



Meal Guidelines

Magnificat, A Ministry to Catholic Women



Mission Statement:

Magnificat exists to evangelize and to encourage Catholic women to grow in holiness through opening more fully to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(Handbook: C- 3)



The Meal is:

The Magnificat Meal is primarily a **Prayer Meal** and, as such, we need to focus all of our attention on the spiritual aspect of the Meal. Of course, we must feed our bodies; the Lord Himself enjoyed many a meal on this earth. But the main focus of the Magnificat Meal is to nourish our souls.

(Handbook: M: 4)



The Meal is:

From the moment a woman steps through the door and is **greeted** warmly until the time she leaves the hall, we are to manifest the presence of Jesus to her - by our loving attentiveness, by our conversation, by our whole manner.

(Handbook: M-4-5)



The Meal is:

If we pay attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the dynamics of the gathering will build up to where we can pray with the women and we can all go forth refreshed and renewed in faith - a new creation in Christ ready to seek the Lord in the activities of life.

(Handbook: M-5)



The Meal is:

The Meal is an **evangelistic tool** which can be as simple as coffee and doughnuts or as elegant as a moderately priced banquet.

It provides an opportunity for women to gather for a shared faith experience rooted in God's word in Sacred Scripture within a structured time frame.

(Handbook: M-5)



The Meal is:

- a meal and fellowship affording women the chance to talk, share, and enjoy one another in an atmosphere of God's presence and love; however, men are welcome to attend with the understanding that the Meal is directed toward women;
- communal prayer in praise of God's goodness in word and song; intercessory prayer for universal and individual needs;
- a personal testimony where one individual speaks of how God deeply touched their life, and in this way, gives their own Magnificat.

(Handbook: M-5)





The Meal is **NOT:**

... a **Day of Renewal** with multiple or extended teachings

...a **time for celebration of the Mass** – Attendance at Mass by the membership prior to the Meal in a different room/location from the room the Meal is held in is acceptable if it can easily be arranged

...a **Rosary group** - Magnificat began on the feast of the Holy Rosary, and we have a great love for this beautiful devotion (It is mentioned in the *Meal Format* that a single decade of the Rosary, typically the Visitation, be recited after the words of welcome. (M-4, 17, A-88)

...a **secular function or fundraiser - it is not simply a social event** – it is not your regular “ladies' luncheon”- **it is a means of ministry.**

(Handbook: Meal: M-4)

...a **time for Eucharistic Adoration or Procession**



The Meal is **NOT:**

The Meal is **not a time to crowd too much into the time allotted.**

Activities are to be avoided that could possibly be a distraction from a prayerful environment, interrupt the flow of the Meal, take the Team's attention from other things that need to be done, or divert the focus of the group from the purpose of the Meal. During the Meal care must be taken to maintain an atmosphere of prayer.

(Handbook: M-4, M-16-17)

Meal Format

- The following **Format** represents many years of experience and has borne lasting fruit.
- **We must insist that all Chapters adhere strictly to the Meal timeline and format as originally designed.**
- **This format has proved practical, adequate, and fruitful.**
- Length of time - 2½ to 3 hours

(Handbook: M -16)



Meal Format

- As noted in the introduction to this Meal section, the Magnificat Meal is **paraliturgical** and is **NOT to be combined with the Liturgy - the Mass.**
- Mistress of Ceremonies facilitates the program that has been agreed upon by the Service Team.
 - Refer to Appendix: A: 78 - *Mistress of Ceremonies* for a detailed guide to help her.

(Handbook: M-16-17)





Timeline of a Typical Meal

Content (*approximate times in parentheses*)

1. Welcome - (15 minutes)

- Opening Prayer which may include one decade of the Rosary (See Appendix - Rosary at Magnificat Meals.).
- Introduction of the head table and special guests
- Explanation of Membership Card and benefits of membership (See Appendix: 76 – *Membership Agreement*.).
- Mention of other table articles that can be perused during the meal - table flyer, *Baptism in the Spirit* leaflet, and petition slip which will be picked up right after the meal.
- Blessing of food.

(Handbook: M: 15-19)



Timeline of a Typical Meal

2. Meal (30 - 60 minutes)

Have hostesses collect the prayer petitions from each table at the conclusion of the meal.

3. Announcements (5 minutes)

Make these as few and as brief as possible. A policy may be needed to help decide which announcements will be made; otherwise, these can be numerous.

Mention: Magnificat Materials (Magnificat Proclaims books, Bible Study, LIS for Youth)

Do not forget to announce ***Recording Disclaimer.***

4. Mini-Teaching by Spiritual Advisor (5 minutes)

5. Appeal for Donations (2 minutes)

A “holy” plea for donations is a serious responsibility and **necessity** at each Meal. The financial stability of the Ministry depends heavily on donations.

(Handbook: M: 15-19)



Timeline of a Typical Meal

6. Praise and Worship (20 minutes)

Openness to the charisms of the Holy Spirit is encouraged and promoted (i.e., praying in tongues, tested prophecy from the head table, etc.), yet with sensitivity to those who are not involved in the Renewal (See Appendix: 68 - Leading Praise and Worship).

However, be mindful of what Scripture tells us in Acts 5:29 that St. Peter and the apostles when they were ordered not to speak of or teach in the name of Jesus replied, “We must obey God rather than men.” as they considered it impossible not to speak about what they had seen and heard.

Random prophecy from the general assembly is to be discouraged.

(Handbook: M: 18-19)



Timeline of a Typical Meal

7. Prayer over Petitions (1 - 2 minutes)

Written prayer requests are collected from each table and brought to the head table.

The Spiritual Advisor (or someone appointed by the Service Team) leads a brief prayer over them at the end of praise.

This prayerful time may be accompanied by soft instrumental music.

8. Testimony (55-65 minutes maximum)

The time following the testimony is to be guarded as a sacred time so that a response can be made in our hearts to the words we have just heard.

9. Prayer of Commitment

It is recommended that a prayer of commitment to Jesus as Lord be led at this time. (M: III.g.2 and Appendix A:85-86 – Prayer of Commitment at a Magnificat Meal)

(Handbook: M: 19)



Timeline of a Typical Meal

10. Final Remarks (2 minutes)

These need to be brief because many people are ready to leave; however, it is appropriate for the M.C. to finish the program with a gentle acknowledgement that it is the Lord who has touched our spirits with His peace, love, healing, and/or joy, and that this calls for a response on our part.

A very brief reminder of the next Meal and an expression of gratitude for everyone's contribution of time, talent, and treasure are most appropriate.

An uplifting song makes a fitting close.

11. Personal Prayer Ministry (30 minutes)

At the conclusion of the program, the speaker and the Service Team, or those appointed by the Service Team, are available for personal prayer. (Prayer Ministry module)

(Handbook: M: 19-20)

Role of Service Team at the Meal

So, the big day has arrived! You probably have butterflies in your stomach, especially if you are the mistress of ceremonies. Our advice is to relax and be at peace. A sure way to do this is through prayer, recalling that this is God's work, not yours. When you place it in His hands, you can do your best and leave the results to Him.

The Service Team members should be visible to all during the meal. They **sit at the head table** with the Spiritual Advisor, the speaker, (if married, the speaker's spouse - optional) and honored guests, such as a bishop, etc..

(Handbook: M - 20)

Role of Service Team at the Meal

During the meal, the Team is responsible for:

- A. leading the Meal - the Mistress of Ceremonies is a member of the Service Team (See Appendix - Mistress of Ceremonies.).
- B. praise and worship - led by the Mistress of Ceremonies (or someone else selected by the Service Team) with the assistance of the music ministry using songs of praise with which many are familiar (See Constitution Article V.B.6. and Appendix-Leading Praise and Worship.).
- C. word gifts-inspired Scripture readings or words of prophecy-given from the head table or by other authorized persons designated by the service team during praise and worship.
- D. prayer over Petitions- prayer over the collected prayer requests, led by the spiritual advisor or someone chosen by the Team.
- E. personal prayer ministry – praying with women individually for their personal intentions after the program is finished. This is usually done by the speaker, the prayer ministry, and/or by Service Team members, who may be assisted by others gifted in this area and appointed by the Service Team (See Appendix - Chapter Ministries - Personal Prayer Ministry.)

The following three slides contain words from the Founders of Magnificat, A Ministry to Catholic Women. This information can be found in the Handbook under Meals, pg. 3





From the Handbook:

The Magnificat Meal is paraliturgical, but central to the Magnificat ministry. It is a “taste” of the experience that Mary and Elizabeth had at the Visitation described in Luke 1:39-56. When these two women encountered each other, there was an “explosion of grace.” Many have described this same experience at a Magnificat Meal. Others have stated that it is an oasis or well where women can meet to drink of the “Living Water of the Holy Spirit.” It is a womb of Mary where God overshadows us with His Holy Spirit and Jesus is born anew in our hearts.

(Handbook: Meals: 3)

From the Handbook:



When Magnificat began, we *occasionally* allowed a Chapter to make a *minor variation* to the Meal format, thinking that it would only involve that one Chapter. How wrong we were! **As the Ministry grows, we realize that what one Chapter does will have a definite effect upon the whole.** When visitors to a Magnificat Meal want to take Magnificat back to their home area (and they often do!), they **always duplicate** what they have seen. **Thus, changes and even errors proliferate.**

(Handbook: Meals: 3)

From the Handbook:



If we allow variations to continue, the changes will only multiply with the rapid spread of Magnificat - possibly to the point where the original idea would become so adulterated that it would be hardly recognizable. None of us wants to see that happen! Although there may be cultural differences and expressions, such as music, decorations, menus, etc., **the basic format has to be the same in every Chapter.**

(Handbook: Meals: 3)



Table Packets

Table packets provide information about the Ministry and about the next Meal.

They should ideally be at each place setting.

Materials are available through the Shopping Cart.

The packets usually contain:

- Promo Flyer
- Meal Flyer
- Membership Card
- Baptism in the Spirit flyer
- 5 Star Campaign card
- Magnificat books brochure
- Invitation Card
- Adoration Card*
- Generic Holy Card*

Optional*

Publicity

People can't attend if they are not aware of your Meal!

Please review the Communications Workshop on the Intranet from the 2017 Leaders' Conference.

Public Relations Made Easy video contains valuable information to help you get the word out about your Chapter's meal.

Intranet: Leaders' Conference 2017: Workshops: Communications

Magnificat Meal Speaker Essentials

Choosing a Speaker

The decision should be made with the unanimous consent of all Service Team members in the context of a meeting.

The Spiritual Advisor must confirm the decision **before** the invitation is issued.

(Handbook: M-9)

Please review the ***Guidelines for Speaker's*** module for more specific directions regarding your responsibilities to the speaker (invitation and confirmation letters, how to give a testimony, speaker's agreement, etc.). Remember, your speaker's testimony **MUST** be in harmony with the teachings of Roman Catholic Church (M-10). Therefore, the speaker must be a practicing Catholic.

Speakers' Agreements and Guidelines

HOME ▾ DIRECTORY ▾ FINANCE ▾ GARDEN TOOLS ▾ **SPEAKERS** MATERIALS ▾ STORE 🔍

INTRANET  *Magnificat* **Internal Site**

A Ministry to Catholic Women

🏠 > Speakers > Guidelines • Agreement

GUIDELINES • AGREEMENT

Speaker Agreement

To view the new speaker agreement, please click here:
[Speaker Agreement With Chart 10-15-16](#)

These testimony guidelines are provided for the benefit of your speakers. They were formulated by Patti Mansfield and are reflected in her book: [Proclaim His Marvelous Deeds](#)

Please feel free to share these guidelines with your speakers.

LOGOS • GRAPHICS
HELP DESK
SPEAKERS
USERNAME / PASSWORD
RETURN TO PUBLIC SITE

[New Promo Materials in the Store!](#)

magnificat-ministry.net/newintranet/speakers/

Speaker Testimonies

New Speaker's Agreement

The new Speaker's Agreement found on the Intranet under Speakers: Guidelines and Agreement, **must** be signed by **ALL** speakers prior to giving their Meal testimony.

For all cases where the speaker marks Option 2a (testimony can be used by the CST for wider distribution), please forward the signed agreement along with a copy of the testimony to the Central Office.

Media Distribution of Speaker Testimonies

According to the Speaker's Agreement only the CST will make the recorded testimonies available to the media **if** the Speaker gives permission and after proper review / editing is done. Chapters should contact the CST for an **edited** copy if your local radio would like to air a testimony.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Rep or Communications Regional Team member. **A Chapter MAY NOT provide a recording of a testimony, either through any social media or providing to radio station, without contacting the CST.**



Garden Tool – Recording Disclaimer Announcement

Posting pictures from your Meals and/or Events?

If your Chapter plans to **post pictures** taken at one of your Meals or events to your Chapter Website or other Social Media venues (ex. Facebook), then you should inform your attendees.

- On those occasions, have visible signage (with the wording below) at the entrance to the Meal area
- Put the same wording that is on the sign in the table flyer.
- Make an announcement.

"This Meal is being recorded. Recordings (Audio, Video and/or Photos) may be used for a variety of purposes (Training, Publicity, Website, etc.) including distribution and sale to third parties and over the Internet. Attendance at this event constitutes your consent to these recordings and to their use and distribution by Magnificat and third parties."

Note: As mentioned in the *Social Media Guidelines*, we always want to be **sensitive** to our participants. The Chapter, as well as the other attendees, especially in this era of "instant" posts, should be **discreet** in selecting the **photos** they use. (*Posting video/audio recordings from the Meal, ex: Praise and Worship, Testimony, are not allowed.*) The table setting, the speaker, the room, etc. might be typical pictures to share. Please respect one another's privacy and avoid posting those special moments such as when someone is being prayed with, has been slain in the Spirit or might be shedding tears of joy!

Speaker Testimonies

Unauthorized Recording of a Speaker -

Suggested announcement(s) at each Meal:

1. **Attendees are not permitted to record our speaker.**

2. In this era of smart phones, etc. it has become necessary to remind you that **unauthorized recording of our speakers is not permitted.** As you know, many of our guest testimonies contain very personal/sensitive information that is intended ONLY for our Meal attendees ... and NOT to be shared beyond. We appreciate everyone's understanding & cooperation regarding this matter.

You might add:

Our Chapter will provide CDs for purchase whenever prior permission has been received from our Speaker.

When your Chapter records the Speaker, let the audience know and instruct them how to purchase a CD.

If you want to print this announcement in your table flyer, the text should read: Unauthorized recording of our Speakers is not permitted. Everyone's cooperation regarding this matter is appreciated.

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Individuals/
Attendees
may NOT
record the
meal





*Thank you for
your commitment to
Our Lord, Our Lady,
and the Magnificat Ministry*