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SUMMER EDITION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 6 ISSUE 24

### Greetings!

This summer the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, the first in 83 years, will be held in Indianapolis, July 17-21. We are an official sponsor and exhibitor at this historic event. They are expecting about 80,000 attendees, so we look forward to participating in this amazing celebration and introducing many to our beautiful Ministry.

On the website [www.eucharisticrevival.org](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org) it says "In response to our prayers, the Holy Spirit is filling us with grace and zeal—setting our hearts ablaze with his love and sending us out to share it with the world." This sounds like Magnificat's mission - to evangelize and magnify the Lord!

Various surveys indicate that only about one-third of practicing U.S. Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Yet, this realization is paramount to our faith. A new film called **Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist** is very timely since it helps anyone watching to rediscover the transformative power of the Eucharist - body, blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is imperative that Catholics understand the treasure we have in the Eucharist.

This revival is a tremendous opportunity for the Church to joyfully respond to the divine invitation to be united around the source & summit of our faith. We can be so grateful that through the Eucharist, God desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church.

Donna Ross, Coordinator  
Central Service Team (CST)



## Pope's Intentions



### June

#### For Those Fleeing Their Own Countries

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

### July

#### For The Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, bestows the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

### August

#### For Political Leaders

Let us pray that each of us listens with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.

## Liturgy of the Hours A book of prayer and contemplation

### From a work by Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest

(Opusculum 57, in festo Corporis Christi, lect. 1-4)

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation. He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.



O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may be for the benefit of all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament, in which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memorial of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his passion.

It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion. It was the fulfillment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

### RESPONSORY

Know that in this bread is the body of Christ which hung on the cross, and in this cup, the blood of Christ which flowed from his side. Take, therefore, and eat his body; take and drink his blood,  
**--and you will become members of his body.**

Eat this sacred food, so that your bond of unity with Christ may never be broken. Drink this sacred blood, the price he paid for you, so that you may never lose heart because of your sinfulness.  
**--And you will become members of his body.**



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**



This Is   
**REVIVAL**

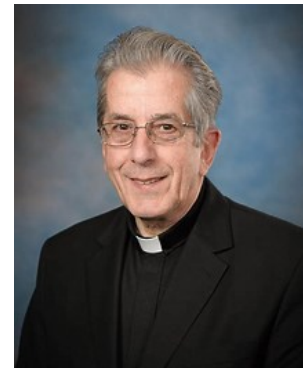
***Magnificat is a proud Sponsor of the  
National Eucharistic Congress  
Indianapolis, IN  
July 17–21, 2024***

**Please join us and visit our Exhibit booth!  
[Register Now](#)**

### **Father Tom Cebula Spiritual Teaching**

My Spiritual Journey with Saint Joseph

Next Tuesday, March 19, we will observe the Solemnity of St. Joseph. I have been blessed with a long-standing relationship with St. Joseph. I grew up in St. Joseph's Parish in Canton, Ohio and was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rocky River, Ohio. My Confirmation name is "Joseph." Brother Declan Joseph of Central Catholic High School helped me to discern my vocation to the priesthood during my senior year at Central. My father, John, died on the feast of St. Joseph on March 19, 1987. A close friend of our family was a Sister of St. Joseph from Baden, Pennsylvania. This association with St. Joseph is no mere coincidence. I have felt the protecting and fatherly presence of St. Joseph throughout the course of my whole life. He has also shaped my role as a spiritual father throughout the course of my priestly ministry. One example of this spiritual paternity comes from a request that I received from a young woman who was a student at Walsh University where I was serving as chaplain. She told me that she and two of her roommates were concerned about some paranormal events that were happening in the dorm where they were staying. She asked me to come and bless their rooms and pray for their protection and deliverance from any demonic presence that they found menacing and frightening. I readily complied with her request and blessed their dorm rooms with holy water and prayed for their protection. Weeks later, she told me that they had no further experience of these paranormal happenings. Later, as I reflected on this experience, I felt a certain fatherly spirit come over me and came to the realization that this must have been how St. Joseph felt while protecting Mary and Jesus through all





their trials and difficulties. Let me close with this prayer to St. Joseph seeking his protection over the entire Church in these often threatening and menacing times: "Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day. You protected and cherished the Virgin. Loving the child Jesus as your son, you rescued him from the danger of death. Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the blood of Christ." Amen.

## In Memory of St. Joan of Metairie

By Marilyn Quirk

It is only fitting that Magnificat pay tribute to a dear, saintly Magnificat sister, Joan Barrios Lococo, former CST member who went home to the Father on April 24, 2024 about a week before her 92nd birthday. She was a beacon of light to everyone privileged to know her and work with her. Involvement in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal placed Joan with Magnificat from the very beginning in 1981, first as a member of her parish prayer group and then as secretary for the Magnificat Central Service Team for nearly 30 foundational years. Donna Ross and several of us who served with her on the CST have expressed our thoughts about this TRUE SERVANT of the Lord. You won't want to miss these tributes expressing how she impacted the lives of so many of us, and most especially, how she left her mark on the Ministry of Magnificat. We pray that these recollections of her life and love will be an inspiration to you. These remembrances of her and her contributions to Magnificat may be read by [clicking here.](#)



Joan Lococo: "A Woman to Be Admired"

By Marilyn Quirk

Joan was an extraordinary woman! She was filled with Love, Wisdom, and Talent. All of us in Magnificat benefited from those gifts! She had a great sense of humor and would often make those around marvel at her wit which was always expressed with love! As the Secretary at our weekly CST meetings, Joan quietly took notes, and was able to put all of our chatting back and forth into a clear and precise way. She had many remarkable gifts, one of which was creating beauty. She used that gift to artfully create a beautiful tapestry with each Magnificat Chapter embroidered on it! She was also a woman to be admired as a Wife, Mother, and Leader among women! The death of her son, Paul, was a continual sword in her heart! In other difficult situations, no one knew how much she suffered! Nothing seemed to be too much for her. Her beautiful angelic voice blessed all at St Catherine Church where she worshiped, as well as at other meetings. She was a woman to be Admired and left a legacy of Blessings to all who knew her, especially Magnificat! May she enjoy her Eternal Rest!

By Marilyn Heap

Sirach 6:14 says, "A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure". Oh, what a sturdy friend, what a treasure Joanie was to all who knew her, and most especially to me, and to the Magnificat Ministry!! My life first crossed Joan Lococo's in the 1950's when I was in college at Loyola University-New Orleans and she was the university's first Dean of Women. At the time I simply knew her by her title and have vague memories of her in that position. Little did I know that some 30 yrs. later, our paths would not just cross again, but become so closely intertwined as we both served on the Magnificat Central Service Team for about the next 30 years.

It was during this time that I came to know a woman who so magnificently reflected our Blessed Mother and her Son, Jesus -- a woman who taught me so much. Her sweet, loving ways of living and expressing herself were infectious. She was always so merciful -- bringing wisdom, comfort, counsel and peace. Added to her glowing personality were her numerous, unmatched talents. Besides her angelic singing voice that she loved to share, Joanie was a master at sewing, needlepoint, and embroidery. Her artistic abilities produced the Magnificat banner that identifies each of the Magnificat flowers found all over the world. But without a doubt, her talent for expressing her thoughts in speech and writing was **THE** outstanding gift that blessed Magnificat immensely. In between giving attention to her husband, her 5 married children and 9 grandchildren, she labored tirelessly to record the minutes of our CST weekly meetings. She also accurately modified or clarified the Magnificat handbook that Fr. John Amos of the Mobile, AL diocese wrote for us after assisting us with the formation of the ministry. Her writing talent was a priceless, immeasurable gift to Magnificat. Among the CST members, she was known as the only one who could write a rather difficult letter and have it sound like a Valentine! That was our Joanie!!!

We firmly believe that her time now is spent rejoicing with her loved ones in Heaven especially with her son, Paul, who at age 9 died of a rare heart condition, and of course, interceding for the ministry and all of us. We know, too, that all Heaven is rejoicing because our dear friend Joanie has arrived joining her angelic voice to the choirs of angels and saints singing their praises to the Lord, our God, the Almighty!! St. Joan of Metairie, pray for us!!

## Our Lady of Miracles, Las Vegas Inaugural Chapter Meal

By Kathleen Larmore, Historian, Acting Treasurer

To a capacity crowd of over 375 Catholic women, many of whom brought their husbands, and friends, the Las Vegas Chapter of Our Lady of Miracles held their first Magnificat Meal of the Las Vegas Chapter at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino on May 11th, 2024.

Behind a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus, our Spiritual Advisor, Father John McShane and the Chapter Service Team sat at the head table with our Guest Speaker, the popular and beloved Father Donald Calloway, MIC, Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. His conversion story and testimony were enthusiastically received by all.

Father Calloway provided a detailed account of being constantly “wasted,” and homeless, to the point of despairing. Though his mother had been crushed by his words and behaviors, she never gave up on praying for him. Then, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a group of powerful Filipino women prayed him into the Catholic church. He emphasized with sound effects how he was spiritually injected with divine understanding during the elevation of the Eucharist at Mass.

Special guests were acknowledged; from the Central Service Team - Donna Ross (our August Meal speaker), Noreen Fortier and Christina Silvas, Palm Desert CA Service Team Members, Region 1 Communications Rep. Elise Botch, Carole and Karen Gordon (Las Vegas Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Gordon’s mother and sister), before the raffle winners of a Magnificat Rosary, a St. Joan of Arc print, and a basket with a St. Joseph statue were chosen.

Donna Lee and the music ministry led us in praise and worship, Grace Jimenez-Kraft recited the mystery of the Visitation decade of the rosary, followed by Fr. McShane’s blessing over the buffet style breakfast.



Fr. Calloway, Speaker, holding a photo of himself as a teenager.



Prayers for Fr. Donald Calloway





Donna Ross sharing the paperwork Sara Ford filled out over 16 years of forming the Chapter!



Donna Ross presented the "St. Monica Award" to Sara Ford for her perseverance!



Donna Ross, CST Coordinator, MaryEllen Costanza, Chapter Coordinator, Kathleen Larmore, Chapter Treasurer and Sara Ford, Chapter Mentor



Music Ministry, Donna Lee & Mary Ellen Kennedy





Magnificat sisters from neighboring Chapters giving their support! Christina Silvas, Palm Desert, Donna Lee & Elise Botch, No. County San Diego, Donna Ross & Noreen Fortier, Palm Desert



Praise and Worship enthusiasts giving glory to God!



### **Act of Consecration to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I consecrate myself and my whole family to You.

I consecrate to You:

my very being and my whole life...

All that I am...

All that I have...

And All that I love.

To You I give my body, my heart, and my soul.

To You I dedicate my home and my country.

Mindful of this consecration,

I now promise You to live a Christian way of life  
by the practice of virtues.

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
accept this act of consecration,  
which I make out of pure love for You.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

have mercy on me!

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
be my salvation!

Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
make my heart like unto Your merciful heart!

Amen.

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## Mother of Mercy Chapter, Ft. Myers Hosts a Meal

By Janice Neyer, Secretary

Fernande Benjamin, a “founding mother” of the Fort Myers Mother of Mercy Chapter, spoke at our 69th Magnificat Meal on Saturday, May 11th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ft. Myers. Fernande’s amazing life testimony, spanning more than 80 years, has been marked by joy in the Lord. Her life had many ups and downs, including the loss of her mother at the age of 5, moving from a French speaking province in Canada to Vermont and then finally moving to SW Florida. At a young age, Fernande gave her heart to the Lord and desired a religious life. However, due to health concerns the order dismissed her just prior to her final profession of vows. This deep disappointment was overcome by a determined surrender and acceptance of God’s will and not her own. When you love and trust the Lord to bring about the greatest good for your soul you are filled with joy. Fernande married and experienced years of infertility. She and her husband’s trust in the Lord deepened and expanded as they welcomed two adopted children. Her spiritual growth through Cursillo and Life in the Spirit prayer groups resulted in many fruitful years of service to many parishes in the Ft. Myers area.

The morning included a delightful breakfast, beautiful praise and worship music, lovely flowers, fellowship, and prayer.



Fernande Benjamin giving her testimony



Fernande Benjamin

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## A Day of Evangelization Event

### Magnificat, Indio Chapter, María Reina de la Paz

By Claudia Castorena, Treasurer

Jesus said: **“When the Paraclete comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be my witnesses...”**

Since we were children, we have heard about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but it was not until we experienced God’s love personally that we freely chose to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

It has been a joyful journey to follow the steps of Jesus, and we happily work to extend God’s Kingdom. Jesus himself told us to be his witnesses in the world.

On March 16th of this year, the Magnificat Spanish Chapter of Indio, María Reina de la Paz, organized a massive evangelization event. More than 1,500 people gathered to worship God and grow in their personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

This special day far exceeded our expectations since our own Bishop Alberto Rojas celebrated the closing Mass, four priests concelebrated, and seven deacons and their wives were also present. The main speaker was Fr. Jesus Ceja, an exorcist from the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, México. He shared with us how some people have been freed from their oppressions by spending time in prayer before the



Blessed Sacrament. One of the day's highlights was the Holy Hour of adoration led by Fr. Ramon Flores and Mrs. Rosalia Sanchez. Many healings and liberations took place during this hour.

After witnessing the overwhelming response and remarkable outcomes of our first event, the Magnificat Team is excited to announce the theme for next year's Day of Evangelization: "Renewed in the Spirit." This theme, chosen in prayer, reflects our collective desire for spiritual rejuvenation and will guide our journey to our next event on March 22nd, 2025.



Blessed Sacrament Procession – Fr. Ramón Flores in procession with the Blessed Sacrament.



The Magnificat Team on the stage welcomes all. (From left to right), Claudia Castorena & the Magnificat Choir, Sonia Gonzalez, special event coordinator; Rosita Pelayo (covered by the flag), Historian; Carmen Perez, Assist. Coord.; Genaro Perez supporting in prayer; Lupita Hilario, Secretary; Gloria Gomez, Chapter Coordinator.



Closing Mass – from left to right, Deacon Jaime Rosas; Bishop Alberto Rojas, Diocese of San Bernardino, president; Deacon Fernando Heredia; Fr. Jesús Ceja, the main speaker.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe North County San Diego Chapter Meal

By Lisa Ledyard, Historian

Our May 18th breakfast featured Laurie Walsh, a founder of the Phoenix, AZ Magnificat Chapter. Happy to be speaking during the month of Our Blessed Mother, Laurie gave Mary many thanks for her guidance on her spiritual journey. Laurie spoke of the small Montana "drinking town with a fishing problem," where she grew up as the youngest of three sisters. She shared her story of alcohol addiction that led to sin and depression. This spiritual death gave way to rebellion and lasting repercussions. Years later, through the help of a nun and Search retreats, God's grace and forgiveness gave way to a new chapter in marriage and healing. Laurie and her husband "H" were unable to have children of their own. She worked as a counselor, therapist, and probation officer. Together, they fostered almost 60 troubled teens at a state group home. They experienced miraculous healings on their journey through faith and today she continues to speak of the healing God offers each of us.

Praise and worship music led by Donna Lee ushered in the birthday celebration of Pentecost. This was the theme of our fellowship. Deacon Kevin Helfers, our Spiritual Advisor, shared about being open to prayer and new gifts of the Holy Spirit. Coordinator Cindy Ripee shared a word of knowledge, beseeching us to step out in faith, believing that God will direct us when we surrender all our worries and hopes. We enjoyed a delightful meal and lively conversation, along with a raffle of religious items featuring Saint Pope John Paul II in celebration of his birthday.



Praying before testimony are spiritual advisor Dcn. Kevin Helfers, Speaker Laurie Walsh, Dcn. Mitch Rennix, hidden is coordinator Cindy Ripee, Treasurer Mary Leeds, Asst. Coordinator Lidia Rennix



Pentecost centerpiece





Attendees



Book Table: Historian Lisa Ledyard, with Speaker Laurie Walsh, and friends.

## Our Lady of Fatima Chapter, San Angelo, Texas

By Elvira Gonzales, Historian

Our Magnificat Meal was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at St. Margaret's Parish Hall. One hundred and fifty plus ladies gathered in fellowship and prayer to honor Our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary. Holy Mass was celebrated at 7:30 a.m. by Father Freddy Perez for the Service and Advisory Teams and volunteers.

The Meal began at 9:00 and reconciliation was available during this time until 10:00. Father Joseph Barbieri then gave a mini lesson on how prayer should be used to combat anxiety and to open ourselves to God and increase our TRUST in HIM.

Our featured speaker, Cynthia Cerda gave a very moving and inspirational testimony about God's Love and Mercy in her life! In her walk with God, she has been blessed to become a wife, stepmom, mom, grandma, nursing student and a cancer survivor. She has continued to praise GOD despite life's difficulties and hard changes in her journey. Cynthia stressed that though our fiat may look different for each woman, our directions from our Mother Mary remain the same, "**Do whatever He tells you.**"



Cynthia Cerda from Lubbock, Texas sharing her powerful and very inspiring testimony.



Father Joseph Barbieri from the San Angelo diocese presenting the mini lesson on combating anxiety through prayer.



Cynthia Cerda and close family members in attendance from San Angelo and El Dorado, Texas.

## Magnificat Pittsburgh Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

By Janice Lane Palko, Publicity Chairperson

Magnificat Pittsburgh, The Visitation Chapter, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Chapter's first Meal on May 11. Former Service Team members Mary Samsa, Kay Burkot, Joan Penzenstadler, Maura McDowell, Dotty Wasik, Pam Yoezle, Chris Stasa, Marge Bachicchio, and Angela Gaughn were honored, and gratitude was extended to them for their "yes" to founding the Magnificat Chapter in Pittsburgh.

Fr. Tom Sparacino delivered a teaching on virtue describing the Blessed Mother as the "Vessel of Virtue." Guest speaker, international Catholic evangelist Andi Oney, gave her inspiring testimony and how nothing is impossible with God. Among the attendees were several Religious Sisters from three different communities.

To celebrate this extra-special Meal, prizes were raffled off, including four free tickets to the next Magnificat Meal, books, rosaries, and a crucifix. As it was Mother's Day weekend, all women attending were given a rose in honor of the Blessed Mother, their mother, and Mother's Day.



Founding Members Mary Samsa and Kay Burkot,  
Guests of Honor



Magnificat Pittsburgh Cherishes Its  
Religious Sisters

## The Gentle Woman of Praise, Albany, NY Chapter

By Nancy Hooley, Asst. Coordinator

The Gentle Woman of Praise, Albany, NY Chapter hosted its first Meal of 2024 on Saturday, March 16th at Wolferts Roost Country Club in Albany. It was a chilly winter morning but the nearly 100 attendees saw a glimpse of spring inside the room with the beautiful centerpieces of colorful, fresh flowers.



We began by inviting the presence of the Holy Ghost as our music ministry, Joyful Heart, led us in singing "Come Holy Ghost".

Fr. Kyle Gorenski, our Spiritual Advisor, offered a beautiful reflection on the Blessed Mother. He recounted that as the mother of Jesus, Mary bore her own cross with humility, obedience, and in complete surrender to God's will -- her mission was all about Jesus.

Our guest speaker was Fran Karpiej, OSF, who was the founding Coordinator of the Triumphant Heart of Mary Immaculate Chapter in Bridgeport, CT. Fran inspired all present with her personal testimony of God's presence throughout her life -- a life touched by illness, loss and pain. Though her life's journey is not one Fran envisioned, it is one that God has seen her through. She stressed the importance of surrendering to God and allowing Him to Direct, Inspect, Correct & Perfect us. Instead of pushing & pulling, we need to recognize what God is doing in our own lives & "see *the signs that point and the wonders that happen*". She gifted each attendee a stone with an imbedded cross telling us that each stone represents us -- that God, who only creates good, is imprinting us with His mercy, grace & love. She concluded by stating that the gifts of the Spirit need to be embraced and used in service to others with joy, prayer, love and forgiveness.

At the conclusion of Fran's talk, we listened to the song *In Jesus Name* by Katy Nicole. It was a powerful, holy moment for all -- one that will not be soon forgotten. In so many ways our morning was truly blessed!



Fran Karpiej, Speaker



Fran Schmidt, Kelly Stiffen, Fr. Kyle, Diane B, Fran Karpiej, Nancy H and Carol H



Standing are Maureen Adamek, Denise Fraioli and Kathleen Carol singing in praise and worship



Joyful Heart leading praise



Carol Heckman, Nancy Hooley, Fr. Kyle and Fran Karpiej



Attendees

## Magnificat Czyzowice Chapter, Poland

By Cecilia Soporowska, Formation Chairwoman

On April 12, 2024, Magnificat Czyzowice Chapter had its Meal with 140 women attending. The speaker was former



Czestochowa Chapter Coordinator Jola Stankiewicz. She is also currently the contact person for the Chapter in Formation in Nysa, Poland. Pictures below.



## Buffalo's Spiritual Advisor Retires

by Liz McCormick, Corresponding Secretary

Rev. Eugene Ulrich, the Spiritual Advisor for the Buffalo, NY Chapter, retired with a fabulous party in May 2023 to celebrate his **75th birthday**, his **50th Ordination Anniversary**, AND his **retirement** as Pastor of the Church of the Annunciation in Elma, NY. Our beloved Father Gene will continue to serve as the Chapter's Spiritual Advisor.



(from left to right) Christine Ryngwalski, Advisory Board Member, Evelyn Morcelle, Advisory Board Member, Father Eugene Ulrich, Spiritual Advisor, Mary Kay Schaub, Coordinator, Liz McCormick, Corresponding Secretary



## Praying for Our Priests in Buffalo, NY

by Liz McCormick, Corresponding Secretary

Our innovative Coordinator, Mary Kay Schaub, thought of a wonderful way to honor our priests in the Diocese of Buffalo, NY and to generate prayers for them. At a recent Meal, our guests were invited to take a slip (or several slips) of paper, each with the name of a current or retired priest in our Diocese. The ladies were asked to take the name(s) home and pray for them regularly. Additionally, they were asked to write a personal note to each priest on a note card, expressing a heart-felt message to each one and thanking them for their priesthood. This endeavor was successful and bore fruit! We received several messages from priests who were sincerely touched by the note and prayers. We hope this work of mercy is perpetuated in other Chapters.

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## Mary ~ Mother of the Eucharist, McHenry, IL Chapter

By Lisa Coté, Assistant coordinator

The first thing on the morning's agenda was a delicious breakfast enjoyed amongst 125 attendees from Northern IL and Southern WI. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Parish Hall was filled with beautiful songs of praise and all were encouraged to join in singing with the four musicians who lead the assembly in lifting their voices to the Lord.

As the morning progressed, the Chapter's Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Marty Heinz, gave a short reflection -- The Ascension of the Lord and how God's mercy opened the gates of Heaven to all. Highlighting the gathering, Sister Appolonia Irika DMMM then shared her personal testimony for the first time from a podium to a filled room. Sister has been ministering in the McHenry area for many years and does not shy away from evangelizing. She was inspired by Magnificat's fiat of saying yes. At this breakfast, Sister vividly shared her experiences growing up in Venezuela. The experiences were incredibly moving and held several surprises many had not heard before. All pointing to the extra ordinary mercy of God. The morning ended with a few songs of thanksgiving and reflection and all were invited to recite a personal recommitment prayer. Private personal prayer team opportunities were offered as the event ended. All are welcomed to the next prayer Meal breakfast on September 14, 2024 at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's Parish Hall.



Sister Appolonia Irika DMM, speaker

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## Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Stark County, OH Chapter

By Emily Voegelé, Asst. Coordinator

Our March Meal was hosted at a new venue, The Holiday Inn at Belden Village. As with anything new, we expected to encounter a few problems and we appreciated the positive and constructive feedback we received. Hopefully, the problems will be remedied by our next Meal in June. Thank you for your patience and support! There were approximately 100 attendees. Prior to the Meal, we were blessed to have our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Tom Cebula celebrate Mass.

Breakfast was followed by a raffle drawing for a St. Patrick's Day themed basket, and Lisa Sicker was the

winner! Fr. Cebula then proceeded to give a teaching about St. Joseph, as his feast day was on March 19th.

We were blessed to have Mary Pusateri lead us in Praise and Worship! She is a talented musician, and she has taught music in Catholic schools for many years. She also plays guitar and sings at St. Paul Parish in North Canton. We hope she will return for future Meals!

At this Meal, we heard the powerful testimony of Lillian Rambacher as she described the miraculous healing and survival of her daughter and grandson after the life-threatening childbirth event of amniotic fluid embolus. At one point, doctors told Lillian that her daughter had 15% chance of survival. Prayer chains spread around the U.S and even across the Atlantic to Lebanon, from where Lillian's parents immigrated. Lillian prayed fervently to the Blessed Mother, the Little Flower, and St. Charbel. She prayed over her daughter and grandson and the doctors and nurses, moving forward in faith and boldly trusting in God's mercy. Amidst her desperate prayer, she promised God and the Blessed Mother that she would bring Him followers one person at a time.



Lillian Rambacher, Speaker

## *Holy Hour presented by*



**Join us on the 2nd Monday of each month  
7:00 pm CENTRAL time  
on Facebook for Praise, Worship and Adoration  
Family and friends are welcome to participate!**

### **Magnificat Store**

Did you know there is a wonderful shopping opportunity just waiting for you? Explore our shopping cart with custom





Magnificat logo items and for unique rosaries, apparel, books, jewelry, statues, CDs and much more.

Find great gifts for family, friends and YOU.

<https://store.magnificat-ministry.net>

## 2023 Giving Opportunity

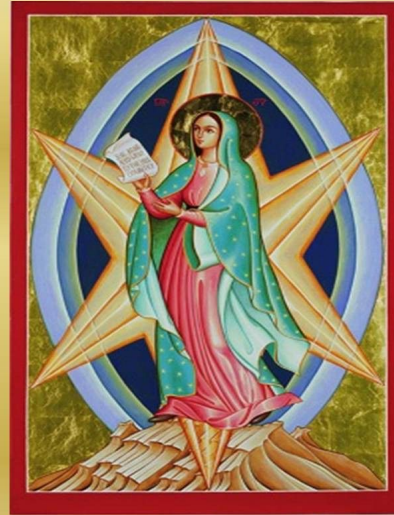
Please consider supporting Magnificat in our mission to evangelize and serve Catholic women through joining our Five Star Share giving program. Your financial gifts enable the Ministry to support Chapters worldwide, develop new programs and materials for individual and community spiritual growth and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

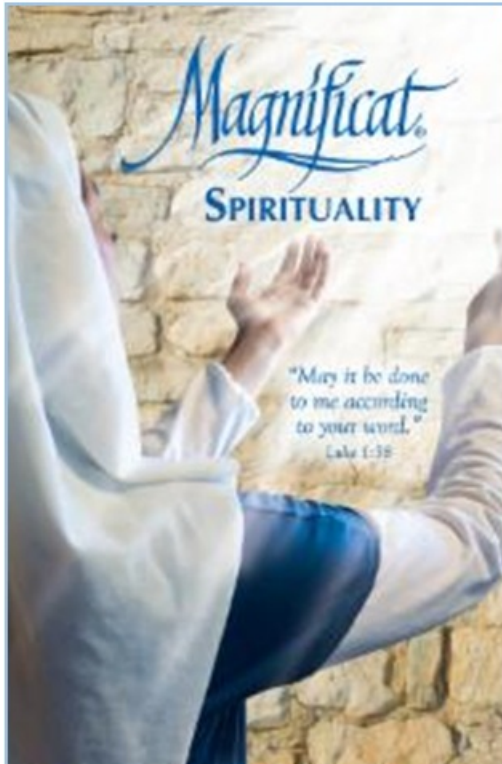
Together, let us proclaim the greatness of the Lord to all the world!

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

## Five Star Campaign



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



Order your copy of  
Magnificat Spirituality  
(English or Spanish) today!

## 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

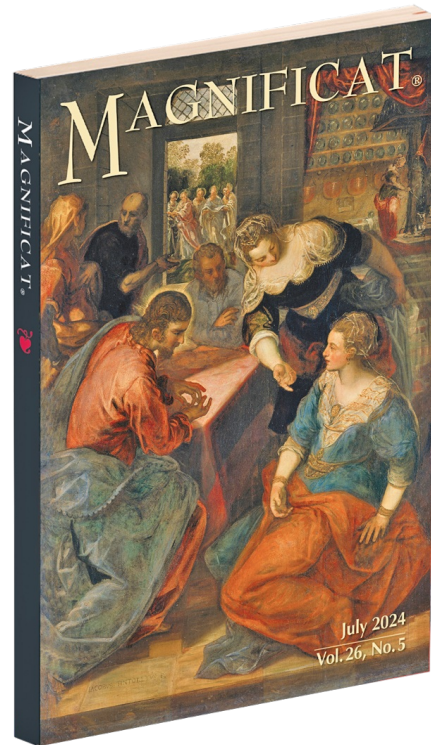
"Magnificat Spirituality is a response to this proclamation, echoing in our times, calling us back to personal holiness, community, and service in obedience to the Holy Spirit. The world needs a compelling manifestation of God's love and power to heal broken lives and institutions. With Mary, as our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

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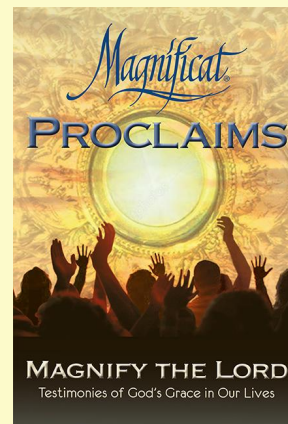


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is book three in the Magnificat Proclaims series. Another 19 powerful testimonies of clergy, religious and laity to inspire and touch hearts. Available in the [Magnificat Store](#) or [Amazon.com](#)

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*Praise the Lord*

## PRAISE REPORT

I attended my very first Meal in Las Vegas at their inaugural event. It was truly a life changing experience. I just can't stop talking about it to all my family and friends. The guest speaker was truly inspiring. I am so grateful I was invited.



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