fully embraced---trusting that the prayer, the penance, and the silence of the desert will lead to the eternal Joy of Jesus's Resurrection!

- Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O.Carm.