



nova notes

NOVA Catholic Community

October 2010

Chair Notes...

In spite of the warm afternoons, definite signs of CHANGE are in the air. Trees are wearing a touch of orange, squirrels are tossing acorns at our roof, and drifting leaves and seed pods seem to be piling up. Is it possible that the hottest summer on record is really ending? Are we ready to adjust to the change that's coming? Maybe just some small ones at first—long sleeves, fewer inches of open window, socks and shoes instead of bare feet and sandals. Sunday liturgies back at Kenmore instead of in the park. And eventually, more dramatic change—the ice and snow of winter (gasp!).

But what about the CHANGE that Dan Madigan referred to in his recent homily about the Prodigal Sons? (I use the plural deliberately.) Will we continue to think of our parent-God as the *God of lists*, the *God of permissions to get*, the *God who scolds, who keeps score*, like both of those sons did? Can we change these images and adjust to being in the presence of the *God who rushes out to welcome us, who dances with us, the God with an open heart*? It sounds so wonderful, so inviting.

On a more somber note, John Haughey spoke two weeks ago about “letting go”—renouncing all connections, relationships, our egos, all things, if we want to follow Christ, to give an authentic YES. In the end, he said, although we are nurtured in community, we must walk alone. That does not sound quite so wonderful. I like the warmth and safety of community. However, it seems much less scary—this alone business—if we can hold believe and hold onto Dan's description of the *loving God with the open heart* who is rushing out to meet us and be ready to imitate that example—rushing out to meet and welcome/serve our fellow travelers, as the Nova community strives to do in so many ways.

So in the end, we're asked to say YES to change. Not just from the comfort of sandals to shoes, but significantly from our old, distorted image of our scolding parent-God to what God-Love truly is and what God-Love asks of us. That's why we gather in community, right?

New Social Action Project

The Nova community said YES to dedicating its energy and resources to a significant new social action project at the General Meeting on September 12. Guided by prayer and music and the thoughtful leadership of the Peace and Justice Committee, the community selected The Micro-Finance Revolving Loan Fund, proposed by John Mooney. We agreed to raise and donate \$4,000 to the John XXIII Institute of Managua, Nicaragua, so that it can provide \$100 interest-free loans to women who have completed the necessary technical training and would use the loan to start a business in their community. The mission of John XXIII is to strengthen community-based economic and social development, and Nova's investment would support an essential component of that mission. Although only one project could be selected that evening, the community extended its heartfelt support and encouragement for the other proposals. Many thanks to PJC co-chairs Dianne and Marie, and to Cece, Meg, Cathy, Joe, Tim, Eric, Kopp, and John for helping us to listen, reflect and decide in such a thoughtful way.

Circle Saturday, October 9, to join the PAX Community in McLean, and participate in the “Listening Session” sponsored by the American Catholic Council. More details can be found in the September Bulletin and inside. And look for upcoming announcements about the development of our “Tables of Sixes and Eights” for fun.

~ Teddi Ahrens, Co-Chair

October Birthdays

NOVA Message Line (703) 852-7907

Chairpersons	Tom Clarkson Teddi Ahrens
Treasurer	Joe Formoso
Coordinator, Community Life	Cece Michelotti
Liturgy Coordinator	Gloria Mog
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 Tom Ahrens
- 4 Teddi Ahrens
- 5 Ben Brady
- 6 Chris Swanberg
- 11 Clyde Christofferson
- 12 Carolyn Miller
- 15 Betsy Marron
- 21 David Mog
- 22 Nancy Veldhuis

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 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 accident.

Kopp Michelotti, who is recovering from surgery

Cathy Showalter, who is recovering from an injury

John Veldhuis, who has had bypass surgery, and for **Nancy**, who is helping to care for him.

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.

**November Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, October 24**

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.

October Music Liaison Gloria Mog

October 3 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dan Madigan, SJ - Kate Doherty
Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4
Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9
2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14
Luke 17: 5-10

October 10 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna - Eric Carroll
2 Kings 5: 14-17
Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4
2 Timothy 2: 8-13
Luke 17: 11-19

October 17 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dan Madigan, SJ - Clyde and Judy Christofferson
Exodus 17: 8-13
Psalm 121: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2 Timothy 3: 14- 4: 2
Luke 18: 1-8

October 24 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Aiden Shea, OSB – Peggy Meyer
Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18
Psalm 34: 2-3, 17-19, 23
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18
Luke 18: 9-14

October 31 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Quinn Conners, O.Carm - Emma Violand-Sanchez
Wisdom 11: 22- 12: 2
Psalm 145: 1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 12, 14
2 Thessalonians 1: 11-2:2
Luke 19: 1-10

November Music Liaison Linda Rosenberg

November 7 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dan Madigan, SJ - Peace & Justice Group
2 Maccabes 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalm 17
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
Luke 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

November 14 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Quinn Conners, O.Carm. - Victoria Robinson
Malachi 3:19-20
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21: 5-19

November 21 - Christ the King

Joe Kenna - Jim and Archer Heinzen
2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalm 122
Colossians 1:12-20
Luke 23:35-43

November 28 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Aidan Shea, OSB – TBA
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Liturgy Lottery

The Liturgy Lottery will begin on October 3. If you are planning to join the Advent Team, please sign up early. Extra treat for early signers.

Social Action

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. 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.

October Gunston Schedule:

Oct. 7: Michael/Joe Kane

Oct. 14: Glen, Syd and _____

Oct. 21: Tim and Jerry,

Oct. 28: Mike Timpane, Eric and _____



Kopp, an AACH kickball fundraiser sponsor

Christ House

NOVA will be serving dinner at Christ House on Monday, October 18. Please bring meatloaf and/or scalloped potatoes to the liturgy on Sunday, October 17, or bring your food items to Christ House on Monday after 2:00 p.m. Kopp will be resting his shoulder after surgery and will not be working at Christ House in October. Ken Chaison has agreed to take the lead for October. **Additional help from the community would be most welcome.** If you'd like to help serve, please contact Ken Chaison by phone or email.

2010 Help the Homeless Walkathon

Saturday, November 20th

9:00 am

National Mall, Washington, DC

There will be plenty of opportunities for fun for you and your family at this event:

- Sign the "Why I Walk" wall.
- Take pictures with your favorite team mascot -- the Nationals' *Bobbleheads*, the Capitals' *Slapshot*, and DC United's *Talon*.
- Get an autograph from a Redskin cheerleader.
- Enjoy the high-energy stage program.



Cackley family with others at AACH softball fundraiser in August

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates

Reminder: Listening Session

DATE: Saturday, October 9, 2010

TIME: Refreshments 12:30 p.m.; program will start promptly at 1:00 and end at 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 a team including members from NOVA and PAX. 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. PAX has committed to thirty people, and NOVA to at least twenty.

The session is designed to elicit dialogue, in a small group format, about the kind of Catholic Church we desire and envision in the future. What kind of a Catholic Church do we wish to pass on to our children and grandchildren? 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? Responses to the October 9 dialogue (and many others like it across the country) will feed into 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.

If you plan to attend the listening session on October 9, please leave a message on the NOVA message line at 703-852-7907.

Note: For further information about the ACC meeting in Detroit next June, or to register, go to the website: www.americancatholiccouncil.org.

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 (10 persons per table). **Please register with Marie Pinho as soon as possible if you plan to attend.**

Learn How to Work for Social Change

On Saturday, October 23, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., Coleman McCarthy will speak at the Saint Mark Catholic Church, Msgr. Thomas J. Cassidy Activities Center, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Mr. McCarthy, a highly respected peace activist and teacher, will talk about how we can be empowered and work more effectively for social change by embracing the skills that he teaches at the Center for Teaching Peace, where he serves as the director. He will share his insights relative to developing the competencies needed to become more effective advocates for the most vulnerable.

The goal is not only to make legislators and the public more aware of the most vulnerable in our society and the structural injustices that keep them from having a place at the table, but also to advocate more effectively for social justice via peaceful social change. **Please plan to attend.**

~ John Horesji, Social Action Linking Together

Noteworthy News Items

September Peace and Social Justice Meeting

Sunday, September 12, we came together with the desire and interest to ask, "What more can we do? ...with deep love and commitment to community, assured that together we can do more. We had gone through a process of seeking proposals and getting clarification so that we might reflect on and choose a one-time project to support as a full community. It is in addition to our existing projects. The five proposals were all valuable, exciting and worthy ones offered by NOVA members.

After much discussion, we chose the Micro-Finance Revolving Loan Fund for women in Ciudad Dario, Villa El Carmen and Tipitapa, Nicaragua as the project to launch this experiment in doing more in community. The loans are given only 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.

There were offers by several people to form small groups to support Co-Partners of Campesinas and the Butterfly project to reach their goals in the very important services they offer to the poor. "Educate the Girls" has asked for specific support in selling tickets to their fundraiser and helping them reach their goal to keep their girls in school this academic year.

The last section of the meeting was devoted to brainstorming how to pull off this commitment to these women. The "Men Who Cook" fundraiser and a sponsorship program generated the most interest. The committee is currently seeking volunteers to set up these efforts so that we can hit the ground running in this additional approach to our peace and social justice activities. Information will soon be available on our website.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee is deeply grateful to Teddi Ahrens, Archer Heinzen, John Mooney and Nancy Veldhuis for the work and heart they put into the proposals. To the rest of our community, we say thank you for your respectful reflection and commitment to an expansive vision of serving the least among us.

~ PSJ Committee: Joe Annunziata, Dianne and Eric Carroll, Kopp and Cece Michelotti, Marie Keefe, Cathy Showalter, Meg Tuccillo, John Veldhuis, Tim White.

Former NOVA "Padre Cadre" Members in the News

Recall the Council of Trent from 1545-1563 in Padua, Italy? No? No problem – Wikipedia can refresh your memory. However, if you missed reading about the meeting of approximately 600 Catholic ethicists and moral theologians late July in Trent in the September 3, 2010 issue of *The National Catholic Reporter*, it's well worth your time to go to <http://ncronline.org/news/global/trent-launches-world-revolution-theology>. The July conference, entitled "In the Currents of History: From Trent to the Future," included at least a couple of priest-scholars familiar to the NOVA Community: Father Charlie Curran (now a professor at SMU), whose remarks from an address at the conference are included in the NCR issue, and there's a photo of Peter Henriot, who also attended the conference. (Peter's ministry in Zambia is one of the community's ongoing PSJ projects.) Among his remarks, Father Curran stressed that the church hierarchy (as well as those in attendance) cannot "put our heads in the sand" to avoid not responding to the many moral issues (divorce, contraception, legalized abortion, the role of women in the Church, etc.) that drive many baptized Catholics away from the Church. Did you know that one out of ten people in the U.S. is a "fallen away" Catholic? Are some of those people in your immediate family? Father Curran's message is that the time for Church reform cannot be delayed any longer.

Thank You Letters

Letter from the Camboni Sisters to Carolyn Miller and NOVA (The community provides monthly support for this education project in the South Sudan.)

Dear Carolyn and the NOVA Community:

Greetings and much peace and joy in Jesus Christ! We are enjoying a lot of rain; we are cultivating a great variety of products to help us in our daily diet, vegetables and fruit trees. It is a week since we moved to our new convent, a permanent building. The winds and rains are very strong here but now we are protected. God has been so good and kind to us through the hearts and hands of many people, and through you. Thank you.

The roads are muddy but I can reach both schools. The students are doing their best, by now the students in class 8 have reached 120 (101 are boys and 19 are girls). We keep on encouraging the girls to persevere in the school because they are given in marriage at a very early age.

The tribal and political situation is tense and people are killed very easily. The local authorities do not do much in this regard because the situation is not clear and they are controlled by the Government. We hope and pray that the referendum for self-determination for South Sudan may be done and not postponed as there are some rumors. Greetings from all of us and keep well.

*United in prayer, con carino,
Adriana*

Excerpts from letter from Little Friends for Peace (A NOVA second collection provided funds for several children to attend a Peace Camp this summer.) – Submitted by Peggy Meyer

Dear Friends:

. . . Thanks to your generosity, ten children from Cameroon, Uganda and Ethiopia joined American-born children to experience peace together for one or two weeks and to pick up some skills that peacemaking requires.

Thanks to the “magic” of peace that the teen counselors picked up as former campers, the children experienced the personal care and affirmation that bring them back year after year. They were escorted to their small groups each morning to hear stories of peace and heroes and share their own experiences of peace and “unpeace.” . . .

Most of the campers learned how to ride a bike . . . and six children who needed a bike took one home with them. . . .

We hope to offer more peace experiences for the children and their parents during the school year – at the Peace Room in DC and at our Peace Oasis in Accokeek, MD. Thanks for being a Peace Partner with us.

*Peace to you,
MJ and Jerry Park, Co-Directors*

September Liturgy Photos



Ken and Matt (So what's new with you?)



Archer discussing the work of Co-Partners of Campesinas, one of NOVA's many ongoing social justice projects



Valerie Dixon discussing the prison ministry project supported by NOVA



Post-liturgy Labor Day picnic turns out to be a "feast"



Rosemarie shares her reflections during dialogue



Dan Madigan invites us to share the Eucharist

2010 Annual NOVA Retreat

Opening Retreat Prayer

In this autumn season we are full of the warmth of the summer sun.

Family vacations, the renewing energy of the waves that refresh our spirits and our bodies. The salt water, bitter on our tongue, yet buoying us as the waves rock us about. The ocean buoys us like a baby rocked at his father's knee.

The sunsets grow longer, reddish, orange, lingering over the mountain ranges to our west.

We are reminded of You, Lord . . .
Ever present, holding us in Your heart.

We have been nourished by the gifts of the earth in the summer; they are gifts from You, Adonai. You who have carried us since we were first ignited in creation from our parent's love. In these moments we have the beauty of fresher air, easier to breathe than the sultry heat of the summer. The peaches were recently ripe; they fall from the trees without a murmur. The apples are ripe for picking.

Our souls are ripe for You, here in Shrine Mont, as we gather with our friends and loved ones in community (although let us not forget those who we hold deep in our hearts who cannot be among us today except in spirit.)

Among the fish, crayfish, turtles, toads and butterflies.
And aren't we all part of them, like them?
In different moments we could inhabit the characteristics of each.

Let us pray, as we begin this retreat, that we remember Your Spirit as the days grow shorter, our obligations begin to overwhelm us and we lapse into the temptation to put ourselves first in our need to meet our obligations.

Adonai, You are always with us, always listening and caring. We find Your strength through prayer and we find You in one another. It's in the dance among us that we experience Your love, peace, faithfulness, patience, kindness and gentleness. ~ Catherine Schmitt

Reflection: Joy after Sorrow

There's hardly a place without joy. I find it in a burst of goldfinches, the sunset arresting me mid-step, grandbabes, a pause to feel air against skin. Always available. Always startling. Words, succulent words, that knock me off center, oblique markers to a different path. Images from the Hubble breaking all frontiers of imagination. Marvel swiftly followed by gratitude.

~Marie Keefe



Photo by Ken from retreat bird walk

Retreat Photos

Friday – Arrival and Evening Gathering



Eric displaying his catch



Cathy and Kopp (discussing recovery strategies?)



Getting into the spirit Friday night gathering



Tim and Victoria lead in singing "oldies"

Saturday Morning Bird Walk Views



A true web master!

More Retreat Photos

Saturday Sessions and Fun Time



Meditative moment on Saturday



Dianne trying to capture a moment



Community collage, a work in progress



Music—always a part of any NOVA scene



Kate and Dianne



Bill, Linda and Jack enjoying a game of "NOVA-opoly" at Saturday evening game time

Sunday Morning Liturgy



Liturgy Theme Statement, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 19, 2010

We have spent this weekend telling our stories and weaving the tapestry of our community ever more firmly together. We build understanding, compassion and trust with one another, so that we might extend these gifts to all who are in need. Jesus, too, was the consummate story teller. He knew that this was the way to help us understand, deepen our compassion and send us forth to be present with all – especially the poor and the disenfranchised. Today’s readings take us into the heart of the matter – how we treat the poor, how we do “business” with one another. How we build trust is of great concern in God’s vision of community. ~Gloria Mog

“My Story – Your Story” Lyrics from song composed for the NOVA Retreat by Tim White and Barbara Formoso

Chorus:

My story is my own; it comes from all I’ve known.
Just as yours is too; yet you are not alone.
Sharing finds a thread, a bridge from me to you.
Then healing can begin; in spirit we are one.

Verse 1

A birth begins, a life unknown
Scrolls through open space and time.
The joy, the pain, the love, the shame
Weave seamlessly a clear design.
(Chorus)

Verse 2

To move, to be, to live to see
Is all that I am asked to do.
Let go, let be – a stream, a sea --
I’m part of something always new.

Bridge

Remembering and sharing a sacred gift of love
Bring healing and rejoicing,
We feel the spirit move!
(Chorus)



Tim and Barbara lead community in singing

Editor’s Note: To view many more retreat photos, visit Dianne’s website. (See top of page 2.)