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WINTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 24

Greetings!

Advent carves out time for us to properly prepare and reflect on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of our Chapters recently received the following word. "Prepare, for I am advancing. Prepare, for I am drawing near. Yet remember the experience of Elijah in the cave on Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:11-18). For neither in the wind, not in the earthquake, nor in the fire did Elijah find the presence of the Lord, but in the sound of sheer silence." Considering we live in a noisy world, we owe it to ourselves to make time to sit quietly and listen to the whispers of His wisdom.



I am very hopeful that this year we will not get easily distracted and overly caught up in the hustle and bustle but rather recognize and appreciate the incredible gift of Christmas. Let's use some of the things available to help us stay focused such as Advent calendars & wreaths, mangers and decorations, plays and musicals, retreat days & novenas, to name a few. If you don't already, there is no time like the present to start family traditions that clearly point to Jesus, the reason for the season!



Wishing you a blessed Advent.
Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy New Year!

Donna Ross, Coordinator,
Central Service Team (CST)

POPE'S INTENTIONS

JANUARY

For The Right To An Education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

FEBRUARY

For Vocations To The Priesthood And Religious Life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might



welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARCH

For Families In Crisis

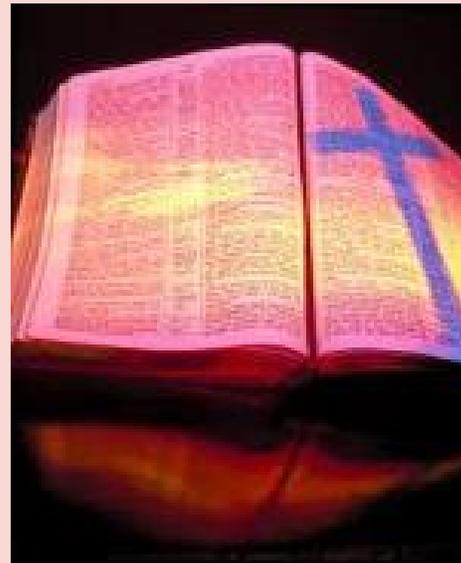
Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Liturgy of the Hours A Book of Prayer and Contemplation

December 8
Immaculate Conception
Hymn from the Evening Prayer 1
Mary, Crowned with Living Light (156)

Mary, crowned with living light,
Temple of the Lord,
Place of peace and holiness,
Shelter of the Word.
Mystery of sinless life
In our fallen race,
Free from shadow, you reflect
Plenitude of grace.

Virgin Mother of our God,
Lift us when we fall,
Who were named upon the Cross
Mother of us all.
Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Heaven sings your praise;
Mary magnifies your name
Through eternal days.



Melody: Glorification 75.75.D
Music: Gossner's Choralbuch, Leipzig 1832
Text: Stanbrook Abbey
Words from Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal by permission of the Benedictine Nuns Stanbrook Abbey

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



To My Dear Magnificat Sisters,

The Advent Season is our time of echoing Mary's Magnificat as she journeys with the Christ-child in her womb. As Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth in the Visitation, John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb as he recognizes the Messiah. John's whole life would follow his very first actions in the womb; he would spend his days preaching and pointing to Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God."



Advent is the season to renew our rejoicing in the Lord and to point to the Lamb of God

with all those we encounter in our daily lives: spouses, children, sibling's, co-workers, parishioners. Advent also reminds us that all life in the womb is sacred. In a post Roe v. Wade world, when many states have rejected laws restricting abortion, it is now more incumbent upon us to convert one soul at a time. It is our task to teach that all life from the womb to the tomb is sacred. I believe that this is the only way to promote the culture of life – it is no longer laws, it is hearts and minds that we must invest our efforts and energies.

Like Mary, may the Advent season teach us how to rejoice in the Lord as He is born anew within us, and also stand up for the Gospel of life and proclaim the Good News that all life is sacred, because it comes from the Sacred One Himself who was born from all Eternity and born into time through Mary – Happy Birthday Jesus!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8



*O MARY, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



Advent's Light: A Journey of the Heart

In the hush of twilight, the first week arrives,
A flickering flame, where our longing thrives.
The Prophecy Candle, a beacon of Hope,
Whispers of promise, as we learn to cope.

In the shadows, we dream of the coming of grace,
A Savior who'll lead us, His love we embrace.
With hearts open wide, we gather and pray,
Awaiting the dawn of that glorious day.

The second week dawns with a gentle refrain,
The Bethlehem Candle, where Peace shall remain.
In the stillness, we seek what our souls have yearned,
For harmony's gift, in our hearts it's discerned.

As angels once sang to the shepherds so near,
We too find our solace, our worries unclear.
In the quiet of night, we ponder the ways,
To welcome the Prince of Peace through our days.

Then comes the third week, adorned with soft light,
The Shepherds Candle, where Joy takes its flight.
With a rose-tinted glow, our spirits arise,
In laughter and song, our praises we'll rise.

For joy is a treasure, a glimpse of His face,
In the heart of the humble, we find our true place.
With hearts filled with laughter, we dance in His grace,
Anticipating the Child, our Savior's embrace.

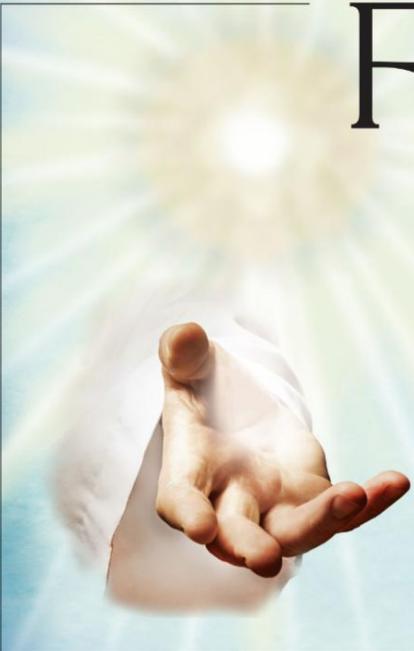
The fourth week unfolds, with a love ever bright,
The Angel Candle glimmers, casting pure light.
It speaks of the love that the Father bestows,
In the gift of His Son, our salvation He shows.

With hope, peace, and joy, our hearts now align,
In preparation for grace, a love so divine.
As we light each candle, the darkness takes flight,
Leading us closer to the Nativity night.

And then on that day, when the stars brightly gleam,
The Christ Candle shines, the fulfillment of a dream.
In the silence of night, the heavens proclaim,
The birth of our Savior, forever the same.

So let us remember, as each flame we ignite,
The journey of Advent, our hearts drawn to light.
With hope, peace, joy, and love intertwined,
In the warmth of His presence, true solace we find.

Peggy Rowe Linn



RISE *and* WALK

July 10-13, 2025

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Magnificat.

**18th International Leaders'
Conference**

More info to come in January 2025!

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapter Meal, Denver, CO

By Marion Budz, Historian

Father Eustace Sequeira, S.J., our new Spiritual Advisor, gave his testimony to 61 guests at our November 1, 2024 luncheon held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Centennial, CO.

Father Eustace shared his journey from his native India, where he was ordained, to Africa, Rome and finally to the United States where he teaches at Regis University in Denver, CO. Our Service Team enjoyed having lunch with Father Eustace, and we attended a Mass offered by him in the University Campus Chapel. We look forward to Father's spiritual guidance and assistance at our Meals.

Therese Wolf-Meidlinger, Chapter Secretary, surprised us with beautiful blue candle centerpieces to grace our luncheon tables.



Fr. Eustace Sequeira, S.J. with guest Steven Meidlinger.



Pianist Ben Lager, music ministry pianist, with Celia Kulbe, Coordinator and Ruth Dempsey, Assistant Coordinator.



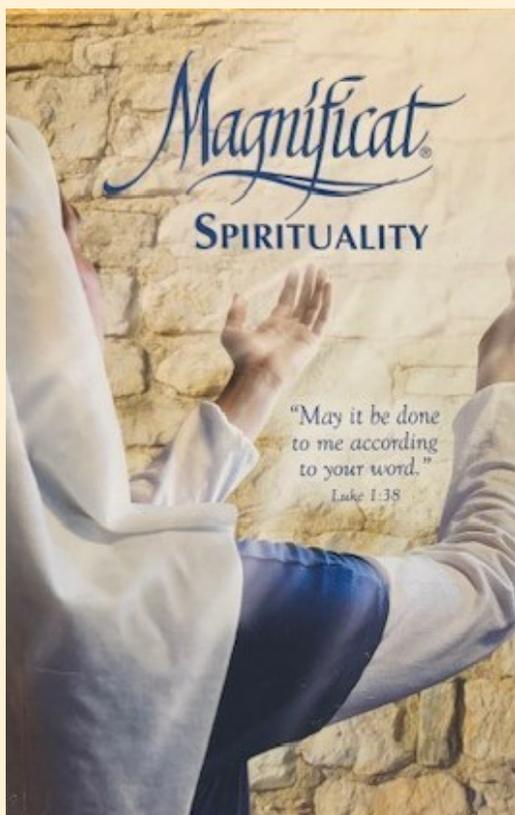
Beautiful new blue candle centerpieces.



Vanessa Hebert with our new Treasurer Susan Gantt at the registration table.



Guest hostess Beverly Kent-Urda with Celia Kulbe, Coordinator.



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

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

[Click here](#)

Albany, NY Chapter November 9, 2024 Meal

The Gentle Woman of Praise Albany, NY, Chapter hosted our final 2024 Meal on Saturday, November 9, at The Vista in Clifton Park, NY. This Meal was in honor of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy.

It was a glorious morning with the sun shining brightly through the windows showcasing the fading Autumn colors. Though the outside temperature was low, the excitement inside was high.

We began by beckoning the Holy Ghost to be with us as together we sang "Come Holy Ghost" led by our music ministry, Joyful Heart.

Fr. Kyle Gorenski, our Spiritual Advisor, offered a brief reflection on unity. He explained that we all have a fundamental call to be united in spirit and to love, respect, build up & serve one another. Like Jesus, we are to be one with the Father. In summary, Fr. Kyle invited us to love others as Christ loves us and to be instruments of unity in a divided world.

We were blessed to hear some prophetic words shared by two women – "This is a new day and a new time – I am with you" & "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding – in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

Just over 100 were in attendance that morning, and we were thrilled to welcome 28 first-time attendees!

Our guest speaker was Monique Mousot from the Bronx, NY. The story she shared is one that seemed unbelievable at times. She was born to teenage parents who struggled with shame, drug addiction, bitterness, betrayal and rejection. Her younger years were filled with chaos, uncertainty and fear. The stage seemed to be set for a lifetime of difficulty and failure for Monique, but an encounter with members of a prayer group left her forever changed. They told her about Jesus and promised to pray for her. Through their prayers and support, Monique experienced healing from a crippling disease. One of the members gave her a bible. She began reading it & learned about the one true God. Slowly but surely her life was transformed. In reading Isaiah 35, she found the "joy of the redeemed" & felt God had indeed rescued her and was telling her to "look to the Father, look to the Son, and look to the Holy Spirit." At a Life in the Spirit seminar, she was filled with love and kept saying "thank you, Jesus". Today, Monique is living a new life – one filled with joy. Her "yes" to Jesus has led to unexpected miracles and is a reminder to all that God is a God of surprises. With faith, hope and trust in Jesus, all things are possible.

Monique's message of hope and trust in God touched many hearts. We are thankful for the many graces and blessings we received that morning.



Fr Kyle Gorenski praying over intentions and Monique Mousot



Blessed Mother statue



Joyful Heart Music Ministry - Marilyn and Fernando



Monique Mousot, Fr Kyle Gorenski, Nancy Hooley, Carol Heckman



Nancy Hooley, Carol Heckman, Phyllis Murphy, Lenora LeMay, Diane Bigos



Seminarian Anthony Leo, Fr Charles Onyeneke, Peter Mousot, Lauren Sharp, Gail



Albany Service Team: Fr Kyle, Nancy, Denise, Diane, Monique Mousot, Carol, Kelly



Attendees



Denise, Fran, Nancy, Diane, Carol, Kelly, Lenora LeMay

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Find a statue and other items at store.magnificat-ministry.net



These unique statues are made in Colombia. Each is individually hand-painted by talented women who are either widows, single mothers, or those who are sole providers for their families. Slight color and design variations may occur. Measures 3" W x 10½" H x 3" D

Magnificat Women Come Together in Las Vegas: Father Jacob Knee

By Kathleen Larmore, Historian

The Sonoma Room at the South Point Hotel filled up slowly with reverent energy as over one hundred women and a handful of men gathered for the Magnificat Meal celebration. Round tables draped in crisp white tablecloths filled the spacious room, while at the front, the head table seated our dedicated service team, Mary Ellen Costanza, Dianne MacMillan, and Kathleen Larmore, who had worked tirelessly to organize this third Magnificat Meal. The elegant room provided the perfect atmosphere for fellowship and praise.

The spirit of service was evident throughout the gathering, from the volunteers warmly greeting attendees at the welcome table to those managing the raffle table with cheerful efficiency. The morning began with Mary Ellen's warm welcome, a collective recitation of the Rosary, and Father

John McShane's spiritual teaching and meal blessing, creating an atmosphere of deep spiritual communion. South Point Hotel provided a delicious breakfast, while the music ministry led the assembly in uplifting songs of praise that filled the hall with joyful worship.

The highlight of the morning was Father Knee's inspiring personal testimony. Born in the historic town of Shakespeare, Father Knee shared his profound journey to Catholicism, culminating in his 'conversion' in 2017. Coming to America and receiving dual citizenship, he was assigned to our own Archbishop Thomas' diocese in Montana. He spoke about his marriage to Susan and their joy in raising three children. One felt his gratitude, humility, and his openness in sharing such personal details. Most touching was his emphasis on remaining attentive to God's will and his unwavering commitment to saying "Yes" to divine providence, demonstrating how cooperation with God's plan has shaped his life's path.

As the event drew to a close, many lingered to share in the fellowship, their hearts lifted by both the morning's testimony and shared prayers. The success of the Magnificat Meal was evident in the strengthened bonds between community members and the spiritual nourishment they had received. The harmonious blend of Father Knee's powerful testimony, Father McShane's spiritual guidance, and communal songs of praise created a morning that truly celebrated our faith community's devotion and unity.



Service Team: Kathleen Larmore, Historian, Dianne MacMillan, Asst coordinator, Fr Knee, MaryEllen Costanza, Coordinator



Music Ministry: Mel Kennedy, Betsy Ann Fiore, Dina Leland and Tim Cooper



Raffle Winners: (l to r) Topy Mitchell, Dorothy East, Mary Jennings



Attendees



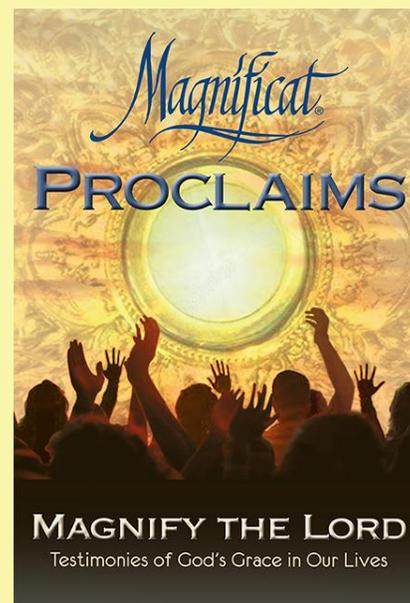
Table settings

Magnify the Lord!

Book three in the Magnificat Proclaims series has another 19 powerful testimonies of clergy, religious and laity to inspire and touch hearts. Available in the Magnificat Store or Amazon.com

Order a Proclaims book at:
store.magnificat-ministry.net

A Great & Inspiring Read!



**Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Stark County, OH Chapter
September 28, 2024, Magnificat Meal**

By Darlene Weber, Coordinator

Praise be to God! We are so thankful for the time we were able to spend with our priests and Magnificat sisters during our September breakfast.

Fr. Fritz Schlueter was our speaker. His story was brought to life with his infectious humor and easily apparent love of God, love of his priestly vocation and love of his fellow Children of God. His testimony was a beautiful story of how others are used to help shape and direct us, if we are open and let God work through them to help us. St. John Henry Newman holds a special place for Fr. Fritz.

Fr. Tom Cebula, our Spiritual Advisor, gave us a wonderful teaching on the Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. Michael is the leader or Prince of the Heavenly Host, the first to combat Satan. Pope Leo XIII was inspired to pen the St. Michael Prayer. Gabriel is the Messenger of God. He is seen in the Bible announcing good news to Mary and Zechariah. Raphael is One Who Heals and is seen in the Bible delivering Tobit's family from demons.

Fr. Schueter shared 'The Mission of My Life' in his testimony.

The Mission of My Life

By St. John Henry Newman

God has created me
To do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission.
I may never know what it is in this life.
But I shall be told in the next.
I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for nothing.
I shall do good, I shall do His work.
Therefore, I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I cannot be
thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may
serve Him

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may
serve Him

He does nothing in vain, He knows
what He is about.

He may take away my friends. He
may throw me among strangers,
He may make me feel desolate, make
my spirits sink.

Hide my future from me—
still He knows what He is about.



Fr. Fritz Schlueter



Darlene Webber, Coordinator



Betty Carty, Word Gift



Diane Stropki, Historian



Final Blessing from Fr. Schlueter, Fr. Cebula, Fr. Mino



Winner of raffle basket, Kathy Wagner of Lafayette, IN with Fr. Cebula and Beth George, Treasurer



Attendees



Attendees

2024 Giving Opportunity

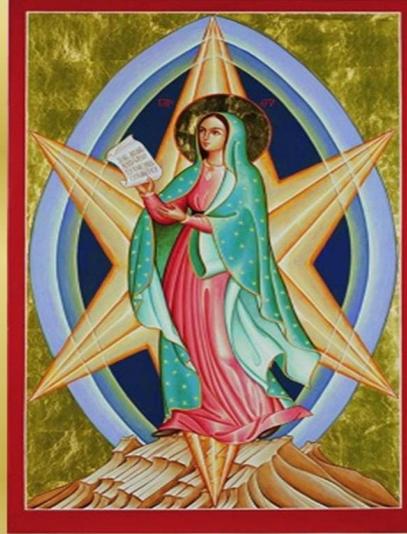
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Together, let us proclaim the greatness of the Lord to all the world!

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

Five Star Campaign



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

Great Thanksgiving for Graces Received at Orange County, CA Meal

By Donna Dostalick, Asst. Coordinator

Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapter of Magnificat in Orange County is very grateful for the many graces received at their last prayer Meal at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove! The featured speaker was praise & worship leader, Jackie Macabuha. Jackie's powerful testimony was about her personal triumph of faith and trust in God.

Jackie's cancer diagnosis at the age of 24 lead her to seek God and she connected with the Southern California Charismatic Renewal. Jackie eventually was brought out of her comfort zone as a shy introvert to become a highly acclaimed praise and worship leader. Her story was one of hope, courage and triumph. She kept her faith in God and his plan for her and her family even after they lost their home in the California wild fires. Her story was truly inspiring and a great gift to all of the attendees.

Dr. Elizabeth Kim gave an incredible talk about the Holy Spirit, and everyone was truly inspired by our musician Donna Lee's angelic singing voice. The crowd really enjoyed the delicious breakfast served by Orange County's finest restaurant, the White House. It was truly a meal enjoyed by all. As the beautiful Meal ended, many stayed after and they were prayed over by Jackie herself and Magnificat's prayer teams. If you missed this one do not worry as our next Meal will be coming up soon in February. Hope to see you all there and may God bless you.



L to R: Lourdes Carroll, Pam DeMarco,



L to R: Lourdes Carroll, Pam DeMarco,

Dr. Elizabeth Kim, Guest Speaker-
Jackie Macabuha, Donna D'Alia,
Michelle Harnish.

Dr. Elizabeth Kim, Donna Dostalik,
Guest Speaker- Jackie Macabuha,
Michelle Harnish.



Praise the Lord

Thank you Lord, for giving me the opportunity to attend the Magnificat Meal, to learn more, know you more, and love you more, so that I can trust you more!

Magnificat in Broward County, FL Meal

By Christine Catucy, Historian

On November 9, 2024, the Magnificat Chapter in Broward County held another well attended Meal. Surveys from our first-time attendees expressed a very positive experience. Many commented on the presentation of our Spiritual Adviser, Fr. Paul VI Karenga. After our praise and worship, our guest speaker, Adriana Gonzalez delivered what was described as a spirit-filled and inspirational testimony. She has been a part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal community for years and is devoted to sharing the word of God with our community. This is the last Meal for 2024 and we look forward to reporting on the upcoming Meal scheduled for February 22, 2025.



Fr. Paul VI Karenga, Spiritual Advisor



Adriana Gonzalez, speaker



Meal attendees

Mother of Mercy Chapter Service Team Leads a Life in the Spirit Seminar

By Janice Neyer, Secretary

Magnificat Mother of Mercy Chapter, Fort Myers, FL, hosted a Life in the Spirit Seminar on Friday evening, November 15, and on Saturday, November 16. The six sessions included talks by each Service Team member: Janice Neyer, Secretary; Felice Gerwitz, Coordinator; Peg Mengle, Treasurer; and Cristina Martinez, Asst. Coordinator and seminar facilitator. In addition, a Magnificat woman and charismatic prayer group leader, Janet Cooke, and our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Hugh McGuigan, also gave talks. Talented musician Gaby Frei provided our inspirational praise and worship music and song.

Some 40 women who attended the seminar were blessed; many received the gift of tongues as our prayer teams prayed individually for all who desired it.

We give all glory and praise to God for a day of refreshment, renewal, and growth in Life in the Spirit.



Felice Gerwitz, Salvation Talk



Gaby Frei and Cristina Martinez Praise and Worship

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.

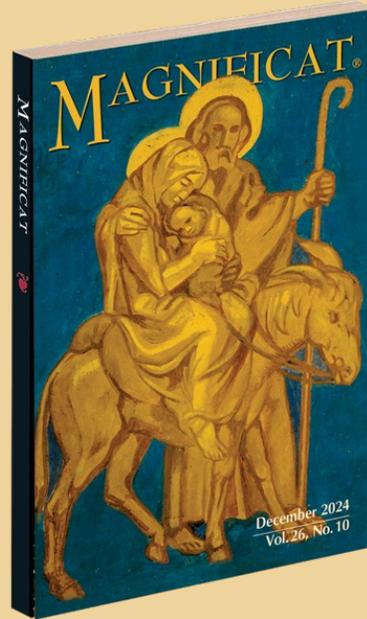
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Wishing You and Your Families

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*

*Magnificat Central Service Team
Donna Ross, Sara Ford, Jackie France,
Pat Higginbotham, Sharla Prejean,
Angela Rizzo and Mary Wilson*

This Newsletter is brought to you by the Central Service Team

Elise Botch - Editor
Colleen D. Swiatek - Layout Page Designer
CST Communications Team

We appreciate articles/pictures of interest from our Chapters.

New submissions can be sent to elisembotch@gmail.com

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