

# NOVA notes

[www.novacommunity.info](http://www.novacommunity.info)

NOVA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

JULY 2013

## Chair Notes.....

June has been a busy month for NOVA as we transitioned to the park for our summer liturgies and participated in a number of peace and social justice activities. We will share the month in review in another section of the newsletter but I wanted to use our “front and center” space to share with everyone a very moving experience we had today at the First Communion celebration for Abby Carome. As all young girls do, Abby looked beautiful in her white dress and eager expression. Even a torrential downpour couldn't diminish the glow of the liturgy! Brian and Lisa shared their moving reflection on their decision to baptize Abby as a baby and set the tone of hope for the future of the Church.



Abby, Meg & Sonja Joined Hands

The highlight for many of us was an invitation from Fr. Joe Nangle, after he told some heartwarming stories of recent First Communion celebrations where he has celebrated – including the joyful 65 year old woman who had never had the opportunity till now, to speak directly to Abby and tell our individual story of the meaning of Eucharist for us, our memories of First Communion and our advice to her. A number of NOVA elders (that's all of us!) spoke of the deep sense of Jesus being with them through receiving the Eucharist, their belief that coming together as community to receive the Body and Blood of Christ adds richness to the beauty of the experience and ties us to those around the world doing the same thing.

Folks also spoke of remembering their own First Communion, having the sense of the specialness of the day – and inviting Abby to remember the experience.

We should be thankful to Abby for the opportunity to remind us all of what we are really about as a Community of Faith, to look back at our own and NOVA's journey and forward to where we and our community need to move to continue to grow as bearers of Jesus' message of love.

As part of Abby's preparation for her day, she and I went to visit Sonja at Goodwin House, her home for over ten years. Although Sonja hasn't been able to be physically present at liturgy for many years, she is such a value to us as one who helped create the vision of NOVA and served as a guide on our journey. Sonja is in a very different place in her life now and Abby is just at the beginning of her life possibilities. Wherever we are on the journey, isn't it a blessing to have the community with us?



~ Meg Tuccillo

August Newsletter Deadline  
Sunday, July 28

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Photos in this edition of the newsletter are courtesy of Dianne Carroll (NOVA resident photographer), along with Meg Tuccillo, Linda Rosenberg, Pat Sodo and Marie Keefe.

**THANK YOU ALL!**

(See Link to Dianne's photos at top of this page.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13, 14, 15...

NOVA Retreat, Shrine Mont

September 29 at 12 p.m. - NOVA-On-The-Bus

## Blessing Fathers on Father's Day



## NOVA Catholic Community

[www.novacommunity.info](http://www.novacommunity.info)

NOVA Photos:

<http://www.novacommunity.weebly.com>

NOVA Message Line.....	(703) 852-7907
Chairpersons	Brian Carome Meg Tuccillo
Treasurer	Joe Formoso
Community Life Coordinator	Marlene Shade
Liturgy Coordinator	Gloria Mog
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mooney
Music Coordinator	Victoria Robinson
Peace & Justice Coordinators	Dianne Carroll Marie Keefe
Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti
Facilities	John Tarrant
Announcements Coordinator	Linda Christie
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E-mail Address.....	<a href="mailto:news4nova@gmail.com">news4nova@gmail.com</a>

**THE NOVA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY WITH US ON SUNDAYS IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA.**

### KENMORE... Winter Months...

Liturgy begins at 10:15 am—Gather at 10:00 am

During the winter months, our Liturgy is usually celebrated at Kenmore Middle School, Arlington Blvd. and Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA.

### LACEY WOODS... Summer Months...

Liturgies begin at 9:30 am—Gather at 9:15 am

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend up to our Fall Retreat weekend, we celebrate at Lacey Woods Park, George Mason Drive near Washington Blvd.

The schedule changes for Holidays and special occasions. Please call the Message Line, or check the NOVA website, both mentioned above, for the latest information.

## *We Remember In Prayer....*

**Michael Iskander**, who will have a few surgeries soon as he continues to heal from a very bad car accident.

**Sonja Donahue**, who appreciates a card, a call or a visit at Goodwin House, Alexandria

**Jody Furlong**, who also would appreciate a card or a call

**Anne Houck, Joe Bonsignore, Margaret and Tom Hayes**, who we do not see most Sundays because of mobility and other issues.

*Remember these and any other NOVA members and their friends and family who need our prayers*

## *July Birthdays....*

- 1 Bernice Todaro
- 2 John Cackley  
Nick Mele
- 10 Laura Goldschmidt
- 14 Greg Swanberg
- 16 John Birch
- 17 Jennifer Carroll
- 19 John Veldhuis
- 20 Joe Nangle, OFM
- 21 Jody Furlong
- 29 Carolyn Schmidt



*Please send your birth date (month & day only) to the Newsletter Editor, [news4nova@gmail.com](mailto:news4nova@gmail.com), if you would like it to appear here.*

## NOVA RETREAT 2013

We are getting a start on our annual retreat.  
Here's what we have so far:

- Retreat at Shrinemont September 13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>
- We have barely gotten started, the **we** being - Joe A., Richard U., Meg T. and Cece M.
- Joe Nangle and Delores Leckey have agreed to plan retreat with us this year.
- We will have our first meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> to get started.
- We are talking about following through with Elizabeth Johnson's book, **Quest for the Living God** and also Joe Nangle's book, **Engaged Spirituality**.
- Joe's book will be available at Sunday liturgy for anyone who needs it at \$16 a copy.

That's about it for now. More details to follow as we develop the weekend.  
If you want to be a part of planning, just call me and we'll get you on board.

*~ Cece Michelotti*



Blessing Annunziatas & Tarrants Before Trip To Turkey



Blessing Of Guadalupe On Her Way To School In Mexico

# LITURGY SCHEDULE

Planners can find Inclusive Readings (Year C) and Music Selections in the NOVA Yahoo Group Files, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/novacomunity/files/>. Sign on with the Yahoo ID you used to enroll. Please give all music selections to the Music Liaison the Sunday before your liturgy and print 50 copies of the liturgy program.

**JULY MUSIC LIAISON**  
**Victoria Robinson**

**AUGUST MUSIC LIAISON**  
**Victoria Robinson**

**July 7 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: John Haughey, SJ  
Planner: Helen Michie

**July 14 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: Joe Nangle, OFM  
Planner: Barbara Formoso

**July 21 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: Gerry Stockhausen, SJ  
Planners: Marie Schum-Brady & Richard Urban

**July 28 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: Jim Coriden  
Planners: Ormando-Kanes

**August 4 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Community Led Liturgy  
Planner: Victoria Robinson

**August 11 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

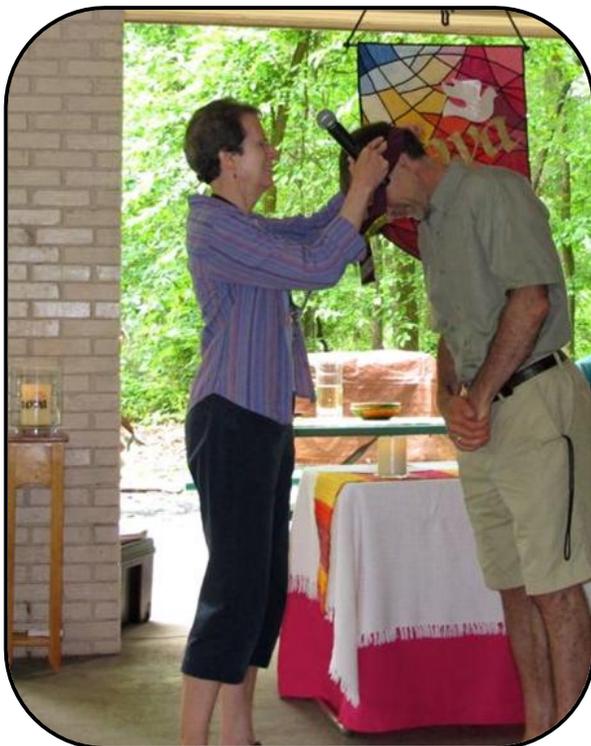
Priest: Joe Nangle, OFM  
Planners: David & Gloria Mog

**August 18 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: Gerry Stockhausen, SJ  
Planners: John and Carol Reeder

**August 25 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Priest: John Haughey, SJ  
Planners: Linda & Jack Christie



**Investiture Of Brian As New Co-Chair**



**Brian And Meg Read Pledge To Community**



**Meg Blessed By Marie**

## **NOVA'S MONTH IN REVIEW!**

A New Feature Highlighting Our Major Activities For The Month! (Just in case we forget what we've been doing!)

Among many usual NOVA activities, this month we...

Participated in VOICE events here and downtown supporting affordable housing in Arlington and Northern Virginia

Wrote letters to Congress on behalf of Bread for the World supporting efforts to feed the hungry

Attended the scholarship awards ceremony for the Dream Scholars

Decided to hold a special collection in support of The Peace Academy Project

Welcomed Pete Henriot on a rare visit back to the States and sent him off with \$1,000 for his school

Distributed food at Gunston

Served the homeless at Christ House

Heard beautiful music from the NOVA Music Group at the Women's Ordination Ceremony

Invested new chairs

Sent off two couples to visit Turkey

Helped form a ribbon around the Capitol to remember victims of gun violence

Collected additional money for NOVA's rental assistance funds

Blessed Raquel and Emilio's daughter as she went off to Mexico for her last year of high school

Celebrated Abby Carome's First Communion

*~Meg Tuccillo*



**Abigail Carome First Communion**



**Mikaela, Marie, Linda, Teddi, Mali, Carmela, Patrick Keane & Joe Help To Form Ribbon Around Capitol.**



**Kristin Langlykee, Archer, Linda, Don, Pat, Teddi & Marie At The Capitol**



**Abigail Carome First Communion**

## **GUNSTON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

*NOVA volunteers distribute bags of non-perishable food, cereal provided by NOVA, perishable (eggs, milk, meat, etc) items picked up at the Arlington Food Assistance Center warehouse on the night of*



*distribution and produce items every other week picked up by Eric Carroll at the produce markets downtown (funded by the NOVA Peace & Justice budget). The distribution takes place at the Gunston Middle School*

*Recreation Center in Arlington. Many volunteers have been active in this project for a dozen years and others are more recent. All love their work and would love to teach new NOVA folks how it's done. So if you would like to volunteer contact Dianne Carroll.*

*~Dianne*

A big thanks to all the Gunston faithful volunteers!!

**July 3:** Wednesday: Alicia/Jack Cackley, Eric

**July 11:** Glen Passin, Syd Boyne

**July 18:** Michael Kane, Carmela Orlando, Joe Annunziata

**July 25:** Tim White, Jerry Barrett

**Routine: (usually)**

Perishable pickup at AFAC warehouse at 6:00 p.m.

Distribution at Gunston 6:30-7:30

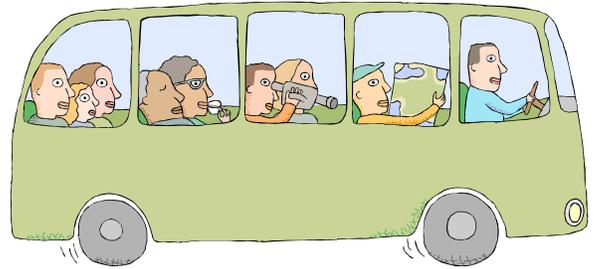
Clean up and return list to AFAC

**Note: An activity where the more hands, the merrier.**



**Three Priests on Father's Day, June 16**

## **NOVA-ON-THE-BUS An Insider's Tour of DC**



**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 p.m. (after liturgy)  
returns to Kenmore at 6:00 p.m.**

**Your Professional Tour Guide:**

Award-winning, Creative, Intrepid – **Marie Pinho**

*Come help us raise money for **Educate the Girls**, providing girls in rural Uganda who would otherwise be unable to attend school, the opportunity for an elementary and secondary education.*

Hold on to your seat belts, Marie will take you where others dare not go. You'll have a great time, learn some new things about DC, and make a difference for Ugandan children – what could be better?

**Delicious boxed lunch** will be served in Kenmore cafeteria. **Bus** will leave at 12:30

**Tickets** will be available in mid-summer:

*\$60 – transportation, guided tour (\$50 if you don't want lunch)*

*~Gloria Mog*



**NOVA Picnic, Thanks to Archer and Jim Heinzen**

## **SECOND COLLECTIONS 2013**

### **JANUARY – JUNE**

January 27: Rental Assistance to Prevent Homelessness Program – \$5,575.00

March 17: Warren Reich asked for the community to help with his friend Fernando in Puerto Rico. Fernando and Warren was ordained in the same order and after being sent to Puerto Rico Fernando was told to leave by the Bishop at the time of the comunidad de basas movement. He married and stayed in Puerto Rico to serve the people. His wife had a stroke and they do not have money for home care for her. She is bed ridden. NOVA collected \$1300.00 to help.

April 28: Mali Kane, recent college graduate and NOVA member, asked for a second collection for a doctor in the Dominican Republic. Mali spent time in DR as a community health intern and then went back after graduating from college reconnecting with Dr. Xiomara. The doctor has been able to improve health through direct work in the hospital , and leading charlas for the women in the community, focusing on prevention and education – from giving injections, to sewing up a wounds. NOVA collected \$1771.00 for the work of the doctor in DR.

June 2: For Rental Assistance to Prevent Homelessness Program \$4,764.00

June 16: Fr. Peter Henriot, SJ was visiting from Malawi, Africa. The community collected \$1,000.00 for his secondary school project in Malawi!

### **RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS UPDATE**

In 2007 NOVA established a program to provide rental relief to prevent homelessness on a one-time, emergency basis. It is funded by regular monthly amount from NOVA and by second collections. Social workers in Arlington Schools can access funds by completing a form which documents the “need of a family, agencies that have been accessed for help, and the amount requested”. Forms are screened by Jennifer Carroll, MSW. She determines if it meets criteria and cuts the check to the rental company. During 2011 \$6,230.00 was distributed; 2012 was \$8,267.00 and during 2013 so far, \$7,594.00. This year NOVA took a second collection in January and June. It may be necessary in the future to continue at least 2 collections as we see rents go up for families and wages staying the same.

#### **Following is an example of a family in need.**

Impoverished mother of two children is without health insurance or documentation. Mother was diagnosed with thyroid cancer(stage 4) 2 years ago. NOVA’s emergency family needs fund helped pay for the surgery writing the check directly to Arlington ENT Associates. Now 2 years later she continues to struggle with her thyroid cancer. She is being treated by NIH and had another major surgery. She will have to recover before returning to her part-time work (if able to). Mother has money to pay rent through July, but she is hoping to get help with August rent to give her a cushion with recovery time. (Mother and her son(12) continue to be undocumented. The daughter(6) is a U.S. citizen.) Parents are still separated. Father is also undocumented, under employed. He contributes what he can. Rent check was written for \$1,415.00 to the rental company.

*~Dianne Carroll*

## YOUR INVESTMENT YIELD IN THE WOMEN OF TIPITAPA (Continued from June Newsletter)

I'm on my way to a sales and marketing training with the John XXIII Institute requested by the COOFEMAR, (Cooperative of Faith on the Move) the cooperative formed by the women entrepreneurs we supported in Nicaragua. But first we stop to meet one of the women who received equipment to launch her business.

**Sra.  
Claudia  
and Her  
Pizza  
Oven**



Doña Claudia is a go-getter with big plans. She began a pizza business using her oven, baking one pizza at a time which meant she could only manage about 4 pizzas during the dinner hour. After she completed the microfinance small business training, she received a second-hand pizza oven. She proudly showed me a hand-bill advertising her wares. She sells an average of 18 pizzas a day and even makes specialized orders on the weekends. She's somehow found a way to make deliveries on a bike if needed.

But she's impatient, this energetic woman. She was among the first to join COOFEMAR, and after it joined an association of cooperatives, it began to hold discussions with the government to have its members qualify for a small business program to buy bigger equipment as the cooperative only can make loans of about \$30. The government would pay 80%, the business owner 20%. Doña Claudia was the first to sign up.

Her dream is to also make pastries and she's found exactly what she needs to be able to do so at bargain prices. She's saved up her 20%, filled out the paperwork, government inspectors have visited her to verify her data. The first thing she hits us with is: Why is it taking so long? Luckily we have the director of the cooperative with us, who explains it can be a year-long process to get approval and make a purchase. The agreement between the cooperative and the government was signed in January and it is only May. I marvel at what has happened in the short space of time since we made our investment 3 years ago: from a group of women

supported by John XXIII, to an independent cooperative, to an association of cooperatives, to an agreement with the government. Clearly not fast enough for Doña Claudia.

About thirty owners of "pulperias," corner stands or shops run from home, are here for the training supplied by John XXIII.

Tomorrow another thirty, food preparers: tortillas, bread, pastries, pizzas, etc. The training is



**Learning Sales Techniques**

professional and extensive, the participants deeply engrossed—this is their livelihood. They learn profiles of customers and of vendors, techniques for dealing with each kind, how never to lose a sale, how to increase sales, the necessity of understanding their products. Everyone loves to play the customer during role play, especially the difficult one. Suggestions pour out on how to handle them, all of these vendors eager to share their experience. Lunch is bought from one of the coop members and they decide to extend the training to get all their questions answered.



As they mingle at the end, Alexandra pulls out her newest products: sparkly barrettes and earrings and I think of my granddaughters. So we agree I'll play the timid customer and she draws on the day's experience to bring me out of my shell. I ask all the hard questions I can remember from the training. She's a real pro: I leave with 4 rhinestone barrettes made in China.

*~Marie Keefe*

## **SUPPORTING THE PEACE ACADEMY THROUGH A SPECIAL COLLECTION**

At the annual peace and social justice meeting, when we chose The Dream Project as our project for the year, Nova agreed to offer support of some kind to the Peace Academy project. Last week the community decided to hold a special collection on June 30<sup>th</sup> as the academy could use the funds this summer. According to the leaders of the effort, the needs in priority order are:

- \$2,000 matching grant that we can guarantee the school who wants Little Friends for Peace to help them launch a peace skills training this Fall.
- Second is \$2,000 to publish the new manual in time for June staff training and El Salvador in July.
- Third is \$2,000 for transportation and supplies to El Salvador in July.
- Fourth is \$2,000 for scholarships to Academy students starting in September.
- Fifth is \$1,200 stipend for the person to help evaluate in February.
- Sixth is \$2,000 for Academy scholarships in March.

We will keep the coffers open through July for those who are away and might like to contribute to this effort. Simply make out the check to NOVA with Peace Academy in the memo line and send to [Dianne Carroll, 2739 N Yucatan St Arlington, VA 22213](mailto:Dianne.Carroll@nova.edu)

Members of the Nova community can participate with LFFP in the following ways: take classes at the LFFP Peace Academy, assist with teaching peace, modeling peace skills, curriculum development, communications, counseling, bookkeeping, networking, public relations work, sharing a talent that would bring peace: pottery, woodworking, dance, etc., mentoring children. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jason Powell.

*~Marie Keefe*

## **LETTER FROM SOUTH SUDAN**

Dear Friends in NOVA:

I have received such a generous and gracious welcome here in Juba, South Sudan. I feel humbled and blessed. I went to two masses this hot and sunny Sunday. The first service was in the little chapel in the sisters' compound attended by thirty people from all over the world. Today's readings could not have been more appropriate: "...there is no Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. All are one in Christ Jesus."

I met a man, Ferdinand, who is working on reconciliation in the rural cattle community where there is much strife and violence.

The second Mass was out in the community. I felt perfectly safe walking on my own. That Mass, in English, was jam packed with hundreds more people outside. People even stood under the roofs of nearby buildings listening carefully to a sermon on peace and reconciliation. After the English service there was an Arabic Mass, with about a hundred people still massing outside. Everyone is asked to fast and pray for the three days surrounding the second anniversary of the establishment of South Sudan: one day for Muslims, one day for Christians, and a day for everyone else.

This has been like being on a spiritual retreat. There are three nuns here, from Italy, Mexico and Nigeria. I leave for Leer on Tuesday. Please keep us in prayer. With much love and hope, Mary Grace.

*~Carolyn Miller*



**Scott Spaine With Wife Jeannette**

## LOYOLA JESUIT SECONDARY SCHOOL - MALAWI

16 June 2013

TO NOVA FRIENDS:

It was a great treat to be praying with you last Sunday, 16 June! Brought back memories of grace-filled moments over the years of NOVA.

And your very generous gift means a lot for me during my “fund-raising tour” -- not “FUN-raising”!! – here in the States. I’ll keep sending some updates and photos for the NOVA newsletter.

Below is a poem that a Malawi poet friend of mine composed for our Groundbreaking Ceremony last September. It was beautifully read by a young girl in Grade Seven who hopes to enrol in Loyola Jesuit Secondary School next year. The last line sums it all up!

Every best wish and blessing.

~*Peter Henriot*

Photos of the school under construction...



### **GIRLS’ EDUCATION IN AFRICA – ANSWER TO DREAMS!**

What does the possibility of good education mean to a young Malawian girl? Aside from technocratic analyses of the benefits of girls’ education in a developing country (e.g., later marriage, fewer children, healthier children), there are dreams that the child might have that hopefully a good education could fulfill.

We heard of some of these dreams – wildly ambitious! – when a beautiful poem was read by a Grade Seven student during the Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Loyola Jesuit Secondary School in Kasungu, Malawi last September. The Zambia-Malawi Province of the Society of Jesus is beginning this co-educational boarding school in a poor rural area of Malawi where educational opportunities are very meager. It will be a school operating in conjunction with the Government of Malawi which will pay teachers’ salaries. This means that fees will be lower and more accessible to families of lesser means.

An “option for the poor” school, Loyola Jesuit Secondary School hopes to help realise some of these dreams as expressed by renowned Malawian poet Q Maluwezi in a poem entitled “*Anything*”:

I can be anything  
I can have everything  
I can wish for the impossible  
by pondering the unthinkable

I will claim the sun  
and all its shine  
I will harvest all its light  
I will stand in wait for its rise

I will grow wings  
and ride the wind  
My imagination will propel my thoughts  
far and beyond  
Reducing this earth to just a blue dot

I will live my dream  
I will light my shine  
I will ride my wind  
*Just one class at a time!*

Yes, “Just one class at a time” in our new Loyola Jesuit Secondary School – in fact in any good school! – can make a huge difference for the child, for the world.

Pete Henriot, S.J.

See [www.loyola-malawi.org](http://www.loyola-malawi.org)

# NEWS FROM THE POPE

POPE-AUDIENCE Jun-12-2013

## **Catholics must grow in love of God, neighbor, pope says at audience**

By Cindy Wooden  
[Catholic News Service](#)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christians have "far to go" if they seek to be known primarily for their love of God and neighbor, Pope Francis said.

The first law governing the church as the "People of God" is love, he said, which means "recognizing God as the only Lord of life and, at the same time, welcoming others as true brothers and sisters, overcoming divisions, rivalries, misunderstandings and selfishness."

At his weekly general audience June 12, Pope Francis continued his series of audience talks about the creed, looking at what Catholics believe about the church.

With more than 50,000 people gathered for the audience in St. Peter's Square on a hot spring day, the pope lamented that brotherly love does not reign in the world, and often not even in Catholics' communities, neighborhoods, workplaces or even their homes, "because of jealousy and envy."

"We must ask the Lord to help us understand his law of love," he said. "How good, how beautiful it would be if we loved one another as real brothers and sisters."

"Let's try something today," Pope Francis said: "We all have those we like and those we don't like so much. Perhaps many of us are angry with someone. Let's say to the Lord, 'I am angry with this person and that one. I pray for him and for her.'"

"Let's pray for those with whom we are angry. It's a good step forward in this law of love," he said. "Let's do it. Let's do it today."

Pope Francis said that when the Second Vatican Council defined the church as "the People of God," it recognized that the church belongs to God and the Christian community was formed by him.

"It means that God does not belong to any one

people," the pope said, and his invitation is addressed "to all, without distinction, because God's mercy wants the salvation of all people."

"Jesus didn't tell the apostles or us to form an exclusive group, a group of the elite," but said to go out to the whole world making disciples of all peoples.

"I want to say to those who feel far from God and from the church, to those who are afraid or indifferent, to those who think they cannot change: The Lord calls you, too, to be part of his people and he does so with great respect and love," the pope said. "He invites you to be part of this people, the people of God."

Pope Francis told those at his audience that it is the obligation of every Christian to be a sign of hope and love in the world and to share with others the joy of being forgiven and saved by God.

"It's enough to open a newspaper to know that evil exists, that the devil acts," he said. "But I want to say loudly that God is stronger."

"Do you believe this? That God is stronger?" the pope asked the crowd. "Then let us say it together, 'God is stronger,'" he said, as many joined him in repeating the phrase.

When things are "dark, marked by evil, they can change if we bring the light of the Gospel, especially with our lives," he said.

The world needs the Gospel and the witness of Christian love, he said. And it's up to Catholics to make sure that the church is a place "where each person feels welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Gospel."

For that to happen, he said, "the church must have its doors open, so that anyone can come in, and so that we go out and proclaim the Gospel."

## Pope tells nuncios to help him find new bishops who are meek, merciful

By Cindy Wooden  
[Catholic News Service](#)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Tracing the characteristics he wants to see in candidates to serve as bishops, Pope Francis said they must be "pastors who are close to their people, fathers and brothers, who are meek, patient and merciful."

A good prospective bishop will "love interior poverty as freedom for the Lord" and live that externally with a simple lifestyle, and he won't have the "mindset of a prince," the pope said June 21 during a meeting with nuncios and apostolic delegates.

The 108 papal representatives to nations and international organizations, along with 40 retired nuncios, were making a two-day Year of Faith pilgrimage to the Vatican and were scheduled to dine under the stars that evening with Pope Francis in the Vatican gardens.

The majority of the Vatican diplomats are nuncios or apostolic delegates to one or more country; Pope Francis said one of the most important tasks they have is studying the needs of vacant dioceses and helping him find appropriate candidates for the ministry.

"It's a delicate task," the pope said. "Beware of those who are ambitious, who seek the episcopacy."

Pope Francis said the best priest to choose as bishop or the best bishop to choose to head a larger diocese or archdiocese is one who is wed to his diocese, "the spouse of one church, who is not constantly seeking another."

"I will comment (more) about this when it's not being recorded," the pope told the nuncios, who laughed.

Candidates must be real pastors and shepherds, he said, able to watch over their flock, keep them united, protect them from danger and, especially, nourish their hope, "sustaining with love and patience the plans that God is working within his people."

"Shepherds need to be in front of their flocks to

indicate the path, in the midst of the flock to keep them united, behind the flock to make sure none is left behind," the pope said.

Telling the nuncios and representatives that he wrote his speech himself after much thought and prayer, Pope Francis said he knows their ministries mean they often are nomads. "I've often thought, 'these poor men,'" they not only leave their homelands, but serve for a few years in one country, then are moved to another.

The one thing they must never leave behind, he said, is their faith in Jesus and their love for the church.

"There is always the danger, including for churchmen, to give into what -- borrowing an expression from (the late Jesuit Cardinal Henri) De Lubac -- I call 'spiritual worldliness': giving into the spirit of the world which leads to acting for one's self-realization and not for the glory of God," he said.

If a nuncio is not always drawing on the strength of the Lord and not always focused on Christ and his Gospel, "he risks turning a holy mission into something ridiculous," the pope said. "I know 'ridiculous' is a strong word, but it's true. Giving into the spirit of the world makes pastors, especially, ridiculous. We might gain some applause, but those same people who appear to approve of us will criticize us behind our backs."

Even though they don't have a parish or a diocese, nuncios and other Vatican diplomats are called to be pastors, the pope said. "Always seek the good, the good of all, the good of the church and each person."

But along with prayer and works of charity, nuncios must work with a high level of diplomatic professionalism. "This is kind of like your hairshirt, your penance," he said.

As a gift, Pope Francis gave each of the nuncios a commemorative silver pectoral cross made for the occasion.

The late Pope John XXIII (1959-63) is quoted as giving the following advice: “*Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do*”

John XXIII is a remarkable figure in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, for a number of reasons. I recently found an item that adds to these reasons.

Before Vatican II John XXIII was reading a book by Yves Congar with the challenging title *True and False Reform in the Church*. John XXIII is reported to have looked up from his reading and said, “can the Church be reformed?” At the time, Congar was in Curial shackles of one kind or another. John XXIII rehabilitated Congar by making him an advisor to Vatican II.

Congar – perhaps the greatest ecclesiologist of his day – was very active at the Council. He saw the Church as a dynamic and living force in history, and his footprints are evident in the documents of the Council, particularly *Lumen Gentium* and *Die Verbum*. He had much to say about how tradition operates in the life of the Church. Avery Dulles recommended Congar’s *The Meaning of Tradition*, which is how I came upon the story about John XXIII.

Vatican II was not of one mind. Progressive bishops were in the majority, and Congar was one of their scribes. But the documents of Vatican II were forged with compromises that left practical initiative with the Pope and – by implication – the Vatican bureaucracy. Pope Francis is now left to deal with the consequent accretions of power and inevitable abuse.

What is amiss in the Church? In recent decades theologians have come under scrutiny for doing what they are supposed to do. Many in the NOVA community have participated in small group discussions of Elizabeth Johnson’s *Quest for the Living God*, following a doctrinal challenge to Johnson’s work by the U.S. bishops. Ten years earlier the Vatican investigated *Toward a Christian Theology of Pluralism* by Jacques Dupuis.

I happened upon Dupuis’ *Pluralism* because of a recent *Commonweal* review of a book (*Jacques Dupuis Faces the Inquisition* by William Burrows) dealing with this episode. I suppose I should thank

the inquisitors because it has been their unfavorable interest that prompted me to buy, and read parts of, Johnson’s *Quest*, Roger Haight’s *Jesus, Symbol of God* and, most recently, Dupuis’ *Pluralism*.

For a Church that is built upon the unity of Christ it is odd to take separation to excess. The vice of clericalism comes from an excessive separation between clerics and laity. There is a parallel, I think, between clericalism and more significant separations: I am thinking of the separation between body and soul, and the separation between faith and reason.

One of the reasons I dislike the language “and with your spirit” in the new missal is that it highlights a separation of body and soul that was thankfully muted after Vatican II by the simpler language “and also with you.” I am happy that this community has continued with the simpler language. One is good. Each of us is one in body and soul. As a community we are one in the Spirit.

Faith and reason share a similar unity, although contemporary thought appears to be against it. The late paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould coined the acronym NOMA (Non Overlapping Magisterial Areas) to confirm boundaries between science and religion, in the sense of a distinction between scientific thought and religious thought. American culture has long assumed the separation of church and state, but this is a prudent safeguard for the exercise of state power and is not an argument against the unity of reality.

What is faith? The Church has been protective of “the faith” against challenges that have arisen as science and technology have acquired ever greater credibility. Vatican I (not II) affirmed that “*if reason illumined by faith inquires in an earnest, pious and sober manner, it attains by God’s grace, a certain understanding of the mysteries, which is most fruitful .... But it never becomes capable of understanding them in the way it does truths which constitute its proper object.*” This sets boundaries, consistent with the NOMA approach of Stephen Jay Gould.

This boundary setting strategy is perhaps understandable as a matter of apologetics: defend

your turf by drawing lines which contain the opposition. However, two unfortunate consequences follow. First, this strategy tends to set reason and faith against one another. This can't be helpful for those struggling with their faith by the light of reason. Second, it confines faith to a defensive box. What sense does that make? If science and technology have made reason more credible, should we not be looking for a more credible understanding of faith? Instead, the Church has gravitated toward an emphasis upon authority and doctrine. This is clericalism *redux*. A unity built upon authority and doctrine is a sorry substitute for the unity of the Spirit. Is it any wonder that if ex-Catholics were a denomination they would be the second largest in Christendom?

Faith has a sensible response to the credibility question, a response that does not separate faith and reason. At least that is the argument I will make. I have presented this response before in this series of essays, but have not looked at it from this point of view. It's a very simple understanding, to which I have attached the name *resonance*. In life each one of us faces alternatives, and struggles to make choices. Sometimes we look at these alternatives from a perspective larger than our own, from the viewpoint of "the other" or "the common good." From this graced perspective we are able to choose an alternative that *resonates more* than the others, as best our lights can discern.

There is a dynamic quality to this simple experience of choice, and it is this dynamic quality that gives *resonance* its explanatory power (a topic to which I will return in the next essay). Tomorrow we may see matters in a new light, and find an alternative or a way of looking at a problem that was not evident the day before. This step by step progression is – to borrow St. Anselm's motto – "faith seeking understanding."

Human beings have limited capabilities. The conscious mind is truly remarkable, but has a limited attention span and is forgetful. We need stories to make things hang together. Day to day living provides its own story – a chronology, of sorts – but the cultivation of *resonance* typically involves a different kind of story. For Christians, that story is about Jesus. The Gospel narrative, preached year after year at liturgy, provides a rich soil for discerning the alternatives that are *more resonant*.

These alternatives include not only those that *resonate* in our daily lives but also those choices that are faced by the larger body politic, even if those choices often seem *less resonant*. We can hope and pray – and vote – for *more resonant* choices.

Psychology tells us that the senses generate so much information that the mind would be overwhelmed if it did not develop ways to be selective.<sup>1</sup> This is called *selective attention*. I am able to carry on a conversation at a cocktail party full of noise from many such conversations by focusing attention on a particular conversation. A similar selectivity applies to concepts generated within the mind. The mind maintains coherence by developing a frame of reference or perspective, and then selectively attending to concepts that have a place within the existing frame of reference.<sup>2</sup> Stories provide effective scaffolding for a frame of reference. Selectivity is supported by habit, but habits can be changed by conscious attention. In the end, what we know and what we understand can improve over time.

Thus the model provides the following dynamism: with tomorrow may come a fresh alternative, or a new way of looking at an old problem, so that what was *more resonant* yesterday becomes *less resonant* in relation to something new, and the conscious mind matures. This is how reason develops the contours of science, and it should not be surprising that reason and faith also work together. *Resonance* is different from the eyes, but the eyes are different from the ears. We often speak metaphorically of the "eyes of faith" or "hearing the Word of God." The same metaphor can be used negatively, to speak of being blind or deaf to a reality that we sometimes know is there but can't always or fully grasp. There are parallels to these struggles in the progress of science, and with some modest imagination it may be hoped that the same reason that has given credibility to science can also do wonders with faith. Science builds on what has gone before, and in that sense is "handed down." Reason has developed a methodology which brings to life what has been handed down. It is the same consciousness working with the same reality, though *resonance* is a different sense, just as the eyes and the ears are different senses.

History provides perspective. Our struggles with "the faith" – understood in terms of a story or

doctrinal superstructure (i.e. what is “handed down”) – have a history that can be understood as part of development of the same consciousness. The history of physics provides an example. In 1807 French mathematician Joseph Fourier presented for publication a paper on a novel theory of heat. This paper was a seminal advance in human understanding of thermodynamics. But it was not published until 1822 because the reviewers – including noted scientists Lagrange, Laplace and Legendre – expected Fourier to show how his equations could be derived from a physical model of reality. The reviewers believed that “true science” must be put together within the conceptual framework that had been “handed down” from Isaac Newton. The equations which Fourier had developed effectively described thermodynamic reality, but did not fit within the Newtonian conceptual model which dominated scientific thinking well into the nineteenth century. The reviewers eventually saw the light, and Fourier’s paper was published – fifteen years after it was presented.

Human reason is frail, even in science. It may be argued that the reviewers were simply awestruck by Isaac Newton and this cannot be compared to the legitimate awe due the revelation of Jesus Christ. But that is beside the point. The problem – as Pogo famously understood – is us. Human consciousness is limited, and understanding grows in steps. Human understanding does not spring like Athena full-blown from the head of Zeus, even when it comes from Jesus Christ. Faith is a source of understanding like waters from a spring. It quenches our thirst, and then we thirst for more.

In this view of “faith seeking understanding,” faith is a journey not an endpoint. Of course, many paths in this journey have been well traveled, and our well intentioned Church hierarchs propose to save us much trouble on the journey by urging us to do what “holy Mother Church” says.

Too often the institutional Church runs this good intention into the ground. The recent spate of “notifications” against theologians is an example. In commenting upon the 2001 notification against Jacques Dupuis’ *Pluralism*, William Burrows suggests that what concerns the hierarchy about theological outreach to other religions is “*a weakening of Catholic Christian identity*” that, if it takes hold, will unravel the traditional conception of

what “the Church” is.<sup>3</sup> There is ample evidence in Europe and America that a certain unraveling is already well advanced, and that growth has shifted to the southern hemisphere. Is secularism an apt diagnosis, or simply an excuse to bury the talents of the People of God under the heavy hand of authority?

This excess of paternalism – one might say “clericalism” – turns “faith” into a form of obedience that would stunt the cultivation of *resonance* if people were scrupulous about obedience. Undoubtedly there are some Catholics who are, indeed, scrupulous about obedience. From all the notifications issued to theologians it appears the institutional Church is hoping to encourage such scrupulosity.

Fortunately, the institutional Church has had no such luck. The cultivation of *resonance* is deep in our bones.

It is perhaps too harsh a suggestion, but has the hierarchy taken its inheritance from God’s house and is now finding itself in a sort of wilderness? What would it mean to come home? Regrettably, it is not as if reform-minded Catholics were safely at home, waiting to complain about the return of a prodigal Church. Alas, the rest of us – reform-minded as well as those of conservative bent – are bound up with the magisterium in the same prodigal Church. The wilderness is an equal opportunity employer.

Where is the joy? Wilderness and joy don’t seem to go together. Perhaps coming home is to recognize where we began. The disciples on the road to Emmaus recognized that their hearts were burning within them. This is what it means to be alive, and to share that life is what evangelization is about.

We do not need to be a shining city on a hill. Sharing what burns within us must be done from where we are, wilderness or not.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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<sup>1</sup> Apparently, autism – when the outside world is simply closed off – is the mind’s self protective alternative when more discriminating filters do not develop.

<sup>2</sup> Social psychologists (e.g. Jonathan Haidt in *The Righteous Mind*) refer to this phenomenon as “confirmation bias.”

<sup>3</sup> William R. Burrows, ed., *Jacques Dupuis Faces the Inquisition* (Pickwick: Eugene, Oregon, 2012), p. 16.