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WINTER EDITION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 12 ISSUE 23

Greetings!

God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good! We were so blessed to be together in Pittsburgh for our 17th International Leaders' Conference. Just like a Magnificat Meal, you can't explain it, you have to experience it. We prayed *Come, Holy Spirit! Come!* "and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." **Romans 5:5** We are delighted to hear that the **joy and peace** that enveloped us was taken back to your Chapters and regions. Praise God! We returned home with a fresh anointing, renewed appreciation for the Ministry and enthusiasm for the future. "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Eph. 1:6 As each candle is lit on our Advent wreaths, let us remember the Lord has made it clear that He wants our light to shine. **Be a living lighthouse** guiding ships safely into port especially when there's stormy weather or the darkness of night ... a true beacon of hope!

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a holy, healthy New Year!

Donna Ross, Coordinator
Central Service Team (CST)



Hope ... Peace ... Joy ... Love

Pope's Intentions

December

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer



inclusive programs which value their active participation.

January

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

February

For The Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Liturgy of the Hours A book of prayer and contemplation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8th Evening Prayer 1

Reading from the Letter to the Romans 8:29a, 30a

Those whom God foreknew he predestined to share the image of his Son. Those he predestined he likewise called; those he called he also justified.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us praise God our almighty Father, who wished that Mary, his Son's mother, be celebrated by each generation. Now in need we ask::
Refrain: Mary, full of grace, intercede for us..

O God, worker of miracles, you made the Immaculate Virgin Mary share, body and soul, in your Son's glory in heaven,

– direct the hearts of your children to that same glory. (R)

You made Mary our mother. Through her intercession grant strength to the weak, comfort to the sorrowing, pardon to sinners,

– salvation and peace to all. (R)

You made Mary the mother of mercy,

– may all who are faced with trials feel her motherly love. (R)

You wished Mary to be the mother of the family in the home of Jesus and Joseph,

– may all mothers of families foster love and holiness through her intercession. (R)

You crowned Mary queen of heaven,

– may all the dead rejoice in your kingdom with the saints for ever. (R)



From our Spiritual Advisor
Most Reverent David L. Toups
Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont



Eucharistic Reflection for Magnificat

Like those on the road to Emmaus, we are all on a journey with Jesus as He breaks opens the Word and we recognize Him ever anew in the Breaking of the Bread. As a Church in the United States we are preparing for the journey to Indianapolis and

our First National Eucharistic Congress since 1978, and thus during this time of our national Eucharistic Revival it is a great time to reflect and deepen our love of Jesus present in the Eucharist.

The Gospel of St. John chapter 6 offers us an amazing theology of the Eucharist from the very mouth of the Lord. After Jesus miraculously feeds the multitudes at the beginning of the chapter with five loaves and two fish (vs. 9), He goes on to explain the greater miracle is still to come. "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (vs. 35).

Jesus comes to us at every Mass to feed, nourish, heal, comfort, and fill us with His very Life. The Church has celebrated this mystery since the Last Supper and down through the two millennia of Christianity to today. What a gift to know that we are linked to this amazing, unbroken, and historical lineage. Thus, if Jesus is inviting us to this amazing banquet every Sunday, how could we ever miss this miraculous nourishment by God Himself? I am so privileged as a priest and bishop to offer and receive this gift every day at Mass. Let us long for His Eucharistic Presence in our hearts and receive him as often as we possibly can.



Our Magnificat ministry centers around a meal, as does all of Jesus' ministry! Let us make sure that we never neglect those closest to us, and lock in meals with our families and friends at least 2-3 times a week. We are also Mary's advocates for her Son, so let us reach out to invite others to the best meal of their life at the Table of the Lord so that they too can have their hungers satisfied by the Bread of Life Himself (link to my new diocesan initiative called [Back to the Table](#).)

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year Magnificat!!!
Siempre Adelante!!!
Bishop David L. Toups
Diocese of Beaumont



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



Magnificat is a proud sponsor of the...

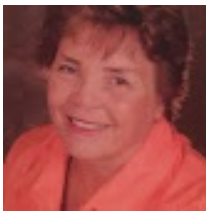
National Eucharistic Congress Indianapolis, IN July 17–21, 2024

Please Join Us! [Register Now](#)

Advent is the best time to reserve your pass! Now through Christmas, you can save 10% on the full, five-day Congress experience with code: EMMANUEL Individuals, families, and small groups will save with this code. Not only that, thanks to the generosity of their donors and sponsors, children 12 and under can now attend completely FREE.

Magnificat 17th International Leaders' Conference 2023

By Elise Botch, CST Newsletter Editor



Magnificat's long anticipated 17th International Leaders' Conference was held on Oct. 5-8th, in Pittsburgh, PA. Conveniently located at the Hyatt Regency International Airport Hotel, just a short 10-minute walk through the skyway of the airport terminal. We celebrated our 42nd year of the Ministry on October 7th. The Conference theme was 'Come, Holy Spirit! Come!' And yes, the Holy Spirit came with an explosion of grace and glory! Throughout the weekend, the Living Praise Worship Team kept the spirits high leading our voices heavenly as we joined the angels cry, Holy, Holy Forever!

[Click here to continue reading...](#)

CLERGY



SPEAKERS



*To View More Photos from the 17th International Leaders' Conference 2023
Click on Headings below:*

[\(Clergy Pt. 2\)](#) / [\(Saturday Night Meal\)](#) / [\(CST\)](#) / [\(Meal Time\)](#)

[\(Presentation of the Chapters Pt.1\)](#) / [\(Presentation of the Chapters Pt. 2\)](#)

[\(Living Praise Worship Team / Praise & Worship\)](#)

Thanks for a Wonderful Conference

By Joel Kuebel, Metairie Chapter, LA
[Click here for article](#)

The Cookie Table

By Joyce Mundy, Coordinator of Pittsburgh Chapter

We were extremely excited when the CST announced they would be coming to Pittsburgh for the Magnificat 17th International Leaders' Conference. We wanted to welcome and show our love for all our Magnificat sisters, and brothers, who visited Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Cookie table was a simple and perfect way.

A Pittsburgh cookie table is a wedding tradition where in addition to a wedding cake, a large table with different cookies is presented to guests at the wedding reception. Family members and friends prepare cookies. It is typically a tradition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Youngstown, Ohio.

Christine Miles, Assistant Coordinator and Fr. Tom Sparacino, Magnificat Pittsburgh's Spiritual Advisor organized the Saturday night Meal cookie table. Our Pittsburgh ministry, and Magnificat Meal attendees baked cookies. Members of Magnificat Region 6 also contributed to the cookie table. The Pittsburgh Service Team collected and placed on trays all the cookies while attending the conference. We hope it was a special treat for everyone who attended the Meal and conference. Thank you to all of those who contributed their time and baking talent.



Cookie Table
Thanks to our Pittsburgh Hosts!



Donor Mass for YOUR intentions!

Magnificat greatly appreciates all those who have faithfully donated their time, talent, and treasure in advancing our efforts to evangelize Catholic women and form Magnificat Servant Leaders.

Bishop David Toups, Spiritual Advisor to the CST, will celebrate Mass for all who have contributed to the Magnificat Ministry on December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many thanks to you, our faithful supporters.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



Magnificat Morgantown, WV, Our Lady of Grace Chapter

By: Beth Barill, Assistant Coordinator

Members of past and present Service Teams joined with our sisters from all over the country and beyond to attend the International Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. We appreciate the CST's efforts to encourage spirituality and prayerfulness to permeate every aspect of the Conference. As a result of this, we felt a new connectedness with the entire ministry! We came away feeling empowered as a Service Team with better understanding and more clarity to appreciate the bigger picture of our Magnificat mission. We are excited about the new changes the CST will be introducing in the future. We look forward to using this information to make our local Chapter better. Most importantly, we are truly grateful for the support of all our priests and were blessed by all those in attendance.

This year our Chapter welcomed a new Historian, Sherry Chico, to our Service Team as well as new advisory board members and our volunteers are increasing! At our breakfasts we welcomed speakers from Minnesota (Stacey O' Rourke), New York (Angela Rizzo and Monique Mousot) and Pennsylvania (Heidi Potter) and were truly blessed by all their stories.



Past and present Service Team members from L to R: Katie Huffman, Mary Paul, Claire Mey, Pat Higginbotham, Carla Comer, Sherry Chico, Beth Barill and Lynn Marlin.

Fr. Ananda Reddy, Guest Speaker at Mother of Mercy Chapter Meal

By Janice Neyer, Secretary

Mother of Mercy Chapter, Fort Myers, FL, hosted its Meal on November 4, 2023. Our guest speaker was Fr. Ananda Reddy, parochial vicar at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Cape Coral, FL. Father was born on June 10, 1982, hailing from the diocese of Cuddapah, India. Admiring local priests' work with the poor, he entered the minor seminary (high school) at fifteen. Live to Love is Fr. Reddy's motto, chosen at his ordination on December 27, 2010.

While Fr. Reddy heard the Lord's call at an early age, the road to the priesthood was difficult. During seminary, he was drawn to opportunities of service to others. Still, he struggled to overcome his will and submit in obedience and humility, seeing God's will in the authority God placed in his life. A series of events and words of wisdom from his Spiritual Director unmistakably proved God's love and care for him. Indeed, an inspiring testimony.



Fr. Ananda Reddy, speaker



Praise & Worship

North County San Diego Chapter October Meal

By Lisa Ledyard, Historian

North County San Diego welcomed over 110 guests to hear Pauline Wright give her testimony on October 28th, closing out the year. Praise and worship music was provided by Donna Lee and Nicolas Peters. Pauline "The Purple Music Lady" spoke about her gift of music and ministry spanning over 50 years in the San Diego Diocese. At age 14, she attended a mandatory workshop where she encountered the healing presence of the Holy Spirit. Since then, Pauline pays close attention to the blessings of

synchronicities - something others may call coincidences -- which are actually God's messages to us. She said that if we pay close attention in prayer, we will recognize His works through their fruits. God always wants to reveal Himself to us!

The Chapter dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe gave many thanks for Fr. Patrick Crowley, who is retiring as our beloved spiritual advisor. We wish him a very peaceful retirement following decades of healing ministry and service to the Church. We welcome a new spiritual advisor, Deacon Kevin Helfers, who will be the next speaker in 2024.

Finally, we are excited to report that the entire Chapter team of North County San Diego was blessed to attend last month's International Magnificat Conference in Pittsburgh! We are still singing and praising the Lord for the incredible talks, fellowship and sights across the country! Thank you to our wonderful CST who made this event possible.



Praying over speaker Pauline Wright



Praise & Worship

[To view photos of North County San Diego at the Int'l Leaders' Conference 2023](#)
[Click Here](#)

Immaculate Conception December 8



Immaculate Conception Novena

Thou art all fair, O Mary,
The Original Stain is not in thee.
Thou art the glory of Jerusalem,
Thou, the joy of Israel,
Thou, the great honor of our people
Thou, the advocate of sinners.

O Mary,
Virgin most prudent,
Mother most merciful,
Pray for us,
Intercede for us with our Lord Jesus Christ.

RI Chapter Our Lady of Divine Providence

By Darlene Walsh, Historian

RI Chapter Our Lady of Divine Providence held a Magnificat Meal on Saturday, November 25, 2023. Approximately 195 people attended to hear our guest speaker, Fr. James Sullivan O.P. Fr. James was Pastor at St. Pius V Church in Providence, RI and was recently elected Prior to Saint Dominic's Priory in Washington, D.C. Everyone at the Magnificat Breakfast was enthralled by Father Sullivan's message and wit.



Fr. James Sullivan OP, speaker



Beautiful spiritual music was provided by Jon Polce



Photo of Service Team: Left to Right Secretary, Edyie Rapone; Assistant Coordinator, Sheila Jarvis; Coordinator, Linda Gatta; Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jaime Garcia; Treasurer, Diane Baron; and Historian, Darlene Walsh

Mary Tower of Strength Chapter, Port of Spain, Trinidad

By Beverly Sambrano, Coordinator

On the 29th of October, 2023 the Mary Tower of Strength Magnificat Chapter located in Port-of Spain, Trinidad hosted its Magnificat Meal. This was the first Meal since the reopening of business in the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic. Our Meal was held at the Hilton Trinidad Conference Centre, a location never used before. The Meal was well attended and well received. Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Theodore, CSSp., gave an inspiring teaching on the Blessed Virgin Mary having the will to shine and persevere in faith through the dark times of her life. He also described the Virgin Mary as a caring and loving big sister.

The Caribbean's Regional Representative, Bernadette Patrick, was featured in an online video giving greetings and encouragement to our attendees. Another invitee, clergy member, Fr. Ian Taylor prayed

over the meal and did the closing prayer.

The Towers of Strength Music Ministry paved the way for our speaker by leading us into praise and worship. The guest speaker was Dr. Deborah Bartholomew, Ophthalmologist, mother and advocate. Her testimony was of her continued faith and her journey of mothering her autistic son in the midst of her career. She chronicled the challenges of finding appropriate educational opportunities for her son in Trinidad and abroad, in India and Libya. She even lost her job during the pandemic. She totally surrendered to God and eventually found a school for her son in Tripoli. Upon her return to Trinidad her son's music teacher's acceptance of him gave her encouragement. She also relied on her favorite Scripture Jer. 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We thank Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bernadette Patrick, Fr. John Theodore, CSSp., Fr. Ian Taylor and our Service Team and attendees for a spiritually successful Meal.



Front left is Lucy Regis-Secretary, Beverly Sambrano-Coordinator, Helena Ferreira- Advisory member, Jackie Gomez-Historian, Cara Nelson-Assistant Coordinator and Guest Speaker- Dr. Deborah Bartholomew.



Fr. John Theodore, Spiritual Advisor and the Service Team

Spouse of the Holy Spirit Chapter, Rochester, NY

By Jeanne Walker, Historian

Saturday, September 16, over 100 women were in attendance at the breakfast when our own Service Team Assistant Treasurer, Cece Crawford, gave her inspirational testimony! Cece shared her experience while walking to her college dorm one day, feeling frustrated and melancholy she asked the Lord, "Is this all life has to offer? I don't see You doing things like You did in the Scriptures. You must not care about

me" We heard how God must have laughed as she shared the many experiences of God helping her along each step in her journey. Especially when her son became addicted to alcohol and every kind of drug.

A "Woman of Faith" was awarded to Patt Jones. Although Patt is ill and could not attend, her longtime friend Winnie Carlotta announced the award and all her achievements.

We welcomed our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Ed Palumbus, as he gave a wonderful reflection on Forgiveness.

A beautiful Fall "Thankful " themed basket, created by members Kathleen Sullivan and Cathy Gluckman, was raffled. The generosity of our Chapter members is remarkable!



Fr. Palumbus Rochester,
Spiritual Advisor



CeCe Crawford, speaker



Judy Szczeczek, Cathy Gluckman
selling Raffle tickets



Winnie Carlotta - Woman of Faith Award



Rochester Attendees



Rochester NY Praise & Worship

Stark County Deanery, Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth

By Darlene Weber, Incoming Coordinator

I have never been to a Magnificat International Conference before 2023, but I can say for sure I will be going to another! The music was phenomenal, all the speakers were a blessing to hear, and Mass was Heaven on Earth. But what sticks in my mind and heart the most is that every person there had the absolute freedom to express her love for our Lord and Savior in the way that most moved her. Magnificat may have started through Charismatic Renewal, but it is so much more than just singing, raising our hands and speaking in tongues.

On this weekend we were able to share space with people who want to be obvious and vocal in showing the Lord the gratitude and joy that is had when we give all our self to Him and allow Him to lead us where He needs us to go. "Let it be done to me according to Your Will" (Lk 1:38). This time was an opportunity to recharge our spiritual batteries to be out in the world, but not be swallowed and overtaken by the world. We need to stand up and stand out for our family the Church.

I was touched by each speaker on the weekend and I am sure each woman there in a special way. The opportunity to be in the Real Presence of our Lord during exposition with Fr. Pivonka was special in a way that cannot be described.

The women who were inspired to found Magnificat were blessed with grace beyond measure. The women who are currently members of Magnificat are blessed with grace beyond measure.

I pray that we are able to fully open our hearts to Mary, Our Lord and the Holy Spirit to bring other women and priests into the wonderful embrace that is Magnificat!



Photo from 2023 International Conference, Kneeling: Debby Bentivegna, Karen Black
Standing: Darlene Weber, Betty Carty, Emily Voegle, Rosemary Pfiffner, Diane Stropki,
Irene Wood, Chrissy Traina, Holly Linger

Holy Hour presented by



**Join us on Monday, Dec. 11th
7:00 pm CENTRAL time
on Facebook for Praise, Worship and Adoration
*Mark your calendar as we will continue to meet
the second Monday of each month in 2024.***

TOBAGO CHAPTER RISES AFTER COVID

By Catherine George, Coordinator

Two days after the Church celebrated the birth of Our Lady on September 8th, the Tobago Chapter of Magnificat was able to host its first meal since 2018, on September 10, 2023.

Being unable to meet in person, the core members never ceased meeting via zoom every Wednesday evening, to continue magnifying the Lord in the example of Mary and Elizabeth with prayer and study, but best of all to enjoy the sharing that would bring the Word of God alive for us.

It was in early 2023, that our regional Coordinator, Bernadette Patrick, suggested that it was time to begin again and we thought of all the reasons why we might not be ready, but it only took the spark of one of us and it did start the fire going.

We were prayerfully supported by our parish priest and spiritual advisor, Fr. Leslie Tang Kai, and on the afternoon of Sunday, September 10th, there were three priests at our head table including our newly ordained Fr. Mathias Mulumba and accompanying them, Fr. Lindsay John from the Rio Claro parish.

Our own Scarborough St. Joseph's Choir came out in full support and kept the praise and worship going.

Our speaker was Dr. Debra Bartholomew and she awakened us all to the goodness of God in our lives with her life's story and with the spiritual input from her St. Mary's Choir who supported her testimony with song and drama. It was a moving experience that kept the parish buzzing all week. Those who attended were seen sharing with those who had not attended and asked when the next Meal will be held.

Our Sisters from the Tower of Strength Chapter came over to support us with their book table and we felt really blessed to have their help.

To keep the momentum, we hope that we can encourage all who were so moved to join core members, as we prepare to support our sisters in Trinidad in October for their Meal.

We, the core members, have been motivated because we have truly begun to see again, the marvels of our Lord.

There were invitation forms filled out and sisters showing interest in joining us, we pray they do, so that in the example of our Lady, more women can conceive and carry the joy of the Visitation to the most rugged paths of our communities.



Fr. Leslie Tang Kai,
Coordinator - Catherine George



Catherine George with Speaker Debra Bartholomew



Speaker's son on trombone



Asst. Coordinator Bernadette Elias with ushers

Magnificat Store

Did you know there is a wonderful shopping opportunity just waiting for you? Explore our shopping cart for rosaries, apparel, books, jewelry, statues, CDs and much more.



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YOU, we invite you to visit
<https://store.magnificat-ministry.net>

Our Lady Mother of the Eucharist Chapter of Magnificat in McHenry, IL

By Mary Rients, Region 2 Rep

Our Lady Mother of the Eucharist Chapter of Magnificat in McHenry, IL held a Meal on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Huntley, IL. Over 200 women and men attended the Meal. The Chapter has a beautiful statue of Our Lady Mother of the Eucharist who overlooks all the guests at the Meal. Father Keith Romke, a young Spirit-filled priest shared his testimony about becoming a priest. Father was very engaging and humorous. He shared powerfully about our need to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit courageously.

Carrie Shannon, Coordinator of the Chapter, welcomed all the guests and encouraged them emphatically to invite their friends and family to future Meals. Other members of the Service Team shared with guests. Cindy Windhelm, historian, gave a beautiful talk on what it means to her to be a member of Magnificat, which was inspirational.

At mealtime, one of the Magnificat sisters called out the number of a table and asked the people at that table to stand together and share a praise message before approaching the food table. It made everything joyful and festive! Monsignor Martin Heinz, spiritual advisor to Our Lady Mother of the Eucharist Chapter introduced Father Romke whom he had known since Father was in seminary.

One of the most precious moments at the breakfast, was the introduction of Annette Baber, mother, and foundress of the Chapter. Annette gave a beautiful prophetic word from the Holy Spirit. She is deeply loved by all the members of Our Lady Mother of the Eucharist Chapter.

Guests were comfortably seated before beautiful banners proclaiming the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Service Team does a great job of filling minds and hearts with the Holy Spirit!



Annette Baber, foundress of the Chapter



Fr. Keith Romke, speaker



Our Lady of the Eucharist



Msgr. Martin Heinz, spiritual advisor



Attendees

2023 Giving Opportunity

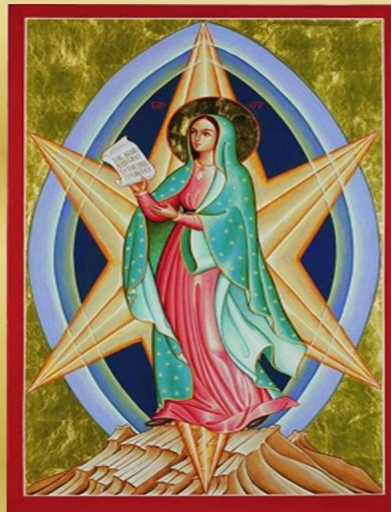
Please consider supporting Magnificat in our mission to evangelize and serve Catholic women through joining our Five Star Share giving program. Your financial gifts enable the Ministry to support Chapters worldwide, develop new programs and materials for individual and community spiritual growth and development. These funds also help women forming Magnificat Chapters in new locations.

Click on [Five Star Campaign](#) or the Our Lady of Guadalupe icon to donate.

Together, let us proclaim the greatness of the Lord to all the world!

God loves a cheerful giver!
(2 Cor. 9:7)

Five Star Campaign



*Our Lady of Guadalupe
Star of the New Evangelization
Pray for Us*

Magnificat of Broward County Meal was held at St. Bernard Catholic Church located in Sunrise, Florida. Eighty-three Catholic women from 23 parishes in Broward County, Florida, attended our November 4, 2023.

The ladies were riveted and moved by the testimony of Monica Restrepo, our guest speaker, as she made her debut as a Catholic witness for the power found in a mother's prayer. Monica shared how at the root of her journey home to the Catholic Church is her maternal grandmother's witness of love for God and devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary and praying the Rosary. The emotional, yet, at times, humorous accounts of Monica's life reflect a mantra, that a mother's heartfelt prayer never goes unanswered. This is a fine summation of Monica's testimony.

In addition to a wonderful testimony given by Monica Restrepo, we enjoyed a lively Spirit-filled praise and worship music and a delicious breakfast catered by Juliana Findley, our Chapter's Treasurer.



Cathy Corona with the Service Team



Monica Restrepo, speaker



Praise & Worship



Praise & Worship

Orange County hosts a Meal in September

By Lourdes Carroll, Secretary

On Saturday, September 16th, 2023, Our Lady Queen of Peace Orange County Chapter hosted Sr. Adriana Gacikova, S. Praem. She has been a member of the Congregation of Norbertine Sisters, a contemplative – active community, since 1985.

It was with great humility that Sr. Adriana shared her vocation journey growing up in Slovakia during the Communist regime where Catholics, which was about 90% of the population, were not allowed to ask questions about religion nor practice their Catholic faith. But through all this since she was a child, she felt inspired by the Word of God, reading the life of the Saints and the pious Catholic practices in her family and other people in her village. She was also attracted by the beautiful structures and art pieces found in the church especially a painting of the Annunciation portraying Mary's Fiat, which ignited in her heart a desire to imitate her. All these nurtured in her heart a deep desire to glorify God by doing good to others.

Sr. Adriana delighted everyone with her humility and earnest desire to do God's will proclaiming His glories.



Sr. Adriana Gacikova, speaker and attendees.

Bayou River Chapter hosts a November Meal

By Kate Dawson, Historian

2023 has been quite a whirlwind of a year for the Bayou River Chapter of Magnificat. This side of last year

found what would become the Service Team meeting most weeks to pray, to plan, and to pick the brains and hearts of the former Chapter's Service and Advisory Team. In February we held our first breakfast as a re-activated Chapter, and it was wildly successful beyond what we could have asked for or imagined. November 25th, as we hosted our fourth Meal of the year, with none other than Kitty Cleveland as our speaker, we could not be more blown away at what the Holy Spirit has done here in bayou country in this last year. Our attendance number has reached the limit of what the building's fire marshal code allows.

But what certainly has taken us by the most surprise was our experience of convention in Pittsburg in October. We found ourselves in the midst of Magnificat's great leaders, and somehow, we were seen fit to be a part of it. What a joy and freedom it brought to be able to lift our hands and voices in highest praise! What an honor it was to be able to sit among other Service Team members from all over! What excitement it brought to be able to listen to and to learn from amazing speakers and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! The Lord is good to us, indeed.

The best way to compare 2023 is like a short and intense experience of labor for a mother-to-be, who while it is difficult and sometimes painful, cannot even begin to predict that level of joy and wonder that will fill her heart when the newborn is finally delivered and is revealed to the world as yet another sign of the Lord's wisdom and His goodness. Like Mary Magdalene, to whom the Lord first appeared on the morning of His resurrection, she was able to shout out, "We have seen the Lord!"

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness to us this year. We have no doubt that it will continue through 2024.

"... We have been eyewitnesses of His majesty." 2 Peter 1:16



Kate Dawson - Historian, Shauntelle Tatford - Secretary, Kitty Cleveland - Guest Speaker, Allie Wells - Asst.Coordinator, Brandi Boudreaux - Treasurer, Stephanie Touns - Coordinator

Omaha Chapter Celebrates an Advent Meal

By Karen Dwyer, Coordinator

On December 2, 2023, Magnificat-Omaha, Jesus the Joy of Our Hearts Chapter, hosted a glorious Advent Brunch with 330 women. Jane Guenther (Director of the Catholic Renewal Center, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO) was the guest speaker, who shared her testimony of miracles and How to Find More JOY during Advent.

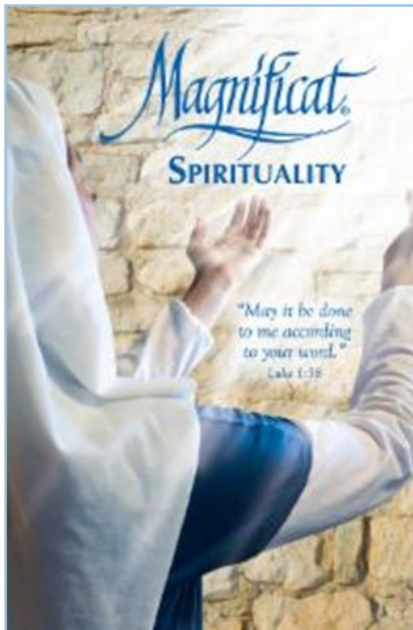
(Pictured below) Magnificat-Omaha Service Team at their Advent Brunch wearing their new Magnificat caps purchased at the Magnificat Leadership Conference, Pittsburgh.



L to R- MariLou Lonergan, Kathy Wheeler, Julia Palzer, Karen Dwyer, Kathy Andreasen, Jane Guenther (speaker) and Deb Fortina.



Magnificat-Omaha Advent Meal December 2, 2023
praising God with Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Michael Voithofer, who leads prayer and praise.



Order your copy of
Magnificat Spirituality
today!

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The Spanish version is here!

MAGNIFICAT SPIRITUALITY

The new Magnificat Spirituality book brings the principles of Magnificat into one concise volume. Now, we can be informed and instructed in what it truly means to say "yes" to God like Mary and join her in proclaiming His greatness in word and deed through Magnificat membership.

"But the hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of woman is being achieved in its fullness, the hour in which woman acquires in the world an influence, an effect, and a power never hitherto achieved. That is why, 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 in not falling..."
— Second Vatican Council message to women

"Magnificat Spirituality is a response to this proclamation, echoing in our 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

MAGNIFICAT Prayer Booklet

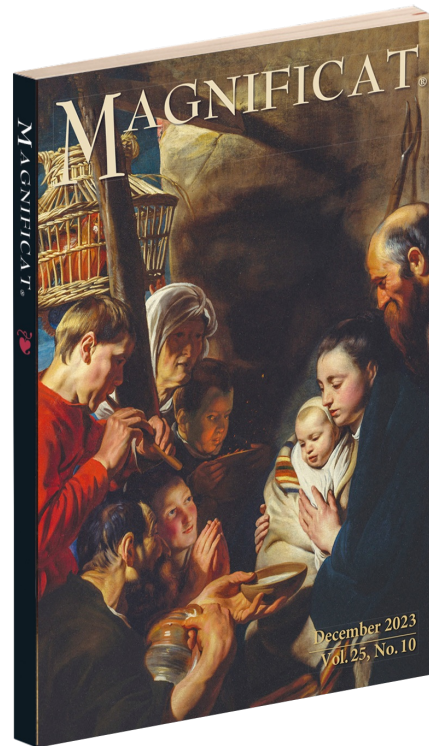
The MAGNIFICAT prayer booklet has been a daily companion to thousands on their spiritual journey, enriching their prayer life and helping them grow in love and knowledge of Christ and the Church. Every subscription to the MAGNIFICAT

publication directly benefits our Magnificat, A Ministry to Catholic Women worldwide.

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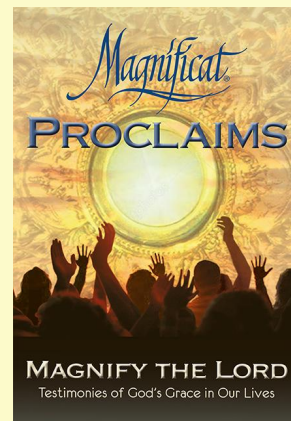
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Praise the Lord

PRAISE REPORT

I want to thank the CST and all the wonderful organizers of the Conference. I am thankful to our Regional Rep and the sisters of our region for good fellowship.

Thanks too for all the warm Magnificat sisters. It is touching and causes me to remember that we are all children of the Virgin Mary, who gathers us all to Jesus, and the Church Jesus left for us!

Thank You, Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit for giving us a taste of heaven on earth!!! Amen!!!

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