



Magnificat[®]

A Ministry to Catholic Women

May 2013 Newsletter

Post-Conference Issue

Volume 5 No 13

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Greetings,

As you know, all the Cardinals of Holy Mother Church recently gathered in Rome upon the historic resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and for the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Similarly, the Central Service Team of Magnificat held *its first* conclave in 32 years with the announcement of Marilyn Quirk's retirement. *Blue* smoke went up with the selection of Kathy MacInnis, affectionately known as "Kathy Mac".

Read more about our new Coordinator later in this newsletter.



Marilyn Quirk and Kathy MacInnis
In front of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Father's Monthly Intentions

MAY

General Intention: Administrators of Justice

That administrators of justice may act always with integrity and right conscience.

Mission Intention: Seminaries

That seminaries, especially those of mission churches, may form pastors after the Heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel.



JUNE

General Intention: Mutual Respect

That a culture of dialogue, listening, and mutual respect may prevail among peoples.

Mission Intention: New Evangelization

That where secularization is strongest, Christian communities may effectively promote a new evangelization.

July

General Intention: World Youth Day

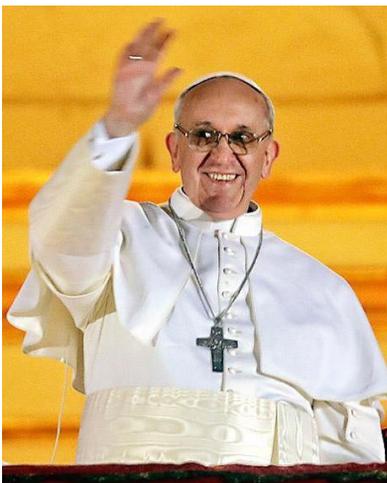
That World Youth Day in Brazil may encourage all young Christians to become disciples and missionaries of the Gospel.

Mission Intention: Asia

That throughout Asia doors may be open to messengers of the Gospel.

“Habemus Papam! We have a Pope! Francis!”

By Paulette Renaudin, CST



Who knew that when the Central Service Team, Advisory Team, Fr. Kevin and Sr. Briege were gathered before the conference in prayer, we would see "white smoke" appear from the roof of the Vatican? What a historical time for the whole world and for our little flock gathered in the name of Magnificat. We felt extremely blessed to be together for this incredible moment in the history of our faith. No one could have guessed the name *Pope Francis* would come forth from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on 3/13/13!!!

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Page 2

Habemus Papam, Continued

The election came on the second day of the conclave, on the fifth ballot. There was no clear favorite and Pope Francis' election was surprisingly quick to many! There are so many *firsts* with Francis. He is the *first* Pope in history to come from the Western-Hemisphere, and the *first* non-European to be elected in almost 1,300 years. He is the *first member of the Jesuit order, and the first member of any religious order* to be Pope in two centuries.

He is holy, humble, and has made a powerful first impression. A memorable moment was when Pope Francis asked for the prayers of the people before giving his papal blessing. Watching the event unfold brought joy around the world. He continually speaks of mercy and forgiveness as he speaks heart to heart. In taking the name of Francis from St. Francis of Assisi, whose life's work was to care for nature, the poor and the most disadvantaged, he said:

"today, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope. It is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds."

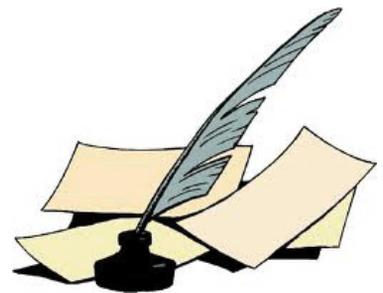
We are delighted reading what Ralph Martin, President of Renewal Ministries, stated following the election of Pope Francis, *"Pope Francis is friendly toward the Charismatic Renewal, evangelization and ecumenism."* Ralph went on to say he was *"overjoyed with the election of Bergoglio, a man filled with the Spirit and with a deep commitment to ecumenism. When Pope Francis was Cardinal Jorge he was the contact person for the Renewal in Argentina."* Dear sisters in Christ, that's good news for our ministry!

The world needs hope like never before; what a gift Pope Francis is from the Holy Spirit! We have a feeling of a new springtime of renewal in our Church.

Ciao, Pope Francis, may God bless you abundantly!

Fr. Kevin's Korner

By Father Kevin Scallon, C.M.
Magnificat's Spiritual Advisor



Strong in Faith (1 Peter 5:9)

At the heart of the New Evangelization is the proclamation and experience of the person of Jesus. The reason for the uniqueness of Magnificat and other such movements is that we have had exactly such an experience of Christ through Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Others are not so fortunate because, for one reason or another, they have not been exposed to this type of proclamation. Even many clergy who have not experienced Christ in this way find it difficult to feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit, who alone can cause us to encounter the living risen Christ.

The Holy Spirit will always bear witness to the truth of Christ when it is proclaimed. He will penetrate the minds and hearts of those who listen to and assent to such truth. We have all experienced this and seen it for ourselves. The word of the Lord proclaimed is the word of Jesus; it is Jesus the Word.

Fr Kevin's Korner, continued

The first way we proclaim Christ is by our Baptism. Through Baptism, we live in Jesus Christ and He lives in us. We are the *"sweet fragrance of Christ"* (2 Cor. 2:15) before we utter a word or offer a helping hand. This proclamation of Christ is greatly enhanced through our sacramental life of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. People sense Jesus in us and begin to want what we have and to be what we are. Maybe not consciously to begin with, but it happens sooner or later. If we reinforce this with Christ-like words, deeds and attitudes, then even the hardest of hearts will be overwhelmed by the grace of the Holy Spirit and will come to an awareness of the person of Jesus. The presence of Jesus is what evangelizes and saves people. That is why talking about Jesus and witnessing to Jesus are two different things. As Catholics, we can no longer afford to spin the Gospel and the Church and Jesus himself. The secular world does not like Catholics because we refuse to change and be conformed to their Godless agenda. The world of today hates the Church because it opposes abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, etc. They ask us *"why can't you give in and come with us?"* Our answer is very simple: *"we cannot because we are Catholic. I cannot because Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I hold fast to the teachings of God's commandments and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I cannot because I refuse to agree that because something is legal that therefore it is right. I refuse to accept abortion, euthanasia, gay marriage, etc., because they are immoral and wrong. And I will never vote for anyone who departs from these truths."* Fortitude is one of the four cardinal virtues, along with prudence, justice and temperance. We should pray for this virtue and resist the darkness of our times.

"Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

May the power and presence of the risen Christ be with all of us in Magnificat; and remember, *"we are Easter people and alleluia is our song!"* (St. Augustine)

Marilyn Quirk

Our Lady's Handmaid

By Marilyn Heap

Marilyn Quirk, CST Coordinator, announced at the International Leaders' Conference that she was passing the baton to Kathy MacInnis, who assumed Marilyn's responsibilities as Coordinator at the conclusion of the Conference. Marilyn has held the reigns of the ministry since its inception in 1981. For the past 32 years her sisters in Magnificat have grown greatly in affection for her and have come to tremendously admire her extraordinary gifts and leadership abilities.



Marilyn was the founding Coordinator of the Mother Chapter in Metairie, Louisiana, and then the Central Service Team when it was created from the Metairie Chapter.

Marilyn Quirk, Continued

Marilyn has always been ready to serve the needs of her faith family. As a young mother, she was quite active in parish activities, particularly ladies' organizations. With her discovery of the Charismatic Renewal in the 1970's, her spiritual ministry to women began with a prayer meeting in her home.

Marilyn and the leaders of about five other women's daytime prayer groups were tapped by Father Hal Cohen, the Archdiocesan Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal, to work with the leadership of about 40 prayer groups. It seemed a foundation was being laid for a wider ministry to women.

At the suggestion of Bishop Stanley Ott, an organization like Woman's Aglow was envisioned to serve Catholic women. Marilyn's response was to bring that information to Father Cohen and with everyone working together, Magnificat was born. Marilyn's compassionate heart always yearns for women to know the goodness of the Lord through the Holy Spirit being imparted one to another. She found a way to pour her heart out in a labor of love through the ministry of Magnificat.

Those who have worked closely with her over an extended period of time can testify that Marilyn is one *authentic* lady. What you see is indeed what you get! Her glowing smile is only a reflection of her beautiful interior sweetness, because praising and loving Jesus is such a vital part of everything she thinks or does. She is dedicated to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and receives spiritual strength and fortitude as the Lord speaks and directs her life. Marilyn's devotion to Mother Mary and her determination to be formed by Mary is evidenced by her gentleness, patient endurance, and self-sacrificing love, and is exhibited especially by the way Marilyn suffers with grace.

She is well known for her generous spirit and unmatched gift of hospitality. Time and time again, she has proven to be the servant of the servants, always putting self aside to go out of her way for others. Previous members of the CST have vivid memories of earlier Advisory Team meetings when Marilyn insisted that she not only house several ladies coming from out of town, but that she personally prepare, cook and serve a Louisiana style banquet for all in attendance at her home. Nothing ever seemed to be too much trouble or drew a complaint.

In the midst of raising 6 children, and serving Magnificat, she has for many decades served in leadership in the Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans, and at one time was on the Leadership Council of the Renewal at the national level. She and her husband Pete are members of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and Legatus. In the Jubilee Year she received the Pontifical award *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*. She is truly an amazing lady, who has worked unselfishly, tirelessly and endlessly for the ministry of Magnificat. Her life continually witnesses to being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The gift of Marilyn's life to this ministry has been a tremendous blessing as it exhibits visibly for us what we all hope to become, *women formed in the likeness of our Mother Mary*.

WELCOME MAGNIFICAT'S NEW COORDINATOR:

KATHY MACINNIS

By Paulette Renaudin, CST



It is with great joy that I pick up my pen to salute our new Coordinator, Kathy MacInnis, better known as Kathy Mac! Kathy and I go back thirty years serving in ministry together and I would like to show you how the Lord has been preparing her for this new important role.

Many years ago we started attending the Metairie Chapter Magnificat Breakfasts, a rosary group, the St. Anselm Prayer Group, and our own book study group which eventually became the West St. Tammany Chapter of Magnificat, with Kathy as Founding Coordinator. We were also roommates together on retreats, and participated in the Lord Teach Me to Pray series based on Ignatian Spirituality. We went on a fateful pilgrimage to the Holy Land where Kathy had to have emergency surgery in Galilee. Kathy has been the Director of our Chapters in Formation, while unbeknownst to her, the Lord has been *her* Director of Formation, preparing her for her new role as Coordinator. I would be remiss if I did not also mention that the whole time Kathy was serving the Lord in ministry, she was also serving Him by lovingly caring for her aging father-in-law for fourteen years, and then after he passed away, she nurtured her mom who lived with them for fifteen years!

Our husbands play a role in our ministry, and we all know the shoes that Kathy has been called to fill. Kathy's husband has the Wisdom of Solomon, because before she was called to be on the CST, he actually told her that one day she will be on it, and then Ron also told her one day she will be the Coordinator. He knew the result of the "blue smoke" before we did!

Kathy MacInnis, Continued

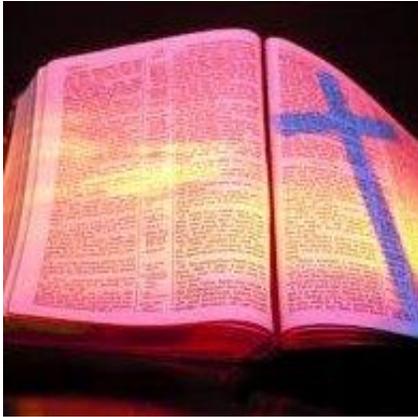
Kathy allows herself to be enkindled by the Holy Spirit. I pray she will *be not afraid* by anything that would prevent her from accomplishing everything asked of her. Kathy is a pillar of strength, she gets that from her mother. Her mom, if you remember, was a "Hostess" at Magnificat Breakfasts well into her 90's. Kathy does not let her feathers easily get ruffled; she is a prayer warrior with a mother's heart and a great love for Our Lady. I think of the Book of Wisdom vs. 22 when I think of Kathy:

"For within her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, active, incisive, unsullied, lucid, invulnerable, benevolent, sharp, irresistible, beneficent, loving to man, steadfast, dependable, unperturbed, almighty, all-surveying, penetrating all intelligence, pure and most subtle spirits: for Wisdom is quicker to move than any motion; she is so pure, she pervades and permeates all things."

Kathy's FIAT to Magnificat would be in response to the question posed in *Psalms 116*:

How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?

She said YES when we selected her. Let us pray for the grace of perseverance and protection for Kathy, and may the graces received in taking up the mantle of Magnificat be as fruitful as God would have them.



Liturgy of the Hours

Office of Readings

Second Reading

From the dialogue on Divine Providence
by Saint Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor

I tasted and I saw

Eternal God, eternal Trinity, You have made the blood of Christ so precious through His sharing in Your divine nature. You are a mystery as deep as the sea; the more I search, the more I find, and the more I find the more I search for you. But I can never be satisfied; what I receive will ever leave me desiring more. When You fill my soul I have an even greater hunger, and I grow more famished for Your light. I desire above all to see You, the true light, as You really are.

I have tasted and seen the depths of Your creation with the light of my understanding. I have clothed myself with Your likeness and have seen what I shall be. Eternal Father, You have given me a share in Your power and the wisdom that Christ claims as His own, and Your Holy Spirit has given me the desire to love You. You are my Creator, eternal Trinity, and I am Your creature. You have made of me a new creation in the blood of Your Son, and I know that You are moved with love at the beauty of Your creation, for You have enlightened me.

Liturgy of the Hours, Continued

Eternal Trinity, Godhead, Mystery deep as the sea, You could give me no greater gift than the gift of Yourself. For You are a fire ever burning and never consumed, which itself consumes all the selfish love that fills my being. Yes, You are a fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light and causes me to know Your truth. By this light, reflected as it were in a mirror, I recognize that You are the highest good, one we can neither comprehend nor fathom. And I know that You are beauty and wisdom itself. The food of angels, You gave yourself to man in the fire of Your love.

You are the garment which covers our nakedness, and in our hunger You are a satisfying food, for You are sweetness and in You there is no taste of bitterness, O Triune God!

New Wine ~ New Skins`

by Jackie Baff

Lake Charles, Louisiana Chapter

The 12th International Magnificat Leaders' Conference opened with an air of excitement just as the Universal Church had a few days prior elected Pope Francis.

Attendees were eager to hear the ten keynote speakers focusing on the theme, "They Have No Wine. Mary, Our Model of Faith." More than 300 women and 20 priests participated in the conference held March 14-17, 2013. Also, among them, were women from our 14 Chapters in Formation.



"They Have No Wine" was the heart of Patti Mansfield's talk. She told the attendees not to miss out on their new wine. She said, "At Cana, it was Mary's faith that led her to say, '*They have no wine*' (John 2:3) moving Jesus to act, bringing on the hour of the Lord!" I believe Mary stands before us today waiting for us to turn to her with confidence, trusting that her intercession will mediate this new wine of the Spirit for us again. And why should we desire this new wine? Not simply for laughter and refreshment but that Jesus might manifest His glory and that His disciples might believe in Him. (John 2:11).

At the Traveler's Mass, Fr. Abram Dono, S.T. addressed his homily to the topic of "New Wine, New Wine Skins." He asked those present to make daily Mass and reconciliation a routine part of their spiritual life. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will form us into "new wine skins" and fill ourselves with the Eucharist, the "new Wine." He also recommended seeking spiritual direction and monthly reconciliation.

Continued Next Page

New Wine ~ New Wineskins, Continued

St. Louis, MO, Bishop Emeritus Robert Hermann, called on everyone to place their trust and confidence in the Blessed Virgin Mary for Jesus thirsts for His Mother's requests. Among those requests, as outlined by Holy Mother Church, is the call to the New Evangelization where transformed witnesses are called to show unbelievers Jesus, not just nice, new programs. Graces for this evangelization work through Mary. Mary wants to do the same for us as she did for Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Fr. Francis Martin explained why "Jesus Called Her Woman". Fr. Martin said "Mary was/is the woman identified in Genesis whom God would place enmity between her and the serpent." He also said, "The Bible is not just a book, IT IS THE WORD OF GOD".

Sr. Briege McKenna, O.S.C. spoke on the topic of "Fill the Jars with Water." She shared about her suffering with arthritis and how it manifested the power of the cross and made her more compassionate. She said, "Sometimes individuals will not get a physical healing". She added, "no one can run away from pain; we all participate in redemptive suffering." Sr. Briege and Fr. Kevin Scallon then led a Eucharistic Healing Service for all in attendance. Fr. Kevin spoke on "Mary, Our Model of Faith."

Johnnette Benkovic ignited the group with her back-to-back talks on "Do Whatever He Tells You" and "When the Wine Ran Short." She said, "We are living in unprecedented times which require unprecedented graces." She exhorted attendees to surrender to Jesus as Mary did in her Magnificat. She encouraged everyone to stop worrying about the future and to let go of the bondage of "what if." She said the Holy Spirit is being poured out on women and graces are being entrusted to women to fight the evil in today's world. She told everyone that they are important in God's plan of salvation. Our Lady cuts off the head of the serpent and we, as women, are called to do the same. She requested all participants to take all their sins, suffering, and worries and bring them to the altar and place them in the bread and wine to be transformed so that we will be strong, loving, humble, courageous, and powerful in Jesus. She said, "Today we are called to be Esther, Judith, and Joan of Arc." She said, "Women are God's secret weapon". She quoted Archbishop Fulton Sheen who said, "A civilization rises to the stature of its women." She asked that we model ourselves after the Blessed Virgin Mary. She also cited the closing letter from the Second Vatican Council, when Pope Paul VI said, "Women are to reconcile men with life who in a moment of folly might destroy human civilization."

Many workshops were also held to cover a multitude of topics.

CD's are available from www.catholicproductions.com

Photos From Our Conference



Passing the Baton

Archbishop Aymond thanked Marilyn Quirk for her dedicated years of service and prayed for Kathy MacInnis as she gave her "Yes" in accepting the leadership role of Magnificat.



Marilyn Quirk on left, Kathy MacInnis on right



**Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Spiritual Advisors,
THANK YOU from your Spiritual Daughters!!!**



Dear Sr. Briege - Happy 50th Anniversary ... We love you!!!

Praise Report



Dear CST,
Upon my arrival home from the most grace filled, glorious Magnificat Conference, as far as I can recall... I sat before Our Lady and asked Her "what just happened?" I received the following and I believe she is referring to you, Her beloved daughters:

What you experienced was the power of Love poured out without counting the cost. The greatness of humility, littleness and complete self giving... You witnessed the strength that comes with standing

shoulder to shoulder; the unity experienced when being of one mind and one heart. Body, mind and spirit you were immersed in Divine grace, filled to overflowing. The full presence of Father, Son and Holy Spirit brought forth the joy that overshadowed then Inhabited your hearts. Ain Karem came to you in a holy Visitation so that each one of my daughters and Priest sons may live out that embrace and recognition of Christ within. Allow your Light to shine brightly and your hearts to love deeply.

I love you,
Your Mother Mary

Angels Among Us

Angels have been present since creation and throughout Church history. The whole life of the Church benefits from the powerful help of angels who are servants and messengers of God.

I am sure many of you recognized the angels the Lord sent to help us with our 12th International Leaders' Conference; you might have felt their wings brush up against you over the weekend. They were "couple angels" that were present with us, Jim and Michelle Seghers. They gave their "YES" to assist us months before they knew what they were getting into. As Michelle said, "We wanted to hang out with the holy Magnificat ladies." As a couple, they were "hands on" the whole conference from start to finish performing many tasks they had not done before. I am sure many of you enjoyed their company and as

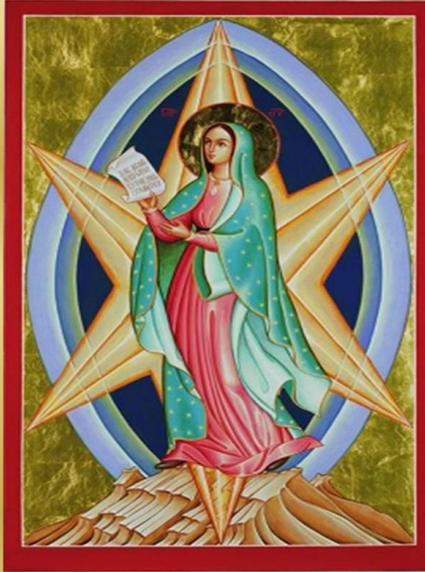


Michelle and Jim Seghers

you could tell, they are delightful to be around. You were probably unaware of the numerous ways they helped our conference run smoothly and on time. We thank them and ask God to bless them abundantly for their service to Magnificat!

Introducing ---

Five Star Campaign



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

At the recent Leaders' Conference, we dedicated our finances to our Blessed Mother and launched the 5 Star Campaign, which is an ongoing commitment of at least \$5 a month (or \$60 yearly) to support the ongoing international mission of Magnificat. More information will follow in future Newsletters. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider becoming a 5 Star Member.

A MAGNIFICAT HEART IS A CATHOLIC HEART

Reflection on Luke 1:46-

By Kathleen Beckman



A Magnificat heart is a Marian heart in perpetual proclamation of "the greatness of the Lord." It is a heart that echoes a hymn of gratitude as it "rejoices in God, its Savior."

It is a Christo-centric heart that naturally inclines to servanthood for it knows, "*he has looked with favor upon his handmaid's lowliness.*"

A Magnificat heart acknowledges God's grace that ordained, "*from now on will all ages call me blessed.*" A Magnificat heart enthusiastically professes, "*The Mighty One has done great things for me.*" Every beat of the Magnificat heart resounds a litany, "*holy is his name.*" A Magnificat heart will never cease to announce, "*his mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.*"

A Magnificat Heart is a Catholic Heart, Continued

Those who accept this pronouncement are freed from the tyranny of fear. The announcement of Divine Mercy gives way to "fear of the Lord" so the heart becomes a seat of wisdom. A Magnificat heart remembers "*he has shown might with his arm*" and "*dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart*". Therefore the humble believer trusts in the power of God, and peace resides in him.

The Magnificat heart is grounded in the history of God's people knowing that "*he has thrown down the rulers from their thrones, but lifted up the lowly.*" Therefore the lowly are the favored ones with whom a Magnificat heart seeks friendship. A Magnificat heart is a hungry heart "*filled with good things*" while it sees that "*the rich he sent away empty*" because hunger was not found in them.

A Magnificat heart recognizes "*Israel his servant, remembering his mercy according to his promises to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.*" Thus the Magnificat heart extends itself in service of the universal Church with the constancy of those who went before them. Surrounded by Three In One, a Magnificat heart is the prophetic house of God, a seven-times pierced heart of love, priceless Ark of the Covenant, a maternal heart that beholds the adopted sons and daughters of God, the valiant cooperater with divine grace, unbound by sin but bound by love to bear abundant fruit through divine affiliation.

A Magnificat heart opens to God's people, inviting and attracting to the warmth of singular, transforming love. A Magnificat heart is a house of prayer, a refuge of hope, a hospital for the sin-sick, a chamber of gentle power filled with dynamism of the Holy Spirit, a storehouse of gifts that must be given away. The fulfillment of all desire is found within a Magnificat heart wherein is formed the breadth of Catholicity. A Magnificat heart is a Catholic heart!

ELAINE CHETTA

No Stranger to Miscellany

by Marilyn Heap

Because she is such a behind-the-scenes-person, the retirement of Elaine Chetta as Historian of the Central Service Team was done in a very quiet, subdued manner shortly after the recent Magnificat International Leaders' Conference. As one who has served Magnificat in a variety of ways for over 30 years, this ministry will always be indebted to her for using her talents to benefit it, but most of all, for teaching all of us through her humble, faithful service how to give without much fanfare. Elaine Chetta is affectionately known among the former Central Service Team members as "Miss Elaineous" because her conscientious and dedicated ways instinctively impel her to be open to wholeheartedly serve wherever and at whatever level she is needed. She and her husband, Nick, a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of New Orleans have one son, Nicky, who will be married this summer.



Elaine Chetta

Elaine Chetta, Continued.

As a former primary grade school teacher and librarian, she knows well how to multitask. Besides serving in many capacities within her home parish and belonging to the People of Praise Covenant Community, Elaine has for years been like a surrogate mother to the children of her only sister who died at a rather young age, and she is still heavily involved in their lives now serving as surrogate grandmother to their children.

Her love for and commitment to Magnificat spanning many years have left her mark in numerous places within the ministry. In October 1981 at the very first Magnificat Meal of the Mother Chapter in Metairie, LA., she was found at the door as a greeter welcoming guests with her sweet smile and gracious ways. But that wasn't all she did to help launch this ground-breaking breakfast; she was also one of the ticket agents. During those early years she became a table-hostess ministering God's love to the women at her table by sparking conversation among them and sharing about this new ministry that provides a place for women to have a "Mary and Elizabeth" encounter as the Holy Spirit is being imparted to one another.

Gradually her skills as a meticulous record-keeper began to be revealed and she was named the Metairie Chapter Ticket Chairwoman, a job in those days that involved numerous pre- and post-Meal tasks. Toward the end of the 80's, she was tapped to be Metairie Chapter's Treasurer to fill the office being vacated by the original treasurer due to the creation of the Central Service Team. Although she always denied her organizational and administrative skills, after serving as Treasurer for a number of years, her heart-for-service compelled her to say "yes" to serve as Metairie's third Coordinator for nearly a decade.

For the last 12 years, Elaine had been officially the CST Historian making sure there was a lovely scrapbook displaying key moments in the life of the ministry and seeing that the historical records of Magnificat were kept and maintained, but by no means was her role limited to that office. Mention will be made here of just a few of her silent accomplishments. Her zeal to have the Meal flyers of all chapters project a unified and proper concept of the ministry earned her the title "flyer detective" and caused her to work tirelessly to create a CD that illustrated what is expected in the formatting of publicity materials.

Her role in past conferences was always hidden and cannot be adequately described since she made herself readily available to do numerous mundane tasks requiring attention to all kinds of minute and not-so-minute details, not to mention how she also served as side-kick and "memory-aide" for the conference coordinator. She played a very important part in bringing to completion the 2013 Revised Magnificat Handbook. For as long as she served on the CST, her expertise at detail had her keeping notes of policy changes or items suggested as additions to specific handbook topics. These notes proved to be invaluable information as she met weekly for many years as part of the handbook committee.

Elaine's gracious and generous way of assuming miscellaneous roles for the ministry has been a priceless gift. Most of all, she has been a tremendous source of inspiration to all who served with her and witnessed her remarkable willingness to give of herself without recognition. What a blessing she has been for the ministry as she mirrored Our Lady's gentleness and servant's heart.

PONTIFF

"One of the titles of the Bishop of Rome is 'Pontiff,' that is, a builder of bridges, with God and between people. My wish is that the dialogue between us should help to build bridges connecting all people, in such a way that everyone can see in the other not an enemy, not a rival, but a brother or sister to be welcomed and embraced!"

*Pope Francis
March 22, 2013*



FROM YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

We'll be sharing in future Newsletters how you may access information that may be of interest to you.

If you have a Twitter account, you can follow Pope Francis and his words of wisdom @pontifex

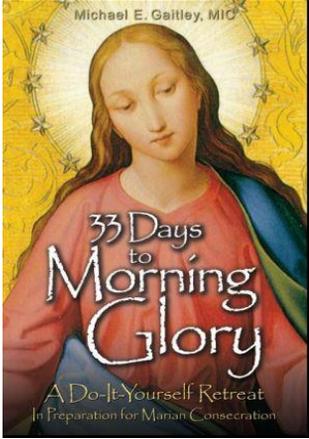
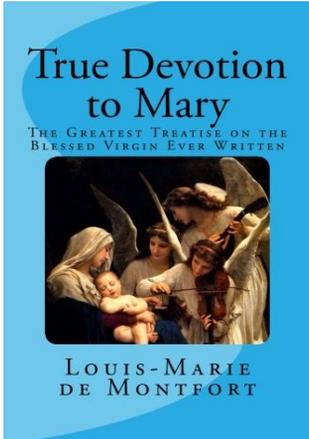
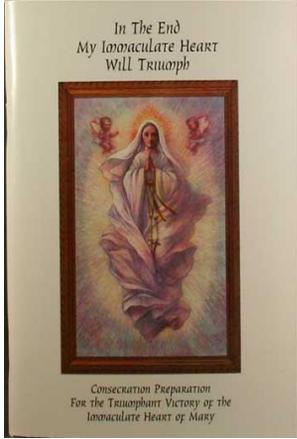


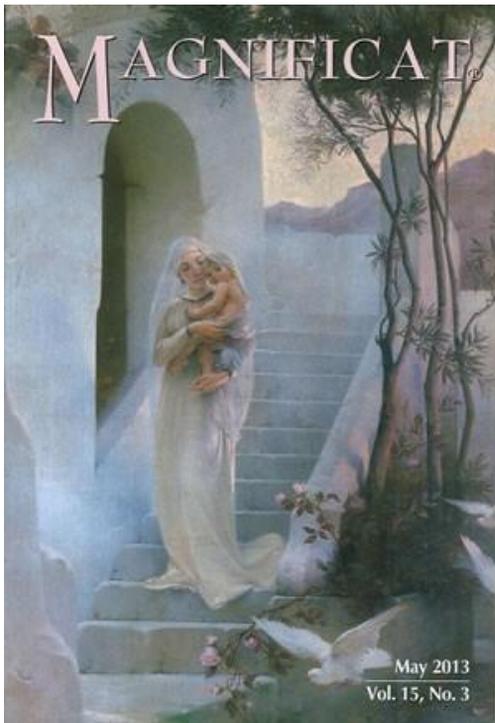
The month of May has
traditionally been
dedicated to
Our Blessed Mother.
May all of our prayers be
like a beautiful bouquet !

Marian Consecration

Pope St. Pius X granted a plenary indulgence in perpetuity to anyone who would pray the St. Louis de Monfort's formula for Marian consecration. He also offered his own apostolic blessing to anyone who would simply read *True Devotion to Mary*. (Quoted from *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Michael Gailley, MIC)

These three books will aid anyone interested in consecrating themselves to our Blessed Mother:

33 Days to Morning Glory By Michael E Gailley, MIC	True Devotion to Mary By Louis-Marie de Montfort	In The End My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph
		



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HAPPY FEAST OF THE VISITATION!

Friday, May 31



Excerpted from commentary by St. Ambrose

When the angel revealed his message to the Virgin Mary he gave her a sign to win her trust. He told her of the motherhood of an old and barren woman to show that God is able to do all that He wills.

When she hears this Mary sets out for the hill country. She does not disbelieve God's word; she feels no uncertainty over the message or doubt about the sign. She goes eager in purpose, dutiful in conscience, hastening for joy.

Filled with God, where would she hasten but to the heights? The Holy Spirit does not proceed by slow, laborious efforts. Quickly, too, the blessings of her coming and the Lord's presence are made clear: as soon as *Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the child leapt in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Notice the contrast and the choice of words. Elizabeth is the first to hear Mary's voice, but John is the first to be aware of grace. She hears with the ears of the body, but he leaps for joy at the meaning of the mystery. She is aware of Mary's presence, but he is aware of the Lord's: a woman aware of a woman's presence, the forerunner aware of the pledge of our salvation. The women speak of the grace they have received while the children are active in secret, unfolding the mystery of love with the help of their mothers, who prophesy by the spirit of their sons.

Happy Feast of the Visitation, Continued

The child leaps in the womb; the mother is filled with the Holy Spirit, but not before her son. Once the son has been filled with the Holy Spirit, he fills his mother with the same Spirit. John leaps for joy, and the spirit of Mary rejoices in her turn. When John leaps for joy Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, but we know that though Mary's spirit rejoices, she does not need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Her son, who is beyond our understanding, is active in his mother in a way beyond our understanding. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit after conceiving John, while Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit before conceiving the Lord. Elizabeth says: *Blessed are you because you have believed.*

You also are blessed because you have heard and believed. A soul that believes both conceives and brings forth the Word of God and acknowledges his works.

Let Mary's soul be in each of you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Let her spirit be in each to rejoice in the Lord. Christ has only one mother in the flesh, but we all bring forth Christ in faith. Every soul receives the Word of God if only it keeps chaste, remaining pure and free from sin, its modesty undefiled. The soul that succeeds in this proclaims the greatness of the Lord, just as Mary's soul magnified the Lord and her spirit rejoiced in God her Savior. In another place we read: *Magnify the Lord with me.* The Lord is magnified, not because the human voice can add anything to God but because he is magnified within us. Christ is the image of God, and if the soul does what is right and holy, it magnifies that image of God, in whose likeness it was created and, in magnifying the image of God, the soul has a share in its greatness and is exalted.



Let us Gather together in prayer and await with expectant faith like Mary for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost!

In His Love,
Your Central Service Team