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Magnificat

A Ministry to Catholic Women

WINTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 03 ISSUE 26

Greetings!

As we enter the fourth week of Lent, we can feel the momentum building in our liturgical calendar. On Palm Sunday, we remember and celebrate the day Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey as Savior and King.

We are told in John 12 that a great crowd gathered when they heard Jesus was coming. They took palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted out "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel. It was written: "Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes."

Our beloved foundress, Marilyn Quirk, knew with all certainty that Jesus was her savior and king. During this Lent on March 12th at the 3:00 hour, the Lord called Marilyn home. She was like a St. Monica, a great intercessor for God's people. She prayed that all of us would be impregnated with the gospel so we could truly proclaim the goodness of the Lord as she did so faithfully throughout her life. She encouraged us to be evangelized by Holy Scripture rather than by the world. I have no idea the lives she impacted but God does ... I can only imagine! She felt Magnificat has been raised up for such a time as this to help one another on the road to holiness.

I can just hear the Lord saying to Marilyn as He greeted her, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. ... Come, share your master's joy.' Matthew 25:21

Our Lady has once again brought another beautiful handmaid to her Son! May her soul rest in God's eternal peace.



With great anticipation, let's look to the Lord's victory this Easter.

Donna Ross, Coordinator,
Central Service Team (CST)

POPE'S INTENTIONS 2026

MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

APRIL



For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

MAY

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Liturgy of the Hours

A Book of Prayer and Contemplation

3rd Week of Lent

Second Reading

From the treatise on *Flight from the World* by Saint Ambrose, Bishop

Hold fast to God, the one true good.

Where a man's heart is, there is his treasure also. God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one. Since he is good, and especially to those who are faithful to him, let us hold fast to him with all our soul, our heart, our strength, and so enjoy his light and see his glory and possess the grace of supernatural joy. Let us reach out with our hearts to possess that good, let us exist in it and live in it, let us hold fast to it, that good which is beyond all we can know or see and is marked by perpetual peace and tranquillity, a peace which is beyond all we can know or understand.

This is the good that permeates creation. In it we all live, on it we all depend. It has nothing above it; it is divine. No one is good but God alone. What is good is therefore divine, what is divine is therefore good. Scripture says: When you open your hand all things will be filled with goodness. It is through God's goodness that all that is truly good is given us, and in it there is no admixture of evil.

These good things are promised by Scripture to those who are faithful: The good things of the land will be your food.

We have died with Christ. We carry about in our bodies the sign of his death, so that the living Christ may also be revealed in us. The life we live is not now our ordinary life but the life of Christ: a life of sinlessness, of chastity, of simplicity and every other virtue. We have risen with Christ. Let us live in Christ, let us ascend in Christ, so that the serpent may not have the power here below to wound us in the heel.



Let us take refuge from this world. You can do this in spirit, even if you are kept here in the body. You can at the same time be here and present to the Lord. Your soul must hold fast to him, you must follow after him in your thoughts, you must tread his ways by faith, not in outward show. You must take refuge in him. He is your refuge and your strength. David addresses him in these words: I fled to you for refuge, and I was not disappointed.

Since God is our refuge, God who is in heaven and above the heavens, we must take refuge from this world in that place where there is peace, where there is rest from toil, where we can celebrate the great sabbath, as Moses said: The sabbaths of the land will provide you with food. To rest in the Lord and to see his joy is like a banquet, and full of gladness and tranquillity.

Let us take refuge like deer beside the fountain of waters. Let our soul thirst, as David thirsted, for the fountain. What is that fountain? Listen to David: With you is the fountain of life. Let my soul say to this fountain: When shall I come and see you face to face? For the fountain is God himself.

In Memoriam

Marilyn Quirk
June 11, 1939 – March 12, 2026
New Orleans, LA



Marilyn Montalbano Quirk, known for her devotion to her faith and family and as a role model and inspiration to women, passed away peacefully at her home on March 12, 2026, at the age of 86. Born in New Orleans on June 11, 1939, to the late Benedict Montalbano and the late Dorothy Eldridge Montalbano, she attended Fortier High School and Louisiana State University.

Marilyn learned the power of prayer from her grandmother, Annie Eldridge, and had a calling to service from a young age. While studying at LSU to become an Episcopal medical missionary, she converted to Catholicism in 1958, the same year she married Peter after meeting him on a blind date the prior year. Peter and Marilyn each shared a love for their Catholic faith and have made meaningful contributions to the Catholic Church both independently and as a couple.

Marilyn was an inspirational speaker and touched the lives of thousands of women. In 1981, inspired by the late Bishop Stanley J. Ott and the late Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, Marilyn and a small group of local women founded Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women. The organization started with a small gathering and has grown exponentially as a global organization with Chapters spanning the US and around the world, serving thousands of women. Marilyn traveled internationally to establish new Chapters and served as Founding Coordinator of the global

Marilyn was a humble leader, always building up others without seeking personal attention or recognition. Beyond her family and Magnificat ministry, she enjoyed keeping up with the latest fashion trends and her skin care regimen until her final days. She made lifelong friends at local shops and salons and later with her devoted caregivers and medical team.

As her health declined in recent years, she was incredibly strong, maintaining her beautiful, positive spirit while continuing to use her gifts to inspire others. Anyone who came into contact with her experienced her beauty, love, kindness and concern for others. Marilyn supported her husband Peter's career and community service work for many years and was grateful when Peter transitioned his primary job to be Marilyn's caregiver to be by her side through her final years.

Marilyn will be missed by her devoted husband of 67 years, Peter R. Quirk, and their six children, Karen Johnsen (Chris), Cheryl Landrieu (Mitch), Brian Quirk, Kathleen Quirk, Aimee Quirk and Elizabeth Dekker (Cameron). "Mimi" was adored by her thirteen grandchildren: Callee Johnsen, Katie Johnsen, Grace Landrieu, Emily Landrieu, Matthew Landrieu (Mahogane), Benjamin Landrieu (Skylar), William Landrieu, Andrew Quirk, Michael Quirk, Sarah Quirk, Claire Dekker, Caroline Dekker and Corinne Dekker and her great granddaughter, Bexlee Landrieu. She is

organization for more than 30 years and as Coordinator Emeritus until her death.

Marilyn had a special and longstanding devotion to Our Lady, the Blessed Mother of Jesus. While praying the rosary alone at the Adoration Chapel at St. Francis Xavier Church on February 6, 2010, she experienced cardiac arrest and was found unresponsive by a volunteer preparing for the St. Joseph's Altar. By the grace of God, the volunteer's quick intervention and the outstanding care team at Ochsner Health, she survived the incident and was awoken days later to learn that her son-in-law, Mitch, had been elected Mayor of New Orleans and the city's beloved Saints were Super Bowl XLIV Champions! As was God's plan, Marilyn's life was extended to continue her ministry and welcome more grandchildren. The date of her passing sixteen years later coincides with the feast day of Our Lady of Miracles.

Marilyn was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice papal medal from Pope John Paul II for her outstanding service to the Catholic Church and her work in founding Magnificat. The Catholic Community Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans awarded her the Pope John Paul II award for her exemplary stewardship and volunteer service to the Archdiocese.

also survived by her dear friend of over 50 years, Sr. Briege McKenna, who was like a sister to her.

The family expresses sincere appreciation to the team at Ochsner Health, especially Dr. Sammy Khatib, and her loving caregivers, Anna, Geraldine, Myra and Marilyn B, who developed close relationships with Marilyn, Peter and the family.

Funeral services will be held at St Francis Xavier Church on Monday, March 16, with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. followed by Mass at 11:30 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Magnificat Ministry (magnificat-ministry.org) or St. Francis Xavier Church.

The Obituary was submitted to the Dignity Memorial.Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home & Cemeteries.

[Dignity Memorial- Click here](#)

If you have any fond memories or stories to share of Marilyn, please send them by April 15th to Elise Botch at elisembotch@gmail.com. We plan to do a special tribute to celebrate her!



NEW MAGNIFICAT PODCAST

Some Women has a panel of 3 - 4 women discussing timely topics, often featuring a special guest and lasting about 30 minutes. New programs in this series will be available on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month. [Click Here](#)

Caribbean Visitation Cruise

By Elise Botch, CST Newsletter Editor



Formal Dinner in the Symphony Dining Room

Jackie France, Mary Wilson, Angela Rizzo, Donna Ross, Sharla Prejean, Pat Higginbottam

The Central Service Team (CST) earmarked Region 8, the Caribbean Chapters, for their next Chapter visitations in 2026. With the help of Michelle Seghers, the ministries' event planner and travel consultant of Totus Tuus, they concluded cruising was the most effective, efficient and economical way to travel plus the added convenience of having everything taken care of for you. They discovered the Princess Cruise line offered an itinerary with all the destinations they needed to visit the Chapters. The Advisory team suggested they invite the Ministry to come along and they thought it was a great idea.

On January 31st, the CST, 100 Magnificat members and their spouses embarked on the Majestic Princess Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, FL. for a 14- day cruise, to 8 ports in the Caribbean. (St. Martin, Dominico, Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, Aruba, Trinidad-Tobago and The Turks.) Region 8 Rep., Bernadette Patrick was instrumental in arranging all the Visitations. The CST met with 6 Chapters in Dominica, Barbados, Grenada, Aruba, and Trinidad-Tobago. The Chapters were of active, dormant or defunct status.

Every day we celebrated the Eucharist together thanks to Fr. Tom Sparacino, Spiritual Advisor for the Pittsburgh Chapter, Rector and Director of the St. Paul Seminary in the Pittsburgh Diocese. Fr. Tom shared his engaging humor, referring to the ship as a 'canoe.' I would have to add, it was a 'very big' canoe. Fr. Tom ended his homilies each day with a word to reflect on from the gospel readings. We were also blessed to have Fr. John Giel, V.G., J.C.L., from the Diocese of Orlando. He was on the ship for rest and relaxation and graciously joined us to concelebrant Mass on several occasions. Susan Potvin, from Living Praise Worship team, led us

The fourth retreat day, our speaker Susan Potvin, a school counselor at a Christian school, leader of Living Praise Worship Team and Worship Ministry Chair, spoke on *'Walking through the Storm.'* She shared personal stories of her own life going through storms and how important it is to grab on to Jesus so we can receive the grace to get through the storms of life and eventually understand the greater good that came out of that experience. On our last sea day, the CST had a panel discussion about *'What Floats Your Boat.'* Each CST member shared what it meant personally to them. Some responses were about relationship, community, living out the sacraments, Scripture, the ark, and obedience. The attendees also shared their thoughts.

Our group of 100 kept growing throughout the cruise as other shipmates found out about our group and joined us for the Eucharist and our retreat. At the beginning of the cruise, the CST passed out 'little Jesus' figurines, which helped us in our evangelization efforts on and off the ship. The 'little Jesus' was given by members to individuals and placed throughout the ship. As people encountered the 'little Jesus,' we would hear about the amazing transforming stories of how it affected them personally. We found it to be a great evangelization tool.

One of the pinnacle days was in Trinidad. Bernadette Patrick and her team arranged for us to attend a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon, the bishop of Trinidad-Tobago gave us a warm welcome, a dynamic homily and celebrated the Eucharist. Our Caribbean sisters from the Trinidad & Tobago Chapters also hosted a 'mix and mingle" gathering for us. It was such a joy to meet so many of our Caribbean sisters, and to fellowship and worship together!

in praise and worship each day with the help of Mary Wilson and Cathy Behrens.

On five of the sea days many of us took part in a ½ day optional retreat, the theme was 'Water Walking Women (and men)'. We began each retreat day praying the Rosary, moving into praise and worship, a presentation by one of our Magnificat guest speakers and ending with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Jimmy Seghers, an Apologist and founder of Totus Tuus Ministry's with his wife, Michelle Seghers gave the first presentation on the topic of 'Staying on the Course.' He stressed the importance of surrendering our will for God's divine will and living in the present moment to experience God's authentic love and 'the kiss of Jesus.' On the second day at sea, our presenter was Dr. Elizabeth Kim, a licensed psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and a board-certified neurofeedback practitioner and Coordinator of the Orange County Chapter. Her topic was 'Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus' She expressed the means is to have faith that is living, expectant and active. A human response is to fear and doubt, but we can be fearless through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Our third sea day, Dr. Carol Razza, a psychotherapist and Region 11 Rep for Asia and Africa, was the presenter. She spoke on 'Getting out of the Boat.' It is an invitation to have an encounter with Jesus and living in the supernatural is where we find our true identity.

Our group took full advantage of all the activities the ship offered plus went on excursions together, ate together, celebrated birthdays, wedding anniversaries and relaxed together.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Bernadette Patrick, our Region 8 Rep of the Caribbean, for all her efforts planning and implementing all the sacred and social events, coordinating schedules for the CST visitations, and the help of her team. We also want to acknowledge Michelle Seghers for her many months of work orchestrating all the details with the Princess Cruise line and assisting all the Magnificat members with their travel plans and itinerary. Lastly, we want to thank the CST for inviting us to join them on our first Magnificat cruise on the 'canoe.' May there be many more!

Videos of the presentations during our retreat will be available to view on our Ministry website.



Majestic Princess



The stewards that served us dinner each night

Many more cruise photos to share! [Click on each category link.](#)

[Formal Dinner Night](#)

[Trinidad Mix & Mingle](#)

[Mass at Immaculate Conception Cathedral - Trinidad](#)



Prayer for the Faithful

By St. Patrick

May the Strength of God guide us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Angels of God guard us.
- Against the snares of the evil one.

May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!

May Thy Grace, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and forevermore.
Amen.

Ordinary made Extraordinary in Christ!

By Lisa Ledyard, Asst. Coordinator

The North County San Diego Chapter "Our Lady of Guadalupe" recently held its first quarterly breakfast in Carlsbad, highlighting the new year with music, prayer, fellowship, and an encouraging testimony from Lisa Jauregui. Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Kevin Helfers, first led us to reflect on God's love using 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Then he lovingly challenged us to mirror Christ's love in our lives.

Numerous Lenten and Easter themed items were raffled among over 80 attendees. Worship was provided by 5 musicians before Lisa Jauregui's talk on her "ordinary life made into extraordinary living." Lisa shared that though she endured difficult struggles, she has received incredible blessings. She quoted St. Mother Teresa who loved her crosses and embraced her sufferings. The art of journaling helped Lisa to track her growth and continues to help her reflect on God's beauty. Through the loss of her parents and in-laws, she reminded us to seek little joys such as the presence of morning doves, and that the heavenly veil is much thinner than we can imagine. In her profound sadness upon losing her mother in particular, Lisa recognized a moment when the Lord lifted her brokenness after much begging, and her heart was noticeably restored. "Your faith has healed you!" What a beautiful and timely reminder that we are never alone, especially during Lent, when things can seem dull and "too" ordinary. There is truly grace for each moment.



Left to right: Gina McKenna, Secretary, Yvette Helfers, wife, Deacon Kevin Helfers, Spiritual Advisor, Perla Norton, Treasurer, Lisa Jauregui, Speaker



Musicians left to right- Bob Goyette, John Telles, Lisa Ledyard, Erika Riguard, KellyTelles, wife of John

"O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so prompt, so strong, before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."



Magnificat in Broward County, FL

By: Christine Catucy, Historian

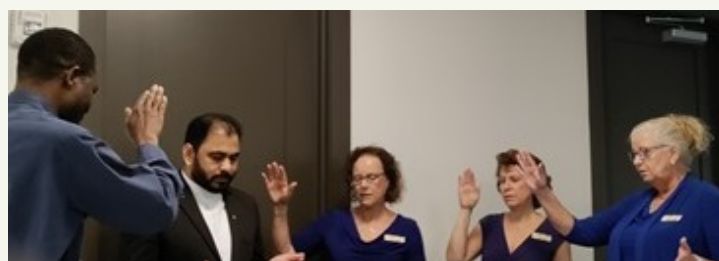
The Magnificat in Broward County held its first Meal of the year on February 21. Once again, the spirit of Our Lord was in attendance. Our guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Santhosh Thomas, ordained in 2011, and currently ministering as Pastor of St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church in Hollywood, Florida and Chaplain at Catholic Health Services, including St. John's Nursing Center and St. Anthony's Rehabilitation Hospital. While his education is impressive--Fr. Thomas holds a PhD in Defense and Strategic Studies with a focus on Effective Communication---it was his soft-spoken humility that most touched all of us who attended the Meal. Crediting his faith journey on three women in his life—Our Blessed Mother, Mother Teresa and his own mom—his message of faith captured us all. What a blessing and inspiration he was to all who had the privilege to have heard him speak! We look forward to our next Meal on May 30, 2026.



From left to right—Christine Catucy, Historian, Fr. Paul VI Karenga, Spiritual Advisor, Kathy Corona, Coordinator, Fr. Santhosh Thomas, Guest Speaker, Linda Anderson, Asst. Coordinator and Sharon Pfeifer, Secretary



Attendees to the Meal.



LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

You can hear great Magnificat testimonies, teachings, Conference 2023 talks/homilies and encouraging words on your computer, tablet, or phone. Click on the Podcast icon and enjoy listening to the variety of programs available. Save programs as a favorite to your computer or phone and listen to them anywhere and anytime. Tune in regularly and don't forget to sign up for updates!



Dominican Sisters at Metairie Chapter Meal

By Elsa Hodges, Secretary

On December 6, 2025, our Mother Chapter of Magnificat received an early Christmas gift. The testimony of the three very special Dominican sisters opened their hearts to us. They shared what led each of them to accept their call to a religious vocation. Sr. Anna Margaret, O. P., Sr. Marie Caeli, O.P., and Sr. Felicity, O.P. were hopeful and joyful in sharing their stories. Each story was unique and tender. Three young women were being open to the Holy Spirit while trying to navigate their way in a world that does not always even acknowledge our spiritual needs. Their testimonies touched the hearts of over 100 attendees at our winter breakfast. But more than that; it opened our hearts to all the possibilities that come with the Advent season and the birth of our savior, Jesus. The parish is blessed to have the Dominicans at St. Catherine of Siena Grammar School and all the children whose lives they will touch in and out of their classrooms."



Sisters and Service Team



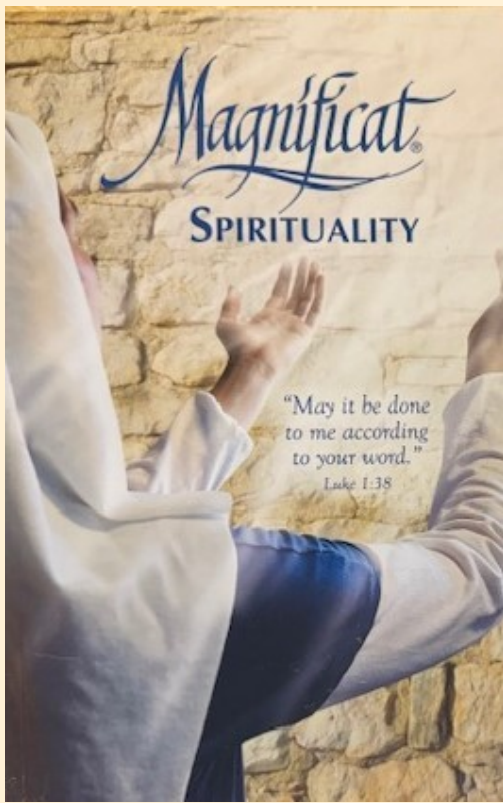
Sisters and members



Service Team praying over the Sisters



Coordinator addressing guests



MAGNIFICAT SPIRITUALITY

The 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](#)

Memories of the Phoenix, AZ Magnificat Meal

By Catherine Cato, Co-Coordinator

Our Meal on December 13th, 2025 filled the air with Christmas joy. The Holy Spirit, Magnificat's attendees and speaker filled the room with laughter and appreciation for the season. The speaker spoke with lament yet with hope for the future. The experiences of life and a musical career gave us the spirit of God's love and mercy. She spoke with eloquence and sang with passion. We were very blessed to have her as both the speaker and guest musician. The Meal couldn't have been a better closing to the year's end.



Spiritual Advisor, Fr. William Abba,
Parochial Administrator of St. Elizabeth Seton
Catholic Church in Sun City, AZ.



Barbara Barnett, Barnett Productions,
Speaker and music ensemble.



Barbara in the back with Rene Casasnovas on the congas and Jim Whitaker on the keyboard, Doug Barnett in the foreground, with three other musicians.



Magnificat attendees

New Proclams Series - click on image to watch



Denver, CO Chapter Meal

By Marion Budz, Chapter Historian

On Saturday, February 23, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Magnificat Chapter in Denver hosted a luncheon at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Centennial, Colorado.

Our speaker, Sr. Mary Nelle Gage, Sister of Loretto, gave a moving testimony of her life experiences as a teacher, her involvement in rescuing thousands of orphans in Vietnam during Operation Babylift, and most recently her involvement with the 110-year-old cemetery on the former Loretto Heights Campus in Denver.

Sr. Mary Nelle's first mission was to Machebeuf High School in Denver where she taught English, speech, and drama. In 1973 her life dramatically changed. She joined another sister of Loretto in Saigon, Vietnam when the North Vietnamese communists were overtaking South Vietnam. Sr. Mary Nelle showed hundreds of photos of orphans who were set to be adopted in various places across Europe and the U.S. In the States, she spent weeks meeting arrival flights and working with the child-welfare organization, Friends for All Children. Over the past 50 years, Sr. Mary Nelle has continued to work with adopted orphans. We were most happy to greet and meet a successful adopted Vietnamese orphan, Tobi Peters, at our luncheon.

When Loretto Heights College Campus in Denver was sold, a painful decision had to be made. Should the sixty-two buried pioneer sisters in the cemetery remain on site or be re-buried? After several years

of study, Sr. Mary Nelle, along with others, resolved to arrange for their exhumation and subsequent reinterment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, CO.

Sr. Mary Nelle credits the Holy Spirit who blessed her with many opportunities to serve the needs of others and led her on paths where she has touched so many. She believes **“The Gifts and graces from God are countless.”**



Sr. Mary Nelle, SL with Chapter Coordinator Ruth Dempsey



Sr. Mary Nelle with an adopted Vietnamese orphan



Guest looking at a photo board of orphans in Vietnam



Guests praying a blessing over the speaker

Praise Report



A guest speakers praise:

It was such a gift speaking today, thank you for the invitation! I could not wait to get home to share this with you, Our Lady gifted me with an amazing scent of roses at Mass today. After I received Jesus in the Eucharist, I felt the Blessed Mother's gratitude and pride for what I did today and I couldn't help but start to cry!

Antelope Valley Magnificat Chapter, CA

By Daria Guadalupe Ongsing, Coordinator

The Antelope Valley (AV) Magnificat Chapter had our first spirit-filled Meal of the year on Saturday, February 21. The Service Team and volunteers gathered to pray for an immense outpouring of the Holy Spirit and blessing upon our event. While we were preparing the room, the choir was already singing beautiful songs that prepared our hearts for what was to come next.

Deacon Kevin Helpers, our guest speaker from St. Vincent de Paul, San Diego and North County San Diego Chapter Spiritual Advisor, blessed the food, and then engaged us in a spiritual meditation, inviting us to live in the spirit as we prepare for Lent.

As the morning progressed at the end of praise and worship, Deacon Kevin gave us a word of knowledge to prepare and open the gate wide of our hearts and allow the Lord to enter. His testimony followed, and was filled with hope, trust, faith, and surrendering to God's will. His stories had the crowd in tears and laughter.

After his testimony, he prayed and released many prophetic words for those who stayed. We were so blessed to have Deacon Kevin at this Meal; it not only nourished our bodies but filled our souls.



Deacon Kevin Helfers - Speaker



Attendees



Praise & Worship

OFFICE DEPOT/ ODP IS READY TO SERVE YOU



Office Depot – ODP

We have a working relationship with Office Depot/Office Max, also now known as ODP Business Solutions. **This arrangement gives Magnificat members, their family and friends great print and finishing service pricing but also adds discounts on many office supplies!** We recommend that you register for an account that will allow online purchases. **This is also the only way to receive our negotiated printing prices.** You must make your order online and arrange pickup in store or have it mailed to you.

You can also now **print the Store Purchasing Card for in store purchases.** Make sure that you download the ODP App which allows you to purchase both ways once you register. Some exclusions apply such as technology items and gift cards. Although we have fabulous pricing year-round, we would recommend checking local specials prior to major purchases.

We pray that this arrangement with ODP will continue to be a blessing as well as freeing up Chapter funds that can be used to further evangelize the women in your community.

If you have any questions, contact our Magnificat Office at (504) 828-MARY(6279) or

Come Holy Spirit, Tallahassee, FL Chapter

By Vikki Shackelford and Terry Shine, Communications

Magnificat of Tallahassee, Mary Mother of Mercy & Hope Chapter, co-hosted a Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) January 24-25, 2026. The event took place at St. Louis Catholic Church, in Tallahassee. What started as a prompting from the Holy Spirit in the Adoration Chapel over a year earlier, led to a partnership with the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocesan Commission for Charismatic Renewal (DCCR) culminating in a powerful and spirit-filled weekend. It was a collaborative effort of discernment, prayer, and planning with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

The Lord prepared our hearts and those whom He would call to participate and attend. Approximately one hundred people answered His call and attended. They travelled from throughout the Diocese, from Pensacola to Tallahassee. We heard, "People are hungry for this;" "It's been so long since this has taken place here." These sentiments echoed in the singing, praising, praying, sharing that brought friends and strangers together to share their love of God.

On Saturday, Morgan Rosas gave the LISS introduction and shared his personal testimony. He reminded each of us that we are "Temples of the Holy Spirit." We listened attentively as Fr. Matthew Busch spoke on the topic of *Salvation*. He posed the question to ponder: "What if Heaven is not a place we need to go, but a Person we need to know in Whom there is perfect joy and perfect rest?" Fr. Pat LaPointe's talk on *Receiving God's Gifts* led us in an examination of conscience followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation that brought the first day to a close. Many went to confession and received prayer from the prayer teams, before leaving.

On Sunday, Fr. Paschal opened eyes and hearts to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. As his prayers rose and prayer teams laid hands on those who came forward, a rushing wind blew through the trees visible through the sanctuary windows. Those in attendance spoke of their awe, the love and healing taking place. One attendee commented, "A weight has been lifted off me."

Other seminar speakers included Barbara Burnett, Deacon Mike Nixon, Marge Rice, and Keith Whelan who spoke on the topics of *God's Love*; *New Life*; *Growth in the Spirit*, and *Transformation*, respectively. Deborah Cross with *Worship in Song* led the praise and worship music throughout both days. We sang, praised, and glorified God's goodness throughout the weekend and magnified His Holy Name.

The Holy Spirit was present throughout the weekend. The knowledge we gained throughout the two days transcended to our hearts preparing us for the Lenten journey and beyond. Friendships deepened; the most important of which were our relationships with our Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We left the seminar with grateful hearts full of love and expectant joy.



Marge Rice giving talk on Growth in the Spirit.



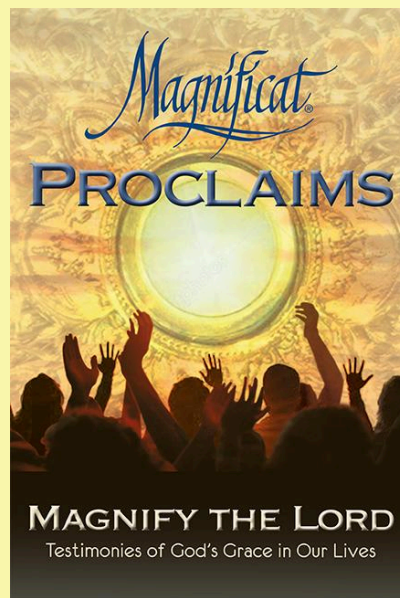
The sanctuary at St. Louis Catholic Church. Shows Deborah Cross and Ron Sobon during praise and worship.

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!



Baton Rouge, LA Chapter hosts 1st Prayer Breakfast for 2026

By Gwen Gillis, Coordinator

The Baton Rouge Magnificat Chapter had their first Prayer Breakfast for 2026 on February 21st. Claire Gallagher, a Consecrated Virgin for the diocese of New Orleans was our guest speaker. She gave her testimony on her discernment and call by God to her vocation as a consecrated virgin. She also spoke on how her vocation can give witness to the secular world.

Our treasurer, Dianne Lencse, gave a beautiful presentation from Our Lady of Medjugorje on "5-Stones, Our weapon against Goliath".

Our next big event is a Life in the Spirit Seminar - presented by Fr. Bill Henry, on April 11, at Our Lady of Mercy Church.



Attendees at breakfast from
St. George Church



Dianne Lencse, Treasurer
giving presentation on 5-Stones



Gwen Gillis, Coordinator
Welcome



Claire Gallagher, Guest Speaker



Fr. Joshua Zelden, Spiritual Advisor
giving short teaching

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Magnificat Pittsburgh Features Former Hollywood Actor Turned Priest

By Janice Lane Palko, Secretary

Magnificat Pittsburgh wrapped up 2025 with a breakfast at the Diocese of Pittsburgh Pastoral Center – O'Connor Hall, on November 15. Fr. Daniel J. Roberts, a recently ordained priest, who previously had a long career as an actor in Los Angeles, spoke about his unusual journey from Hollywood to Holy Orders.

In July 2025, the Diocese of Pittsburgh installed Bishop Mark A. Eckman as the 13th bishop of the Pittsburgh diocese, and our Chapter was excited to host our new shepherd at our Meal on March 7.



Fr. Dan Roberts, Guest Speaker

MAGNIFICAT Prayer Booklet

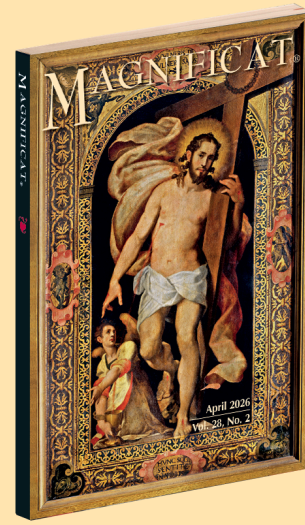
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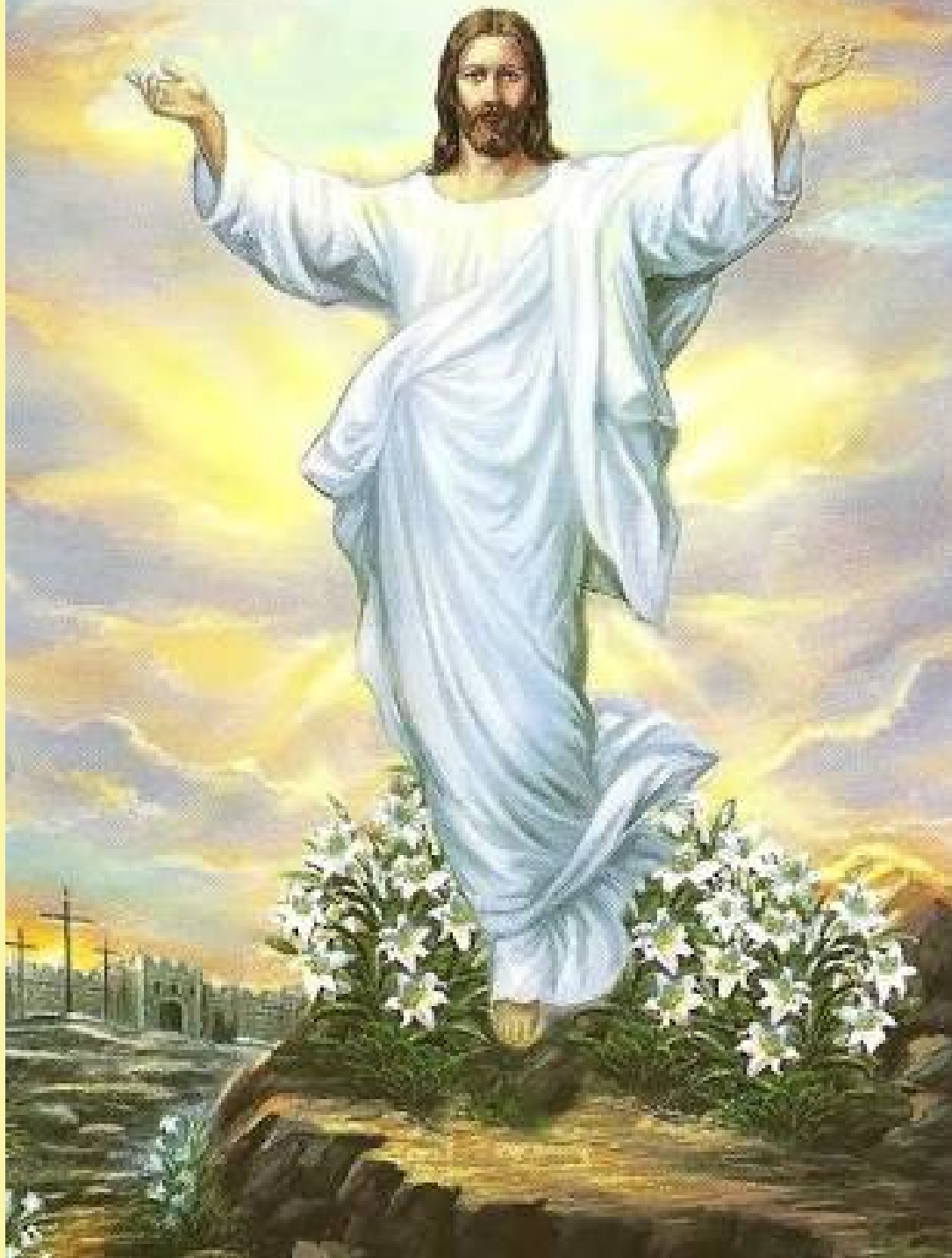
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*Wishing You a Blessed
& Glorious Easter!*

Magnificat CST

Donna Ross

Jackie France

Pat Higginbotham

Sharla Prejean

Angela Rizzo

Mary Wilson

This Newsletter is brought to you by the Central Service Team

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We appreciate articles/pictures of interest from our Chapters.

New submissions can be sent to elisembotch@gmail.com

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