



nova notes

NOVA Catholic Community

August 2010

Chair Notes...

Just moments ago, I was sitting at the computer when the sky darkened, and then seemed to open up and pour out its contents on the world. Outside my window, I noticed a dove perched among the leaves of a tree. As the rain cascaded through the branches all around him, he fluffed his feathers and twisted his head as if to catch every refreshing drop. Then the sky lightened, the sunshine returned, and he flew away. It reminded me of NOVA. We share the refreshment of gathering for the Eucharist and wisdom of homilies and dialogue every Sunday, and in between we chat and email and meet each other. And always, always, NOVA does its best to pour out cascading love and care inside and outside the community. Refreshed by all of this, we too can fly. Well, carry on, anyhow.

During the past month, we heard again the stories of the Good Samaritan and of Martha and Mary, and celebrant John Haughey noted that hospitality is essential, not extraneous, to being “of God,” of being **WE**. The Eucharist itself is a celebration of **WE**—our union with God and with one another in God. Our challenge is to extend that sacredness to one another, whether we agree with them or not. How can a person do that without a lot of help? On the 24th, we were reminded to pray constantly, with faith and persistence.

The world lost a faithful, persistent and prophetic voice with the death of Bill Callahan on July 5. A fearless advocate for peace and social justice in society and the church, Bill was a much-loved NOVA friend and celebrant, especially at our Palm Sunday liturgies. NOVA musicians brought joyous song to his Memorial Mass, and we were reminded

of his legacy and the great hole he leaves behind. Ever more aware of the shrinking number of our *padre cadre* we can call on for our liturgies, NOVA members have created a beautifully written program for non-Eucharistic, Community-Led Liturgies (CLLs) when no priest is available to preside. Over the past several weeks, the community has thoughtfully discussed and considered two proposals that concern CLLs: (1) To formally designate a Eucharistic Minister to preside over CLLs in lieu of alternate presiders; and (2) To welcome former priests to participate in CLLs as homilists, readers, etc., at the invitation of the planners. At the July 10 General Meeting, consensus was reached not to implement the first proposal, and approval was given to the second. The meeting ended with an enthusiastic endorsement of a barbecue after the Labor Day weekend liturgy and other ways to add fun to our community life.

Circle August 8 for our next gathering, a social night of summer storytelling at the Barrett’s. There’s no expiration date on stories, so bring a tale of your favorite memory or adventure.

So it’s been an incredible month with provocative headlines, record-breaking heat, heartbreaking loss, thoughtful decision-making, even an earthquake. Folks are traveling, planning the NOVA fall retreat, describing their social action programs, giving thanks for air-conditioning and fans, and always trying to keep in mind the **WE**—our sacred union with God and others without judgment. Carry on!

~Teddi

August Birthdays

NOVA Message Line (703) 852-7907

Chairpersons	Tom Clarkson Teddi Ahrens
Treasurer	Joe Formoso
Coordinator, Community Life	Cece Michelotti
Liturgy Coordinator	Jeanne Clarkson
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mooney
Music Coordinator	Victoria Robinson
Peace and Justice Coordinators	Dianne Carroll Marie Keefe
Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti
Facilities	Glen Passin
Newsletter Editor	Judy Christofferson

2	Marcelline Niemann
11	Joe Annunziata Anne Houck
12	Eric Carroll Bob O'Toole
20	Rose Barrett Marie Keefe
26	Tom Clarkson
29	Peggy Meyer



Please send Judy Christofferson your birthday if you would like it to appear here (month/day only).

NOVA is praying for. . .

Peggy Becker, who is recovering from surgery

Eve Birch, who is dealing with legal issues and looking for a home to provide temporary housing for the homeless

Sonja Donahue, who appreciates a card, a call or a visit.

Jody Furlong, who would also appreciate a phone call or note.

Catherine Loveless, who is recovering from a recent car accident

John Veldhuis, who is recovering at home after a recent heart attack.

Jim Weber, who is recovering from recent surgery

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

The NOVA Catholic Community invites you to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy with us every Sunday in Arlington, Virginia.

Note: Our Liturgy is usually celebrated at Kenmore Middle School, Arlington Blvd. and Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA. Beginning Memorial Day weekend up to our Fall Retreat weekend in September, we celebrate at Lacey Woods Park, George Mason Drive near Washington Blvd., unless otherwise noted.

Liturgies at Kenmore begin at 10:15 a.m.
Gather at 10:00 a.m.
Liturgies at Lacey Woods begin at 9:30 a.m.
Gather at 9:15 am

Call the Message Line (above) or check the NOVA website for the latest information.

**September Newsletter Deadline:
Wednesday, August 26**

Liturgies: Cycle C

Inclusive Readings and Music Selections are available in the new NOVA Yahoo Group Files. Please give all music selections to the Music Liaison the Sunday before your liturgy and print 65 copies of the liturgy program. Liturgies at Kenmore begin at 10:15 a.m. and at 9:30 at Lacey Woods Park.

August Music Liaison Victoria Robinson

August 1 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Nangle, OFM - Peggy Meyer
Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2:21-23
Psalm 90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11
Luke 12: 13-21

August 8 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

John Haughey, SJ - Meg Tuccillo
Wisdom 18: 6-9
Psalm 33: 1, 12, 18, 20-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11: 1-2, 8-12
Luke 12: 32-48 or 12: 35-40

August 15 – Feast of the Assumption

Community-Led Liturgy - Marie Keefe
Revelation 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10
Psalm 45: 10-12, 16
1 Corinthians 15: 20-27
Luke 1: 39-56

August 22 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Baptism of Isabella Iskander
Joe Nangle, OFM - Kate Doherty
Isaiah 66: 18-21
Psalm 117: 1, 2
Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13
Luke 13: 22-30

August 29 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. - Anne Passin
Sirach 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm 68: 4-5, 6-7, 10-11
Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

September Music Liaison Gloria Mog

Sept. 5 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

John Haughey, SJ - Rosemarie Annunziata
Wisdom 9: 13-18
Psalm 90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14: 25-33

Sept. 12 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel Madigan, SJ - Joe Annunziata
Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-32 or 15: 1-10

Sept 19 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel Madigan, SJ- NOVA RETREAT*
Amos 8: 4-7
Psalm 113: 1-2, 4-6, 7-8
1 Timothy 2: 1-8
Luke 16: 1-13, or 16: 10-13

Sept 26 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ray Kemp, SJ- Mike and Gen Timpane
Amos 6: 1, 4-7
Psalm 146: 7, 8-9, 9-10
1 Timothy 6: 11-16
Luke 16: 19-31

Reminders:

***The liturgy on September 19 will be held at Shrine Mont. There will be no liturgy at Lacey Woods.**

**** On September 26, NOVA returns to Kenmore School. The liturgy starts at 10:15 a.m.**

NOVA Annual Retreat

Retreat Reservations

NOVA's annual retreat will be held at Shrine Mont from Friday evening, September 17, through Sunday noon, September 19. If you plan to attend the retreat, you must make reservations ahead of time with Kopp Michelotti because Shrine Mont requires the number of participants in advance. Call or email Kopp. If you leave a phone message, provide the names of all adults and children for whom you are reserving space. Specify whether children are between the ages of 4-7 or 8-12. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

The cost for the weekend is \$180 for adults and teens, \$80 for kids 8-12, free for kids under 8. NOVA doesn't want anyone to miss the retreat because of cost. We have subsidies available; just talk to Kopp.

Shrine Mont is located one hour south of Winchester and approximately 2-1/2 hours from the Washington DC metro area, just beyond the Basye/Bryce Mountain ski resort. However, Friday afternoon heavy traffic on I-66 makes it prudent to allow a little more time. To reach Shrine Mont, follow Route 66 West to I-81 South to Mt. Jackson (Exit #273). Turn left onto Rt. 703 (East), then right (South) on US 11 and proceed through town. Turn right on Rt. 263 and continue approximately 15 miles to Orkney Springs.

Friday dinner will be served from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. The first retreat session will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The retreat will end with lunch on Sunday at 12:30 pm.

The mountains are gorgeous and the weather cooler than in DC. It's advisable to bring a jacket; also bring insect repellent, extra towels, soap, and shampoo. Feel free to bring snacks of any kind to share during Friday and Saturday evening get-togethers, as well as games and puzzles, soft drinks, juice, wine, beer, etc. Smoking is not allowed; pets are also not allowed. ~Kopp Michelotti

Retreat Program

Come one, come all, young and old alike! This will be a special time to refresh and renew body and soul. We will tell stories and weave wholeness from our individual threads.

Storyteller Susan Gordon will help us on this journey. She's been doing this professionally for almost thirty years, and holds a masters degree in the use of storytelling. Susan's great skill is in helping others understand their own stories more clearly while strengthening their capacity to change these stories as they continually unfold.

The program begins Friday night after dinner (for about an hour and a half) before the traditional bonfire. We will continue with a session Saturday morning, picking up on themes begun on Friday. In the early afternoon after lunch, you will be on your own, returning for a third two-hour session before dinner. Saturday evening is set aside just to have fun and share each others' company. There will be a final session on Sunday morning, followed by liturgy with Father Dan Madigan at 11:00 a.m. Lunch and departure conclude the retreat.

Everyone over twelve will be able to participate in the program. With advance notice of who is coming, younger community members will have their own program. Peace and joy be with you!

~Clyde Christofferson (on behalf of the Retreat Planning Committee)



Gunston Volunteers Needed

Nova volunteers distribute bags of non-perishable food, cereal provided by Nova, and perishable items such as eggs, milk, and meat that are picked up at the Arlington Food Assistance Center warehouse on the night of distribution. Produce items are picked up every other week by Eric Carroll at the produce markets downtown (and funded by the Nova Peace and 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 lot of years. Every Thursday there is already a seasoned volunteer, so this is your chance to try out your skills for the summer. Having someone who speaks Spanish is a real plus for each of the teams. **Please help.** If you are interested in being a volunteer, email or call Dianne Carroll.

August Gunston Schedule:

August 5: Don A., Cece, _____

August 12: Tim, Jerry, Eric

August 19: Marie K., Don/Ann A

August 26: Syd, Glen, Marie K.,

HEC Pool Event

Handicapped Encounter Christ will have swim time at Providence Pool near Falls Church High School, at 7525 Marc Dr Falls Church, VA 22042, on Saturday, August 21, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. HEC could use extra help with lifting, being with others in the pool, or hanging out on the deck area. Can you help out? For people new to HEC, this is also a great time to get to know this community. Please let Mary Grace know if you can come, and if you can help. Call or email Mary so she can get a head count. This is HEC's first time trying a pool party, so, if you have ideas about what might be fun or helpful, let Mary Grace know. For those who come to help the admission cost is free; just tell the folks at the desk that you are an "attendant." Providence Pool is a beach-style indoor pool, which also has a rail equipped ramp into the pool. The pool has at least three aquatic wheelchairs and they can be rolled directly into the pool.

Christ House

NOVA will be serving dinner at Christ House on Monday, August 16. Please bring meatloaf and/or scalloped potatoes to the liturgy on Sunday August 15 or drop your food items off in the coolers on the Michelotti's front porch Sunday afternoon or Monday up to 1:00 p.m. If you'd like to help serve, please contact Kopp or Ken Chaison by phone or email. Either Kopp or Ken will be happy to provide further details and/or directions to Christ House.

NOVA Community Life Ministry

One sign that Nova's community life is alive and well is that we are having an ongoing discussion about "Tables of Eight" – a chance for us all to get to know one another on a more personal level.

Along these same lines, Peggy Becker has expressed her deep thanks for the multitude of notes and cards she has received since her surgery last week. She is home and progressing toward full recovery. John Velhuis is also grateful to the NOVA community, as he recoups from his unexpected visit to the hospital in the middle of the night. He had a heart attack, but said that because he and Nancy acted so fast and got him help, he is now home and well on his way to recovery.

As summer winds down and we prepare for our annual retreat, let's keep in our prayers and thoughts, three valuable NOVA members who, though not with us weekly, are very much a part of us: Sonja Donahue, Anne Houck (who will celebrate her 90th birthday on August 11) and Jean Mendez. Think of each of them when you're near the mailbox. Peace! ~The CLM Team

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates

NOVA "Nite"

Date: Sunday, August 8

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: The Barrett's Party Room
200 N. Maple Ave., Falls Church, VA

An evening of storytelling

Please bring finger foods to share.

Franciscan Missionary Service: 20th Anniversary Celebration

Date/Time: Saturday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Trinity College Center, 125 Michigan Avenue Northeast, Washington, DC 20017

This event will include a silent auction, live band, and a social hour with wine and hors d'oeuvres. The keynote speaker will be Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province. He is widely known for his spiritual writing and lecturing. He currently serves as the Director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque. For further details, go to the website: www.franciscanmissionservice.org. **Note:** NOVA has reserved two tables (8 persons per table).

Please register with Marie Pinho if you plan to attend.



Listening Session

DATE: Saturday, October 9, 2010

TIME: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Luke's Orthodox Church,
McLean, VA (in the usual meeting place of the
PAX Community)

This "listening session" is being planned by members from NOVA and PAX to talk about the kind of Catholic Church we desire and envision in the future. The session reflects a sense of urgency given the signs of the times, and a shared responsibility to further the reforms of Vatican II. Nova members are encouraged to attend.

The precise questions have not been determined, but may include: (1) What kind of a Catholic Church do we wish to pass on to our children and grandchildren? and (2) How might the future of the Catholic Church here in the United States be shaped by the cultural context of our unique experience as Americans? Whether you can or can't attend this session, please let Rosemarie Annunziata, Clyde Christofferson, John Mooney, Peggy Becker, or John Velduis know if you have ideas for questions that should be addressed because this smaller group will be meeting in August and September about proposed questions for the October session.

The comments from this "listening session" will be combined with comments from other similar sessions across the country and used to form the agenda for a lay "council" in Detroit, June 10-12, 2011, being organized by the American Catholic Council (ACC) as an expression of the "sensus fidelium." The Detroit conference will feature Joan Chittister and Hans Kung, among others.

NOTE: The deadline for a discounted individual registration fee of \$170 to attend the ACC next June in Detroit has been extended to August 7. The rate will be \$200 (by 12/31/2010), \$220 (by 3/31/2011) and \$260 thereafter. A further discount is available for groups of ten or more. To register, go to <http://americancatholiccouncil.org/>, or click [here](#) for mail/fax form.

Peace and Social Justice Proposals

The Nova Peace and Justice Committee (PSJ) received five proposals to be considered by the community. Committee members have read all the proposals and requested clarification where needed. In the July NOVA newsletter, the projects were announced with a website link where they can be read: <http://novacommunity.wikispaces.com>. They are printed below for your convenience. Please read them carefully. If you have questions for clarification, please email them to Marie as soon as possible. The committee will set a date in late August or early September date for a community meeting on the proposals and announce the date at a liturgy and by email. ~ **PSJ Committee:** Dianne Carroll/Marie Keefe, co-chairs; Joe Annunziata, Eric Carroll, Cece Michelotti, Kopp Michelotti, Cathy Showalter, Meg Tuccillo, John Veldhuis, Tim White

Project #: Center for La Nueva Esperanza - Submitted by Archer Heinzen

Background: For a high impact project for Nova, build a center for La Nueva Esperanza in Ilobasco, El Salvador. La Esperanza supports education and training for rural girls and women and provides a "hub," where some of the most neglected members of society in El Salvador can come together to solve problems and improve their well-being. Having its own space, rather than a borrowed one, that can be (and has been) taken away capriciously, would ensure the survival of this 16-year-old organization and allow it to greatly expand its programs, to include a childcare and after-school program and an "alburgue" (shelter), where association members could stay when they come into town. The organization has had vibrant leadership for 16 years and with this kind of support would continue its work another 16--or maybe sixty years.

There are so many projects that can make an impact in the lives of people who are without. I suggest an international project because I believe the need in other countries is SO MUCH GREATER than in the US. For a congregation to work together on something when not all members speak the language, it usually has to be an infrastructure project. In these projects, church members can work side by side and "walk" with community members. Projects in Central America are practical because many members do speak Spanish and the cost of transportation is relatively inexpensive compared to other parts of the world.

Need: Space to ensure the survival of current girls, women, and youth programming and to allow for expansion of programs that are prohibited in the current quarters.

Impact: Involvement of many additional girls, youth, and women in opportunities for improving their health, education, income, and influence.

Approach: Conduct a planning process between several members of Nova and the board of La Nueva Esperanza. Identify and purchase a piece of land. Plan a time when Nova and community members could collaborate. The initial construction period would need to be during agricultural downtime in January, February, or March. A second period for finishing could be a youth project during the first week in August when Salvadoran students are on vacation. Recruit Nova members able and willing to work. Mobilize the team!

Funding: \$50,000 (estimated)

Project #2: Challenge Grant for Purchasing and Renovating a Building to Serve as a Cultural Center in Nicaragua - Submitted by John Mooney J23, Volunteer Consultant, with Edwin Novoa, Director, and Ana María Gutiérrez, Chief, Department of Community Organization and Development, Instituto de Acción Social Juan XXIII (J23), Managua, Nicaragua

Proposal Summary: A \$40,000 challenge grant, as part of an overall \$80,000 financing package, to assist in the purchase and renovation of an historically significant 19th-century building in (*continued on next page*)

the center of the city of Tipitapa, Nicaragua, to serve as a cultural center, with a special emphasis on youth programs as part of a continuing effort to reduce youth crime and drug use. It is planned that NOVA's contribution would leverage the other required contributions, and no NOVA money would be transferred unless/until the other contributions have been made. Other proposed participants are the building owner, local businesses, the City of Tipitapa, and private citizens yet to be identified. My involvement would be indirect. J23 personnel would be involved through facilitation and monitoring the project. I would ask for periodic monitoring reports. NOVA's involvement is wide open. We could help funding annual programming or we could send delegations down to visit, etc. We could even send the NovaTones down to perform!

Background and Justification: J23 has for many years had a branch office in the city of Tipitapa, about 30 miles ENE of Managua. With a population of 108,075, of which 63% is in its unusually dense urbanized area, Tipitapa is one of the larger cities in Nicaragua. It is officially designated as a "medium poverty" city. Though it hosts Nicaragua's official Passion Play each spring and is home to many artists and craftspeople, its lack of financial resources has prevented Tipitapa from having a cultural center or institutions of higher education typical of similarly sized Nicaraguan cities (like Estelí) to the north. This creates not only a cultural vacuum but also a social/public-order vacuum. For Tipitapa has had a recent history of rising youth crime and drug use. The local police department has tried to counter this by community-watch programs and an outreach to youth, both of which have had a significant impact. For example, as the Soccer World Cup approached, it organized a "local world cup" among the boys on the city's one sports field. However, the question is how to sustain and broaden this change. There is no cultural center (indeed, no community center) where non-athletic programs and events can be held. The police and mayor of Tipitapa believe, as does the J23 staff, that such programs in a centrally located community cultural center in the center of town would not only serve as a recreational outlet for the youth but also an opportunity to learn and develop new social, artistic, and craft skills. Obviously such a center would also be a major benefit to the community at large.

Key Elements of the Program:

- **Direct Beneficiaries:** about 1000 youth from Tipitapa. Broader beneficiaries will be the entire population of Tipitapa and the surrounding area.
 - **The Building:** The 2,007-sq.-ft. building was built about 1860 and is one of the oldest in the city, with a historical designation as the site of the meeting of Zelaya and Sandino in 1927, whose failure led to Sandino's revolution. The community will own the building through the legal entity of the acaldia.
 - **Planned Programming:** An academy of dance (folk and contemporary), painting, sculpture, local music; an art gallery with a permanent collection. New cultural, training, recreational, and educational programs will be designed, as always (because of J23's continuing community-organization work) with the participation of the various local interest groups, especially the youth and the city. The acaldia would run the programs. This would be a cultural center with broader community use as well.
 - **Project Director:** Ramón González, City Engineer.
 - **Acquisition and Renovation Costs:**
 - **Acquisition:** the current asking price is \$40,000. The mayor and council will seek a sales-price reduction as a contribution from the current owner.
 - **Renovation:** pending an engineering study, the working estimate by the city council is \$40,000. If the engineering study returns with a much larger renovation estimate NOVA would withhold its money until the city raises the additional money.
 - **Operational Costs** (maintenance and programs)
 - **Program:** to be donated by artists and craftspeople, or paid for by the cultural portion of the annual municipal budget (currently and/or participant fees. The city has a program budget of US \$20,000. This is the city's budget for all cultural activities in the year, though many programs use volunteer resources.
- (*continued on next page*)

- **Maintenance:** to be covered by program income and rental income (e.g., for weddings, parties)
- **Timeline:** The sequence of events would be, broadly speaking, (1) NOVA's agreement to offer a challenge grant; (2) securing the participation of local funding sources mentioned in the earlier grant proposal; (3) negotiation and purchase of the property; (4) simultaneously and interactively 4-a (preparation of engineering plans) and 4-b (community participation process on program and space planning for the building), with the appointment of an alcaidia-citizens committee to monitor the project; (5) start of construction; (6) construction completion, and (7) initiation of programs. Since NOVA's challenge grant would be the financial lever for the whole project, NOVA controls the start of the whole process. Gladis estimates that the time from #1 through # 6 would be 6-8 months at the quickest, 12 months at the longest. Concerning escalation of costs - general contractors are rare for small and medium sized projects here. The alcaidia would hire and supervise the laborers through its engineer and purchase the materials directly. The price of labor is (sadly) cheap and fairly constant; thus, only the price of materials could entail significant possible cost increases, and that is unpredictable. The community would simply have to go to its local donors and get money to cover any increase in the cost of materials.

Project #3: Educate the Girls - Submitted by Nancy Veldhuis

Need: *Educate the Girls* is currently supporting 55 girls in school in rural Uganda who would otherwise not be able to attend elementary and secondary school and as a result be doomed to a life of poverty.

Background: I formed ETG as a non-profit about eight years ago and we have had numerous success stories. We sell baskets made by the women of the rural community where the girls live. All proceeds are returned to the women to keep most of the girls in school. Over the past couple of years we have been able to support six of the girls in school from a fund from the Arlington Unitarian Church and matching funds from the employer of a NOVA donor. Recently we have lost the Unitarian Church funding because of a change in their rules that requires five of their members to be involved in a project; we have just one, the ETG co-founder. We also lost the matching funding from the NOVA member's employer when the member changed jobs. We request NOVA's assistance in keeping the girls in school who have been previously funded by these two outside sources.

Impact: The impact is extraordinary. Just imagine the life of these six girls as illiterate females in the 21st century. Educated women are less likely to be oppressed or exploited, more likely to participate in the political process that affects their lives, have smaller families, have healthier and better educated children, and are less likely to die from AIDS.

How to Go About It: We need \$5,000 this year to fund six girls in elementary to secondary boarding school. My hope is that I will be able to secure an ongoing grant of \$5000 annually in future years.

Project #4: **Eve Birch's Butterfly Project** - Submitted by Teddi Ahrens

Proposal: That NOVA donates \$5,000; that amount would restore the truck and pay rent and utility deposits for the next house when Eve Birch relocates the shelter this summer. NOVA would continue the personal support, material donations and assistance already begun.

Mission: Administrator Eve Birch states that the mission of the project is "to make life a little easier on those homeless that I can help, offering meals and clothing, housing for three to five persons at a time for short-term stays, helping with documentation, creative nutrition, natural healing, hugs, laughter, and respect -- with the goal of them having an easier transition into the life they're trying to get." (*continued on next page*)

Project Description: Clients come to the shelter through “word of mouth” from hostile environments, women’s shelters, men’s mission, or the street. Eve helps them find the appropriate resources and become eligible for food stamps, health care, counseling, school, etc. If they need shelter, are drug-free, have exhausted other resources, and are not dangerous, she will provide shelter until they can find appropriate housing.

Project Rationale: Although NOVA already supports needy families in Northern Virginia in many ways, the *Butterfly Project* serves a population in West Virginia that has limited access to the multitude of services available in this area. This project also has a deep connection to the NOVA community because of Eve Birch and her family, early members of NOVA. Finally, the *Butterfly Project* operates “on a shoestring.” What we contribute would make a **huge difference** in its budget, as shown below; our continuing support would go a long way to reduce the stress of its reliance on limited resources.

Current Financial Need: 1) Rent and Utility deposits when Eve relocates from current place, which she must do. (1) Estimated rent deposit: \$850; (2) utility deposits: \$1,000. (3) urgent repairs needed on truck which a friend is working on, but the basic costs (no labor) plus insurance will add up to about \$3,000. Total Cost: \$4,850.

Ongoing Material Needs: (1) Lumber for shelves, usable beds, linens (which NOVA donates); (2) two “one shot” 5-6 hours of assistance to organize her office space and rolodex.

Benefit of Additional Income: Current income barely covers basic costs like rent, utilities, essential household supplies (food, hygiene, medicine cabinet, cleaning and laundry supplies), and truck upkeep. With more income, Eve could consider the following ideas: (1) pay off the \$1,000 loan she recently took out to cover expenses while she was in court instead of at work; (2) make a down payment on a “fix-up” house and get carpenter friends to help turn it into a comfortable shelter; (3) try to create some workshop space to explore the idea of “hands-on” programs in which people spend a few hours a week doing useful work, creating a product, etc. to earn income to support the project.

Project #5: **Micro-Finance Revolving-Loan Fund** - Submitted by John Mooney, Volunteer Consultant, J23 with Edwin Novoa, Director, and Ana María Gutiérrez, Chief, Department of Community Organization and Development, Instituto de Acción Social Juan XXIII (J23), Managua, Nicaragua

Proposal Summary: A \$4000 investment by NOVA to provide \$100 in interest-free loans (with monthly payments) to each of 40 women from the Nicaraguan communities of Ciudad Dario (population: 42,516), Villa El Carmen (28,822), and Tipitapa (108,075) after these women have completed technical courses, established by the J23 staff, in the areas of business they have chosen to pursue. The loans must be used to purchase the basic equipment and initial materials to start businesses in their local community. Out of regard for the probable number and size of requests for NOVA funding, J23 has limited its request to \$4000 for 40 women. However, from its experience with last year’s revolving-loan program, J23 anticipates that it will receive requests for, and could administer up to, \$7000 in new loan requests (70 women) this year.

The women in each community will form a committee (with a designated treasurer) that will collect the loan repayments and send them to J23’s local offices (the location of J23’s community pharmacies) in each community, where they will form a revolving loan fund for future loans within the same communities. A similar community-cohesion method of loan collection has been used successfully by J23 for over 10 years for its 3300+ housing-construction loans, with a delinquency rate of only 7% in 2009. With the continued guidance of J23 staff, the local committees will process future loan requests.

Background and Justification: J23 has for many years included the strengthening of women’s social position as one of the key pillars of its community-based integrated human-development (*concluded on next page*)

mission (community organization, housing, drinking water, adult and child education, construction of schools and medical posts, preventive community health, community pharmacies, gender education for men and women, women's leadership training, and disaster preparedness and response).

Three main factors have led J23 to focus on fostering economic activity for women: the general poor economic conditions in Nicaragua (second to only Haiti in poverty in our hemisphere), the special economic fragility of women in Nicaragua with virtually no social safety-net and frequent paternal absence (chosen or economically forced), and the proven benefit to families and communities of improving women's economic power. Thus, J23 has been providing women courses in hairdressing, clothes-making, beautician training, crafts, and pastry-making. In 2009, J23 trained 396 women in these areas but was able to give only 72 of them loans to start local businesses. The success of that program has increased demand for both the training (660 are anticipated in 2010) and the micro-loans.

The proposed \$4000, together with the repayment of previous loans into the local revolving-loan funds, will allow J23 to extend micro-loans to more, though far from all, of the women who finish the training part of the program.

How Does NOVA See Itself Today?

Mike Timpane submitted the following quote from a recent [Time Magazine](#) article ("The Trial of Pope Benedict XVI," by Jeff Israely and Howard Chua-Eoan, May 27, 2010), which he thinks is an apt description of the NOVA Community today:

"One vision for the future echoes from the past. A conservative website is circulating a prophecy uttered by a 42-year-old Catholic theologian in 1969, amid the turmoil of that year of radicalism and barricades. The priest envisioned a post-imperial papacy, shorn of wealth and pretenses of earthly power. *'From today's crisis, a church will emerge tomorrow that will have lost a great deal,'* he said on German radio. *'She will be small and, to a large extent, will have to start from the beginning. She will no longer be able to fill many of the buildings created in her period of great splendor. Because of the smaller number of her followers, she will lose many of her privileges in society. Contrary to what has happened until now, she will present herself much more as a community of volunteers ... As a small community, she will demand much more from the initiative of each of her members and she will certainly also acknowledge new forms of ministry and will raise up to the priesthood proven Christians who have other jobs ... It will make her poor and a church of the little people ... All this will require time. The process will be slow and painful.'* [italics added] The theologian was Joseph Ratzinger. And his vision from 40 years ago may now unfold in ways he could never have imagined."



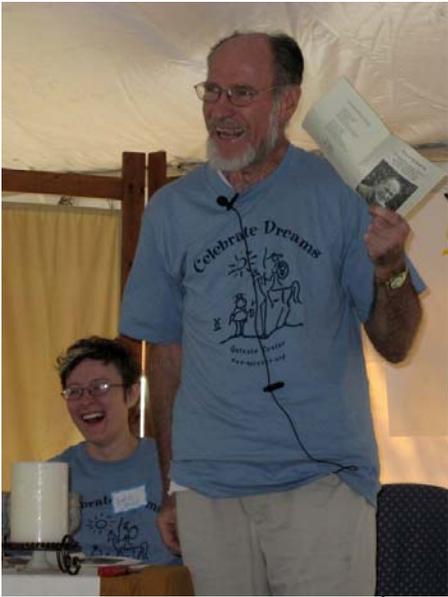
Memories of Bill Callahan



Bulletin Board Photos Displayed at Bill's Funeral Mass



Bill, Palm Sunday 2010



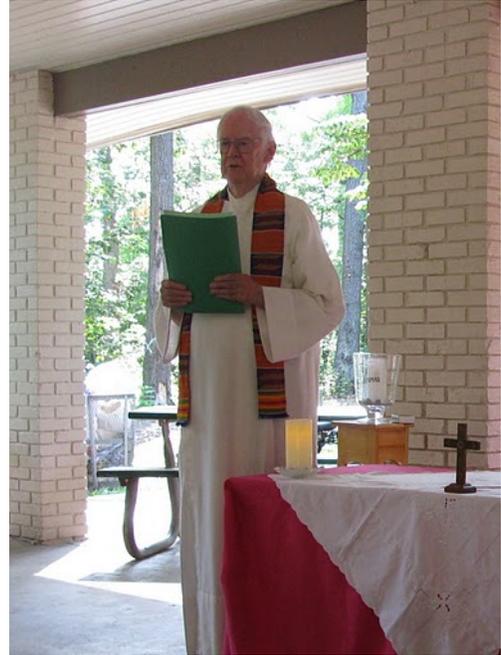
Bill at Celebration of His 50th Anniversary as Priest

July Liturgy Photos



Father Matthew Aerthayil, SJ

Three of our esteemed “Padre Cadre” at July Liturgies



Father John Haughey, SJ



Father Jim Coriden, Blessing Communion Ministers



Hetty & daughter Clementine,
visiting on July 4



Altar at July 25 Liturgy

Photos courtesy of Dianne and Ken