

Preface



has been proclaiming the greatness of the Lord since 1981. This international apostolate started from humble beginnings in New Orleans, LA. On October 7, Feast of the Holy Rosary, the first Magnificat Meal was held.

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) is the great hymn of praise that Mary prayed while visiting Elizabeth. Both women had been deeply touched by God. Elizabeth was bearing a long-awaited child; Mary was carrying within her womb the very Son of God. They came together to help one another, to speak of God’s action in their lives, to sing, to pray, to share a common table, and to be strengthened for all that was to come. Their encounter is the model for Magnificat Meals!

Magnificat came into being out of a desire to share with all Catholic women the fruit we have experienced through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. We describe this fruit as:

- a deeper knowledge, personal relationship, and love of Jesus Christ as our Lord, Savior and Redeemer
- an experience of the release of the power of the Holy Spirit
- an appreciation and love for Mary, our Mother and Model
- an appreciation and love for the Catholic Church

Magnificat Meals are hosted by local Chapters worldwide about every three months on or around a feast day of Mary, to whom we consecrate this ministry in a special way. We call our Meals “Magnificat” because, like Mary and Elizabeth, we want to come together in God’s presence. May we too recognize what God has already done in us and call forth in each other a new openness to the power of His Spirit in our lives.

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