

Introduction

Magnificat® is a private association of the Christian faithful.

Unlike a public association, which operates in the name of the Church, *Magnificat* operates in its own name and in the name of its members. As a private association, *Magnificat* is free to develop its own statutes, to choose its own officers, and to administer its own temporal goods. However, as a private association *Magnificat* remains under the vigilance and jurisdiction of the local ordinary (See c. 305.2.), who sees that *Magnificat* exercises its apostolate in accord with the common good of the Church.

In 2019, the *Magnificat* Central Service Team (CST) was exhorted by Fr. Mike Barry, SS.CC. to put forth a presentation of **Magnificat Spirituality**. As discernment and planning for the Fortieth Anniversary of the Ministry went into full gear, it became apparent that a description and invitation to **Magnificat Spirituality** was indeed ordained “for such a time as this.”

The Holy Spirit faithfully guided the CST to the writings with which He inspired the Ministry’s foundresses: *Magnificat*, *A Ministry to Catholic Women Handbook: Constitution, Guidelines*, *Magnificat Meal*, and *Appendix*—as well as *Magnificat* Newsletter articles and other sources from within the Ministry. As a result, we hardly **composed** a word, but rather **compiled** the booklet you now hold in your hands. But why?

It is because we no longer live in a society where Christian principles are the accepted foundations of our government, public education, work ethic and commerce. As Pope St. John Paul II states in *Novo Millennio Inuente*, 40:

“Even in countries evangelized many centuries ago, the reality of a ‘Christian society’ which, amid all the frailties which have always marked human life, measured itself explicitly on Gospel values, is now gone.”

Just as *Magnificat*’s foundresses did 40 years ago, we must find encouragement from The Message to Women read on December 8, 1965 at the solemn closing ceremony of the Second Vatican Council:

“But the hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of woman is being achieved in its fullest ... at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the gospel can do much to aid mankind from falling ... “

Magnificat Spirituality is a response to this proclamation, echoing in our own times, calling us back to personal holiness, community, and service in obedience to the Holy Spirit. The world needs a compelling manifestation of God’s love and power to heal broken lives and institutions. With Mary, as our model and greatest intercessor, we believe Magnificat, with Chapters worldwide, has been called and equipped for “such a time as this.”

Magnificat Central Service Team
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