



# nova notes

NOVA Catholic Community

40th Anniversary Issue

**HAPPY 40<sup>TH</sup>!**

## Another

Epiphany with  
manifestation  
of the Divine

Spirit breathing in our midst. NOVA has spent 40 years unfolding and unpacking that original breath of a proposal to the diocese to form “a worshipping community, including permission and encouragement for our celebration of Sunday Mass together while we study how the liturgy and our lives can be more fully directed to worship of God and to Christ’s service of God in the world.” (The NOVA Community Report to the Liturgical Commission, Diocese of Richmond, June 1968)

Whether this service was to be solely liturgical or to include social action was an issue early on for NOVA and was soon resolved. “Out of our early experience with greater lay involvement in planning and conducting liturgies has grown a firm belief in and commitment to the effectiveness of individual and community action as a means of addressing the needs of the larger human family.” (S. Donahue/T. Masanz, Nova Chairs)

This action over time has emerged with study-prayer-action into Social Justice and Peace. Social concern has become a major focus for the community in addition to liturgical formation. In some cases it has been a communal effort, as with recent support of the Affirmandi in an overseas human service venture. In more cases than not it has been individual led. “To be a member of NOVA is most of all to look deep within yourself with courage and integrity, to find the beginnings of renewal first in yourself and then to be *alive, aware, and available* to all those whose lives you touch.” (Jean Jaeger Mendez 1969)

NOVA’s beginnings are rooted in the Vatican II renewal efforts and remain rooted in that fertile ground of hopeful participation in Christ’s inclusiveness. The radical equality of all humans, as shown by the lively spirit of John XXIII, hovers over our gatherings. The caste system is abolished so that laity, clergy and religious may work freely and equally at the tasks of

worship and service to the world. (Jean Jaeger Mendez 1969)

“Today NOVA is still a Roman Catholic community whose members gather every Sunday to worship together and share the Eucharist. We try to live as church with as little formal structure as possible. Thus, NOVA has neither buildings nor resident pastor. We rely on the process of consensus to decide major questions that come before us.” (S. Donahue/T. Masanz, Nova Chairs) While this observation was made in the last Century, ‘tis still true today in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with an evolving notion of consensus with multiple leaders and strong personalities.

We now seek to understand our place not only within the Church but also in the world, in the Universe, in fellowship with all God’s creations, in the Divine. Quite contrary to an egocentric seeing the Divine in us, we are beginning to realize we are in the Divine. We only have to open our eyes and hearts to begin to understand our place and how to fulfill it.

Our theology is becoming Epiphany at heart in seeing all that is before us as a manifestation of the Divine Spirit breathing in our midst. Whether it is Resurrection Theology, Incarnational Theology, Liberation Theology, the varieties of Christian belief, the varieties of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and animist approaches, or even creation itself, all are revealing aspects of the Divine while coming out of a tremendous variety of cultural traditions. Even NOVA has its own cultural traditions which all came to play in our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

This celebration was both a marker in the road for the Epiphanies we have seen and shared as well as a sign post pointing toward future manifestations of the Divine Spirit.

Bon Voyage,

~Eric Carroll

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**NOVA Chairs**

- Joe Wholey
- Mike Timpane
- George White
- Peter Fitzpatrick
- Paul Heise
- Gil and Sonja Donahue
- Ken Fredgren
- Gregg & Valerie Dixon
- Clyde & Judy Christofferson
- Pat Reinhart
- Joe Annunziata
- Dick & Peggy Magee
- Jack McCarthy
- Bill Meyer
- Eric Carroll
- Jack Bartley & Gen Timpane
- Mike Chase & Karen Coale
- Linda Gardner
- Jan Tarasovic
- Jim McCormick & Meg Tuccillo
- Larry Goldschmidt & Jean Mendez
- Gloria Mog & Jean Mendez
- Dianne Carroll & Lauren Fleischman
- Sonja Donahue & Tim Masanz
- Tim Masanz & Bonnie Lowrey
- Bonnie Lowrey, Jerry Barrett & Victoria Robinson
- Victoria Robinson, John & Ruth Mausert-Mooney
- Mary Gillmarten, Cece & Kopp Michelotti
- Bill Meyer, Cece & Kopp Michelotti
- Kate Iskander & Bernice Todaro
- Phil & Alicia Cackley & Amy Ward
- Marjorie Weber, Cathy & Laura Goldschmidt
- Marjorie Weber, Cathy Goldschmidt, Rosemarie Annunziata
- Judy Christofferson, Jorge Osterling, Rosemarie Annunziata
- Anne Passin & Nicco Mele
- Anne Passin & Sonja Donahue
- Jeanne Clarkson & Chris Massey
- Marceline Niemann, Marie Keefe, Ken Chaison
- Marceline Niemann, Marie Keefe, John Tarrant
- John Tarrant and John & Nancy Veldhuis
- Eric Carroll, John & Nancy Veldhuis



*NOVA Chairs, 2008  
John & Nancy Veldhuis, Eric Carroll*



You are cordially invited  
To

**NOVA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
January 11-13, 2008

**Friday - Gathering In**

7PM - Welcoming Dinner and Musical Memories  
at

the home of Meg Tuccillo, 2532 N. Ridgeview Rd, Arlington, VA

**Saturday - Main Celebration**

**NOVA at 40**

**Giving Thanks For The Work To Be Done**

at

John Calvin Presbyterian Church  
6531 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, Va. 22003

**4PM - Liturgical Celebration**

Quinn Connors, O.Carm., Presider  
Ken Himes, OFM, Homilist

**6PM - Nova Gala**

**Catered dinner**

Film Premiere: "The Nova Story" - produced by Jim Furlong, et.al.

A Festive Frolic - Ted Miller, emcee

(reservations required)

**Sunday - Brunch & Round Table**

**Beyond 40 Years: A Challenge to Nova**

10AM - 1PM

Reflections and Discussion by Nova's Padre Cadre

at

Kenmore Middle School, Carlyn Springs Rd/Route 50, Arlington, VA.

Please register now at [www.nova40th.info](http://www.nova40th.info) or call Nova's phone line, 703-852-7907, to request a form by mail.

Donation: \$40.00/person

Make checks payable to Nova 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary send to:

Nova 40<sup>th</sup>, 407 N. Livingston St. Arlington, VA 22203

Directions to events will be available on the website.

Contact Teddi Ahrens, [ritaahrens@aol.com](mailto:ritaahrens@aol.com) or 571-201-8622,

if you have housing needs for the weekend.

On the registration form you are invited to answer the following question:

How has your time and/or connection with Nova impacted your life?

Further questions/concerns contact: Gloria Mog, 703-522-1812 or Dianne Carroll, 703-536-2616

**Volunteers for 40<sup>th</sup> Year Activities**  
**Giving Thanks for the Work to be Done**  
**Coordinators: Dianne Carroll, Gloria Mog, Meg Tuccillo**



**Assigned Coordinator:** Gloria Mog

**Liturgy:** Anne Passin (Convener), Teddi Ahrens, Peggy Becker, Tim White, Cathy Showalter, Rosemarie Annunziata, Gloria Mog, Clare Robert

**Sunday Round Table (Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>)**

*"Beyond 40 Years: Nova's Challenge"*,

Joe Annunziata (convener), Peggy Becker, John Birch, Kathy Scheimer, Cece Michelotti, Kopp Michelotti, John Tarrant, Eric Carroll

**Publicity/Publications:** Ted Miller (convener), Teddi Ahrens

**Website:** Ken Chaison

**Assigned Coordinator:** Meg Tuccillo

**Dinner Reception:** Cathy Goldschmidt, Bernice Todaro, Cece Michelotti, Cathy Showalter, Rose Barrett, Marie Keefe, Jeanne Clarkson

**Entertainment:** Ted Miller (convener/emcee), Marie Pinho, Mike Marron, Mike Timpane

**Friday Night "Gathering In":** Meg Tuccillo & Dinner team

**Musical Memories:** Victoria Robinson (convener), Tim White, et.al.

**Sunday Brunch:** Joe Annunziata & Round Table team

**Assigned Coordinator:** Dianne Carroll

**Invitations:** Dianne Carroll

**Registration:** Dianne Carroll

**Treasurer:** Larry Goldschmidt

**Social Justice Projects Display:** Marie Keefe

**The Nova Story DVD:** Jim Furlong, Teddi Ahrens, Jim Todaro, Dianne Carroll

**Housing Coordinator:** Teddi Ahrens

## **An Anniversary to Be Remembered**

by Gloria Mog, Chair

Spectacular! Moving! Thrilling! Inspirational! Fun! Glorious! Impressive! The adjectives kept flying at me throughout Nova's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration week-end and for weeks afterwards. Everyone seemed to want to share their feelings and express deep gratitude for all the work that had gone into creating this very special occasion. I was overwhelmed – the adjectives felt right and yet, somehow, words couldn't quite capture my own deep feelings of gratitude, pride and joy in being a part of this stirring event. Friday night's gathering was fun, connecting, rollicking and warm. Saturday's liturgy was magnificent, soaring, inspirational and tear-filled. The Gala was electric, uplifting, delicious and hilarious. Sunday's Round Table was gentle, thoughtful, provocative and poignant. You see, there just aren't sufficient words to capture it all.

So, how did it all come to be? Did we hire a "wedding planner"? Engage outstanding musicians and famous liturgists? Commission an expert film maker to tell our story? Hire comedians and singers to entertain us? Of course not, we did it all "The Nova Way": engage the whole community in deciding what we want; set a theme; sign up practically everyone to do something; start meeting and building energy; get grandiose and impractical; fall on our faces a few times; laugh a lot; stay up to the wee hours of the

morning at deadline time; invite the world to come, and then let it roll.

In the summer of 2006 I was asked to help organize the celebration (we know what that means in Nova-language). I readily agreed and then started looking for leader-buddies. Dianne and Meg cheerfully said, "Sure!" We set the date for the event and in January, 2007 we were casing out the sanctuary and hall of St. Clement's in Alexandria to see if we could really fit everyone in there. In February, 2007 the chairs held a general meeting where 35 people excitedly brainstormed all the possibilities for the celebration and then signed up to work on what they felt most called to do. We were off and running. No less than fifteen committees were formed and the most amazing display of commitment and creativity unfolded throughout the year.

Anne Passin was in charge of the liturgy and so she went to sit and think and pray in the sanctuary of St. Clement's last spring. Something was missing and she finally came to us quietly and said, "This isn't right. It doesn't feel like Nova, it's too formal and hierarchical." She was right, of course, and even though we hated to leave the warm and welcoming people of St. Clement's, the venue changed to John Calvin Presbyterian Church. There were so many thoughtful and loving encounters like that. Anna Reich was sorely disappointed that she would be in Australia at the time of the event, so before she left she put her heart and soul into

designing flower/plant arrangements and table decorations to be used for Saturday night. Jeanne Clarkson was in charge of the retreat and kept cooking on themes to inspire and provoke us in this year of reflection. She finally settled on "Crossing the Borders", pushing us to consider how we could move out of our comfort zone a little more. And then there was Jim Furlong who produced that magnificent film, "The Journey", telling the story of where we've been and where we are now. Jim spent about 300 hours making the film and swears he would never have been able to do it without the countless other hours put in by Jim Todaro and Teddi Ahrens, Dianne, Tim and Victoria. And there were so many others working together on all parts of the week-end – just too numerous to mention all here.

Through it all, Dianne, Meg and I kept meeting and planning and deciding and emailing and standing in awe of what everyone was doing. We set a budget back in June and realized by October that we were about \$4,000 short. "Oh well, we'll find the money somewhere – it's 'The Nova Way'". In the 25 years that I have been associated with Nova, I don't think I have ever felt as proud and deeply satisfied as I felt on the week-end of January 11-13, 2008. I really understood in my heart what Anne's theme suggestion was all about – "Giving thanks for the work to be done". It was such a privilege to lead this effort; I am humbled and inspired by our community – beyond words.

# NOVA Forty Years Ago . . .

## – The Thrill of it All

by Warren Reich

My recollections of the founding of Nova – and of the liturgical renewal that led to the creation of Nova – are characterized by one overriding feeling: just the thrill of it all.

It was a very *exciting* time for those who initiated change in the church's liturgy in 1967 and 1968 – not because of a superficial desire for change, but because of the profundity of what was being discovered and rediscovered from a hidden past. More than that, the excitement came from the discovery that we, the celebrating group, could be *a community of freedom – a community that joyfully created the celebration of ancient mysteries* in a happy, contemporary setting in which all of us had a voice and a role to play.

I am writing this memoir with an enthusiasm generated by my own involvement as an early celebrant in Nova, and as one who was active in the liturgical movement and especially in liturgical music in the 1950s and 1960s.

What we experienced with the establishment of Nova in 1968 began in 19<sup>th</sup>-century France at the Benedictine monastery of Solesmes, where a movement later called the Liturgical Movement started. That Movement first enriched the celebration of the *old* Latin liturgy. Among other things, it fostered Gregorian chant, leading to the Second Vatican Council giving the chant “pride of place in liturgical services.” The Liturgical Movement went in expansive, new directions in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for theological reasons and because of the pastoral need for lay involvement in the liturgy.

Throughout the sixties many of us were involved in a revolution in liturgical music in the United States. Leading music critics and musicians advocated putting aside the two hymnals then in use – the St. Basil Hymnal and the St. Gregory Hymnal. The idea was not only to return to Gregorian chant, but especially to encourage the composition of new liturgical music that would fit our times and our traditions.

In some significant ways, those developments in liturgy, symbolized by liturgical music, constituted the background for the emergence of Nova as a liturgical community.

In Washington, DC, “The People” was formed and kept alive by people like Gil and Sonja Donahue. It was a loosely organized – really, not organized at all! – movement that fostered both Catholic intellectual life and experiments in the liturgy. We met and celebrated the new liturgy in seminary chapels in the District of Columbia; and music was an important part of those experimental liturgies. Soon, there were so many hundreds of people attending that we had to arrange for two or three liturgies in various places.

It was exciting to hear musicians play guitars – an instrument that, in late 1967, was actually forbidden by Cardinal O’Boyle of Washington! – and various other non-standard instruments accompanying some very original – and some very joyous! – music. I’ll never forget the thrill when I first saw banners – yes, immense, colorful banners – flaunted in liturgical processions! I had never thought such a thing possible.

But for me, the most vivid symbol of that entire era was the song “Georgy Girl” from the 1966 movie of the same name, starring the young Lynn Redgrave (who played Georgy) and James Mason. That song, sung by The Seekers (an Australian music group!), was a great hit in the U.S. and other countries and became, in my mind, the anthem of “The People’s” liturgy, where it was occasionally sung. It was also, concurrently, the “theme song” of the huge demonstrations organized at Catholic University, in support of the dissenting theologian-professors, of which I was one. If my memory serves me correctly, the song was carried over into Nova in 1968.

I’m not sure why the song caught on so well in those settings. It certainly would not have been approved by the monks of Solesmes, not to mention the local bishop! I suspect that “Georgy Girl” became an important theme song, at least for a few months, because Georgy was young and

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# NOVA Forty Years Ago . . .

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independent; and the lyrics encouraged her: “Don’t be scared of changing, rearranging yourself. Oh what a change it would be....” It was an exciting time of change; and the song “Georgy Girl” seemed to be our symbol of change. The fact that Georgy was a woman accentuated the boldness of the change.

After “The People” were disbanded by the archbishop of Washington, I was one of the people in the then-emerging Nova group who recommended that we move “across the Potomac,” because I was confident that Bishop Russell would offer us greater liturgical hospitality. By that time, the Richmond diocese had already created one of the finest liturgical committees of any diocese in the U.S. That committee –headed by Monsignor Carroll Dozier and a team of extremely intelligent and well-prepared priests – created the environment that made Nova possible. In 1968 Carroll Dozier, who later became bishop of Memphis, recommended to Bishop Russell that he approve Nova as a liturgical community. Fortunately, Bishop Russell acted on that recommendation.

But the greatest stroke of good luck came with the first godfather of Nova in Northern Virginia. Father Albert Pereira, who was pastor of St. Luke parish in McLean from 1965 to 1973, was not only a model priest and pastor and our official ecclesiastical “guardian” in the diocese. What many people may not realize is that he provided an important intellectual link back to the emerging Liturgical Movement that commenced in Solesmes. Al Pereira had studied, in Vienna, under Pius Parsch, one of the leading liturgical theologians of the early part of the twentieth century. Consequently, Al knew how to “translate” the riches of the Liturgical Movement in his homilies at the earliest Nova liturgies; and he knew how – *and why!* – the liturgy needed to be celebrated in small, new communities like Nova. We would never have become who we are except for Al Pereira and his liturgical vision.

Many of the people first associated with this history have passed away: Cardinal O’Boyle, Bishop Russell, Gil Donahue, Al Pereira, Carroll Dozier,

and many of the early members of Nova. But Nova and its spirit are still alive.

We need to revitalize ourselves – once again, around the liturgy. If we resolve to do that, we will find new life and new purpose, even as we joyously and gratefully celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

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## Memories and Consequences

by Gabriel Fragnière

Member of the Community in 1968

We lived, my first wife Monique and I, for a year in Washington D.C., from September 1967 until October 1968. I was there, thanks to a research fellowship attributed by the Commonwealth Fund of New York, to study the history of religions in the United States, their relation with politics, and their impact on the development of democracy, comparing the respective role of American churches in relation to the American Revolution, and that of the Catholic Church during the French Revolution. While pursuing my research mainly in the Library of Congress, I was following a course on the history of early Pilgrims and Puritans at the American University. It is there that we met Kate and Neil Vahle, during mass on Sunday. We became well acquainted, and they invited us to join the NOVA Community early in 1968. This is how we became engaged in that initiative.

After having discovered that we were not going to have children, we adopted a young boy, already two years old, who came to live with us in May of that year. He was the first child baptized within the Community on July 28, 1968. In the liturgical folder which was prepared for his baptism, I found the following text: “With joy and thanks we welcome Noel into our community. His life enriches the life of NOVA, and his baptism is the means of continuing the life of the Church. We want to help him realize his unique destiny...” Noel will become 42 years old next spring. His destiny was

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however not very traditional, as we discovered later that he was autistic. He lives now in a specialized institution with other handicapped adults, where he is well taken care of. His sister, Moira, was also adopted from Washington D.C., two years later. She is now married, has two boys, nine and five years old, and works as a social worker in Brussels. Monique and I have later divorced, and I am married again, living not far from Bruges as a retired professor, spending my time reading, writing, and editing books for an international academic publisher, Peter Lang, ...and also, from time to time, taking care of my garden.

I am extremely glad that Marie Pinho managed to discover me again, after so many years, and gave me the opportunity to take part, even from far away, in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of NOVA. Because if the community never promised, as it did for Noel, “to help me to realize my unique destiny...,” I can’t deny the fact that my experience with the NOVA community has certainly played a key role in the development of my life, especially in my way of thinking about religion. Having received a very traditional catholic education, with two years of scholastic philosophy within the school of a Benedictine Abbey in Switzerland, it was difficult to liberate my religious practice from the burden that the institution represented in my eyes. Slowly I was beginning, while doing research, to understand that if lay-people did not take the initiative to change the situation, nothing would evolve within the Church. The experience at NOVA was in that sense a very practical example, within a Catholic environment, of what I was progressively becoming aware through my research.

The problem of “power” in the relationship between religion and politics was at the centre of my interest, and I slowly became convinced that if religion was to achieve its goal (i. e. helping human beings to discover the meaning of their personal lives) it should liberate itself from any involvement in political affairs. This was opposed to the Augustinian tradition which shaped the history of “Western Chris-

tendom”, in which the *civitas dei* was supposed to dictate its own purpose and values to the *civitas terrena*, e. i. the political system. Still, the Puritans continued to do it in Massachusetts, and obviously the Catholic Church continued to believe it should do it, certainly up to the Second Vatican Council in the sixties. I discovered then that the first real break away from “Christendom” happened indeed in America, with Roger Williams in Rhodes Island, (he defined Christendom as “a polluting mixture of politics with religion”) and later with the first amendment of the Constitution. Consequently, the title I selected for the book that resulted from my research was: *The Kingdom of Man. I was indeed recognizing that if the purpose of politics was not to build the Kingdom of God, but only a human society, while religion was supposed to open a different dimension in human life, the establishment of democracy required consequently a secularization of society. The book I wrote to explain and develop that argument was published in French in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1973. (Le royaume de l’homme).*

Since then, my career occupied my mind with quite different matters, as I have been involved, for more than twenty-five years, as a consultant in European affairs, dealing mainly with problems of education policies, vocational training, social policies and so forth. I abandoned my catholic religious practice, without stopping to see in the existing religions throughout the world and in different civilizations, the key function of searching for the meaning of one’s own life. I thus continued to study these questions, and after my retirement, about twelve years ago, I taught for some time “sociology of religion” in Warsaw, at the social institute of the Central European University. And for the last seven years, I have been responsible editor of a series of international academic books concerned with this topic entitled: “Gods, Humans and Religions”.

Of course, my perspective is now quite different from the time I was active within NOVA. If you consider that the religions of the world are specific manifestations of human experiences and behav-

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ior, the problem is no longer which one to select for your individual practice, but what is common within the huge diversity of these human experiences, cults, liturgies, prayers and devotions. I have attended for instance, in 2004, the meeting of the “Parliament of the World Religions” in Barcelona, and I discovered again the richness of the creativity of unknown prophets, preachers and saints. I was surprised to discover, for instance, that among the more or less two hundred organized and openly recognized religions in the world, more than one hundred fifty were launched and developed after 1830 only. Those of the future are still to be born!

The key question remains in my mind how to act in order to help all religiously convinced human beings to live together without rejecting, even enter into war against, those who are different or believe in other things and other gods. Because, if religious movements do not help to avoid that unhappy “Clash of Civilizations” which risks to lead human beliefs into violent conflicts with each other, what function are they supposed to fulfill in the present and tomorrow’s world? The changes which took place on the very role of religion in society seem to offer such a perspective. It is obvious today, in most of our secular societies, (perhaps more in Europe than in the United States!) that those individuals who are participating in religious practice do it on a voluntary basis and not under pressure of a dominating social institution. They participate not in the name of a culture which is imposed on them and with which they are socially and culturally identified, but with the purpose of participating individually and actively in what they want to do. This is, I believe, what I have learned through my participation in the NOVA community forty years ago. And it seems that the present members are pursuing in the same line. Religious practice has indeed become voluntary, based on personal choices. A few years ago, for instance, a specialized research institute on new religious movements based in Turin, Italy, organized an international scientific Congress in London under the title: “The spiritual Supermarket”. The world religious scene is indeed changing.

This has been one of the key questions raised in a new book that I produced in 2005, in the series I am responsible for with the publisher Peter Lang (see: [www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com)) under the French title: *La religion et le pouvoir. La chrétienté, l’Occident et la démocratie*. **“Religion and Power. Christendom, The West and Democracy”**. The main body of the book resulted also from my research of forty years ago, including chapters of the previous book, *The Kingdom of Man*, which have been revised and extended. I have tried finally, in the last chapter of the book, to see how the questions raised were shaping a new world under the title: “Towards a Post-Christian Western civilization, or a Post-Western Christianity?” The last few pages were devoted to three religious personalities who have exercised, in my eyes, a great influence on the world religious scene in the second part of the Twentieth Century. They all illustrate how religious institutions are indeed evolving toward a completely new role in our societies. These persons were: Krishnamurti, the Dalai Lama, and the Pope John Paul II. I propose to translate these last pages for you, in order to illustrate what I think I have learned from my experience within NOVA. I really think that without my experience in that community I could not have been able to write these pages so many years later. This passage also raises questions which are addressed directly to the Catholic Vatican Church, due to its specific position in the history of Christianity. I hope you will find some interest in my modest contribution to NOVA’s anniversary.

G. F.

*Ruddervoorde, Belgium, December 2007*

[Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, Gabriel’s chapter referenced here and family photos will be distributed separately ... Perhaps for a group discussion?]



# ***NOVA Forty Years Ago . . .***

by Jean Mendez

We were on fire.

Our Church — our beloved Church that so many of us had served in so many ways — was breathing the fresh air of change.

Guided and enlightened, we, the Laity, were being accepted and encouraged to take our places in the day-to-day life of the Church; enfranchised to help direct its journey into a Light-filled, Joyous, and Loving Future.

We followed our Shepherd – that Wondrous Shining Gift to us  
- John XXIII  
- With gratitude and great delight.

As the dawn erased the darkness, our voices were raised in song and story,  
- our bodies in movement and dance,  
- our minds in signs and symbols,  
- our hearts in prayer.

We leapt into action, involvement, creativity with determination, all fueled by the inspiration and dedication of leaders from among our midst who had embraced the vision of the Church's glowing future.

We were NOVA.

# Before our Celebration . . .



## **We May Not Have A Building, But We Have Our Own Silverware!**

As part of the preparations for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, we decided to be attentive to Nova's commitment to caring for the earth and tried to "think green" as we organized for our events. Our Friday/Saturday dinner team members searched their linen closets for cloth napkins, found biodegradable chili bowls and scoured dozens of "Big Lots" stores to accumulate 200 sets of real silverware! On Saturday night, the china glassware and table linens not only made the setting look lovely, but also made it more responsive to our care for the earth focus. Hopefully, future Nova gatherings will benefit from these efforts, use our community silverware and continue to find ways to think green!

*~Meg Tuccillo*

## NOVA Banner

So many people graciously told me they liked the new NOVA banner. Here is the fascinating (to me) story of the banner. Maybe more information than you ever wanted but in the interest of truthfulness in oral tradition, here goes: I always wanted to work on a "Quilted Stained Glass Wall Hanging" so I sent away for the copyrighted pattern and instructions from the Bee Creek Quilting Co., designed by Adam Paige, Artbarian Forge. I purchased and collected the suggested one hundred 1/8 yds of assorted colored cotton fabric, 1/4 yd. of gold knit-backed lame', 1/4 yds black cotton, 1 1/4 yds white muslin, 1 1/2 yds black cording, black tassel, about a yd. of cotton batting, fusible webbing, freezer paper and a dowel.

Then, I prevailed upon an incredible team to cut and construct the quilt. The team consisted of Teddi Ahrens, Anne Houck, Marcelline Niemann, and Gen Timpane. We met weekly throughout winter and spring of 2007, discussing placement, auditioning colors, tracing, cutting and fusing, and adjusting the pattern to our needs and taste. We all agreed that we had a great time chatting about anything and everything while working together. Anne H. generously fed us and stored the quilt in progress between sessions.

During the weekend of the 40th Anniversary, I learned about another major contributor. Mike Marron described designing the NOVA logo years ago which I didn't know about although it was a familiar sight for a long time- (perhaps some of you do not know this either) He told me about choosing the fonts, and arranging the spacing, finding the little cross and drawing the dove.

Because we did not know Mike had the original, Dianne Carroll re-invented the logo at great expense of time and energy on her computer, copying from the newsletter, enlarging, tweaking and refining the result and creating the perfect stencil for the new banner. Eric Carroll assisted by preparing the banner stand and Ken Showalter painted and cut the dowel. "Now you know the rest of the story."

*~Cathy Showalter*

## **Q: How has your time/connection with Nova impacted your life?**

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### **Tom Whalen**

I'm so glad that you're having this event that I'm flying in from Lake Tahoe, Nevada to be with you. I was the Liturgy Chairperson around 1973(?) under the guidance of Fr. Bob Hovda. (The Environmental Liturgy of September 30, 1973 was the best Liturgy ever at NOVA!!!!) I miss you all. However, my daughter, Joan, participated with NOVA until her recent move to the Richmond area. I'm so proud of the Community and I cherish that I was a part of it!

### **Peggy Becker**

I am connected to a faith community, participating in the life of the church and making friends!

### **Bernie Byrne**

It has kept me involved in social justice issues for the past forty years. Would I have remained involved all this time without knowing I had NOVA's support? Who knows? NOVA has kept the issues of social justice before my eyes all these years and has let me realize I have the Community's support as I pursue my social justice activities.

### **Peggy Meyer**

NOVA has been my worshiping community, inspiration, family, support group, teacher, way to reach out to others in need and source of fun

### **Ted Miller**

It has heightened my awareness of social injustice and the action necessary to combat it, and has allowed me to associate with heaven-bound people.

### **Margaret Koach**

I was introduced to NOVA through my sister Muftiah (Koach) McCartin when I was 18 years old. We did not grow up Catholic, but loved NOVA. I was confirmed at NOVA in 1982 at age 21. I remember how beautiful my confirmation was, everyone laid hands on me and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit so vividly. Soon after my confirmation I graduated from college and left for Venezuela South America to work as a volunteer with street children with the local Catholic Church there. Over 20 families from NOVA sponsored children through the foundation I chose to work with in Venezuela: The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (based in Kansas City, MO). The generous response of the NOVA families was quite overwhelming to me! When I got to Venezuela, I went to visit the 20 children sponsored so I could send news back to the NOVA sponsors. These children lived in the poorest slum area of a large city where I lived. Several of them were deaf as the medical mission sister who worked with them specialized in this area. It was a life changing experience for me to become a Christian, in particular a Catholic and to go live in South America and daily walk through the city slums there, to befriend families and children from a different culture and to experience poverty 'up close and real'. It was as if my NOVA community commissioned me to be there. My joining NOVA and the church truly was a commission to serve the poor. After 3 years in Venezuela I continued to work with other cultures spending a few years resettling refugees in the US and 4 more years overseas in a refugee camp for Vietnamese. I now work as a therapist for the local mental health agency in Alexandria and service to the poorest of the poor remains my personal mission in life. I married an Episcopalian and am now active in the Anglican community - but my roots, my formation, my awakening, my knowledge of my vocation - are all from NOVA. I am so deeply grateful for my NOVA experience and honored to be with all of you at your 40th celebration this year!

### **Cathy Showalter**

Most of spiritual development; most of liturgical experience; most of religious/adult education; great quantities of social justice activities; support and encouragement of creative sewing development; close friendships and support of recreational, social and spiritual/psychological needs.

### **Emma Violand-Sanchez**

Nova has been my major spiritual and emotional support for all my work and social action. It provided me energy at a time that I had difficulties such as dealing with my sister's cancer Nova is my extended family.

# **Q: How has your time/connection with Nova impacted your life?**

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*(Continued from page 12)*

## **Gloria/David Mog**

Nova has provided an essential resource of inspiration, belonging, faith expression, and challenge in our lives. It included the importance of providing an environment for spiritual growth and formation to our young sons. Both of our sons have joined Quaker Meetings as adults and they have done so without any encouragement from me. The NOVA Community is very much like the community that every viable Quaker Meeting becomes. For this reason, the NOVA experience prepared our sons to join Quaker Meetings. In a similar way I [David] have come to realize that to a large extent NOVA prepared me to join with enthusiasm the faculty community at Sidwell Friends School. I feel extraordinarily blessed to have not one but two caring communities in my life.

## **Wholeys**

Nova has made both of us happier.

## **Jennifer Carroll**

Completely!

## **Dianne Carroll**

Our family has been at Nova since 1970. We were all nurtured, loved, fed spiritually and the girls learned the "real meaning" of church as community.

## **Joe/Barbara Formoso**

It's been PROFOUND. Life-saving and life-changing.

## **Jerry and Rose Barrett**

Nova has been an extended family for us. The people, liturgies, activities, homilies, have inspired us, comforted us, delighted us and helped us in every way. We have very much needed the support we have received. We are most grateful.

## **Jim Furlong**

NOVA? Hmm. I would be lost without it to center me, instruct me, listen to me and keep me focused on the kingdom. The community has been an anchor amidst turmoil.

Lovingly accepting of my weirdness. A welcome place to go out on a limb.

Egos stay sheathed along with judgementalism.

Just thinking of the community makes my creativity, a very timid and weak thing, blossom.

God lives here happily.

## **Mike/Betsy Marron**

Nova has become our family. It challenges and nurtures us. We feel comfortable that our sons got off on the right foot in their faith journey as youngsters in Nova.

## **Linda/Rich Rosenberg**

Community is important for me. When we joined Nova, we had a family in which to raise our children. It was wonderful.

## **Al/Moira Eisele**

We have always been in smaller communities after our kids grew out of Nova. The true church is in groups like Nova.

## **Cecilia Cackley**

Nova has always shown me what it means to truly live your faith.

## **Kathy Scheimer**

Nova has been a great addition to my life. This small but powerful group of Catholics challenges and sustains me both spiritually and personally. Thank you.

## **Jim/Bernice Todaro**

Though Jim and I have not been as active recently in the Nova Community, I always feel like I am coming home when I attend a Nova liturgy or function. So I guess in a way that is what Nova community is to me - my spiritual, liturgical and community "home". A home where I always feel welcomed and a part of no matter how long it has been since my last visit. Given that feeling of coming home Nova's impact has been far reaching in so many aspects of my life, it would be difficult to express in "50 words or less". I look forward to sharing in the celebration of Nova's forty years and thank each of you who are so thoughtfully preparing for this wonderful celebration.

## **Jim/Archer Heinzen**

It has provided warm friendships, a forum for thoughtful religious practice and wonderful support for my personal social action project, Co-partners

## **Jim Weber**

Nova is my extended family; a venue where honest opinions can be shared and expressions of compassion can be freely given.

*(Continued on page 14)*

## **Q: How has your time/connection with Nova impacted your life?**

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*(Continued from page 13)*

### **Christina Dixon**

Born to Gregg and Valerie Dixon in November 1971, I have been told by more than one NOVA member that I was a very loud, frustrating, colicky baby. As the first child of young parents who were living far away family and childhood friends, I know I benefited early from my mother and father having many supportive, loyal and patient friends and mentors within NOVA. Their membership in the NOVA community certainly made a very difficult time a little more bearable, and allowed me to grow up feeling loved from the very beginning. Growing up, I heard my parents tell many stories about NOVA that taught me what a faith community can be at its best. I watched them strive to replicate parts of the NOVA experience in every church to which we belonged. Through them, NOVA taught me what it means to live as a community committed to common values and beliefs, with a vision for using our collective resources to help make the world a better place.

Even though the Dixons haven't lived nearby since 1975, the people that my parents knew in NOVA's early days have never ceased to be a part of our lives, and I feel fortunate to have benefited from being a part of a community of life-long friends who have genuinely loved our family for almost four decades.

### **Monika Heise Townsend**

I was baptized into NOVA in 1970 and stayed with NOVA into my teens. Over the years since then, I have explored different spiritual paths and am no longer a practicing Catholic, but in this journey the groups that have been the most satisfying for me mirrored many aspects of NOVA. My favorite groups are: alternative, playful, musical, feminist, community-oriented, committed to social justice, nature-loving, and allow for creative, concrete symbolic embodiments of spiritual practices. Because I grew up in NOVA, these kinds of communities make me feel at home when I find them in other places. Just as those qualities helped me thrive as a child, they help me continue to grow as an adult. NOVA gave me a healthy and beautiful model for community which will stay with me forever and guides me in ways too numerous to count.

I would like to offer my profound thanks and praise to all the NOVA members who shepherded and nurtured me and my peer group through childhood, encouraging us to blossom and to find our own ways in the world as thinking, feeling, socially conscious, creative individuals with strong values and ideals. Childrearing is among the most important jobs on the planet and you guys did a really terrific job.

### **Teddi/Tom Ahrens**

After grad school and marriage, I was trying to avoid suffocation in a traditional parish, and I knew that friends had joined NOVA, so I found my way to Dunn Loring school and there was no turning back. NOVA offers a meaningful and challenging Gospel message and ways to live out the message. It was such an unusual "hands-on" experience in those early days, quite appealing, demanding, and enriching. I could not resist its emphasis on prayerful liturgy and social action rather than on building and bureaucracy and autocracy. Today NOVA continues to be a nurturing, active community that does its best to model what church really means. Belonging to NOVA challenges me, inspires me, and energizes me. Even when the family moved away, my NOVA experience kept me "rooted"--guiding my search for meaningful service and prompting new questions about spirituality and church. Now we are back in the area, and joyfully return to this community which continues to ask questions in order to reaffirm its mission and then to go out and do it. It has shown me the awesome power and tremendous difference that a few people can make. NOVA has given me reason to have hope rather than despair about many things!

### **Alida Yath-Cruces**

During the 7 years I have been attending NOVA, my spiritual life has been enriched. I am inspired by NOVA members and the seriousness toward social responsibility actions. The meaning, intent and impact of liturgical services at NOVA make me feel that I can also have a positive impact on others.

NOVA members lead by example!

*(Continued on page 15)*

## **Q: How has your time/connection with Nova impacted your life?**

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*(Continued from page 14)*

### **Clyde/Judy Christofferson**

The community has become and remains for me the home port of my liturgical and spiritual life.

### **Clare Robert**

Coming to NOVA in 1974 was a major turning point in my life, encompassing as it did my preparation for ministry and spilling over into life long friendships and commitment to a new way of being Christian in the world.

### **Tom Karwaki**

Nova has been the touchstone of my faith journey, a safe haven and spiritual home. The love and faith of this community reflects the message of Jesus, the Apostles and early Fathers. wonderful training and education Nova provides with all aspects of liturgy--and how to make any space sacred. The Easter Triduum liturgies are the best I've ever been to.

### **Bill/Julie Taylor**

Made me aware of my obligation to be a person involved in reaching out to others in this world — gave me even more of an appreciation of great liturgy in my life...increased my love of being a member of a prayerful, faith-sharing community ...

### **Joe/Kathy Zinn**

NOVA kept me connected to my spiritual roots, at a time when, with the backlash of the 70's & 80's in the Church, I might have cut myself off completely. NOVA pulled out of me competencies and gifts I had been unaware or unsure of. I led the music group for a few years, as well as edited the Newsletter. NOVA gave Joe and I a place to both nurture our marriage and our children, in a spiritual way, and

with like-minded companions.

NOVA gave me a clear vision of what Christian/Spiritual social action was and could be. For all these things, I am forever grateful!

### **Jeanne Clarkson**

For me it is all about the example set by individual community members. Faithfulness to each other- faithfulness to social action- faithfulness in trying to recognize the Spirit in this world. I am so grateful.

### **Quinn Connors**

My experience in Nova for these 40 years has been very formative of who I am as a Christian Catholic and priest today. I have been continually challenged, especially in terms of social justice awareness and action as well as inclusivity and respect for the many gifts people bring to the church community. I am very grateful for the support and challenge of so many members of the community as well as for the opportunity to be a part of this community, which is a gift to the Church.

### **Paul Visokay**

Intellectually, emotionally, community-wise, it has been one of the high-points in my life and wherever I go and whenever I talk about Church and community, NOVA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PEAK EXPERIENCE. As I am sure is true of all the priests who were part of the community, we came closer to God and to our true selves through our relationship with you.

### **Kathy Fredgren**

NOVA was the foundation of our family during the first 25 years of my married life. Through it we were able to really live our-

faith here in Arlington. Our

NOVA friends became our family and always will be family. It molded our identity as church! It was a privilege and gift to be part of this "living" church!

### **Serena Nelson**

From the beginning Nova has always been there for me, in whatever way I needed--an avenue for creativity; intellectual stimulation in many directions; blessing my marriage, my son's life as a Christian, my dear mother's passage from this world to the next, and all the times in between; meeting and coming to know wonderful people like the Donahues, the Fredgrens, the Furlongs, the Tuccillos, the Carrolls, Marie Pinho, Al Pereira, Paul Visokay, Phil Land, Ken Himes and many others...For forty years, this community has given me and mine its special brand of unconditional love, spiritual sanctuary, even the offer of financial aid in times of need. Although I seldom show up--many years of retail, caring for the sick and dying, working around other peoples' schedules have made it difficult to impossible--I will always consider myself a Nova.

Comment: At every Nova anniversary, I like to remind us of the early reflection by George White, I believe, that the only thing he could think of that had brought us all together was that we had doubts. That may no longer be our glue, but I want us all to remember that that is where we came from.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## **Q: How has your time/connection with Nova impacted your life?**

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*(Continued from page 15)*

### **Charles/Pat Schehl**

I am not sure where we would be were it not for Nova and Pax but not likely in the Catholic Church. We were in Nova from the founding until about 1981 when we moved to Pax because it then parish-connected and we thought we needed to send one of our children to O'Connell. That actually did not happen but by then we were established in Pax which happened to have their liturgies more or less around the corner from our house. We feel deeply in debt to our Nova experience and grateful for so many friendships that began in Nova and for the wonderful pre-siders of those years who so eloquently strived to move us to a higher plane of faith and commitment to social justice, the fruits of which efforts, though not obvious, must be there, if perhaps only to have dampened the backslide.

### **Mary Grace**

Oh, my. I am pretty sure you saved my soul (and my parent's sanity)! Had my parents, Bob and Grace Birch, not taken us to NOVA I would have written off the whole Catholic Church as hypocritical and twisted. It was through NOVA that I saw the Spirit unbounded and my Jesus lifted up in the Way which pulled me to Him! I give praise to God for NOVA's witness to me, just a girl when I came. It is through NOVA that I joined HEC (Handicapped Encounter Christ) which has also been a formative, challenging and encouraging community for me. I give glory to God for NOVA's

continued commitment to BEING a living witness to the goodness of God, the beauty of Christ and the wisdom of the Spirit.

The harvest is plenty, yet the laborers are few. Thank you for being the Body of Christ in the world. Thank you also for your kind and encouraging support of me both in and out of jail!

### **Nancy/John Malin**

The NOVA community is an inspiration in informed community evolution.

### **Jim Taylor (Jim, Peg [deceased] Jerry, John)**

Nova made it possible for Peg, myself, and our two adopted sons to participate in a meaningful Catholic Christian Community

### **Mike Schultheis, SJ**

And KUDOS on the forthcoming Anniversary of NOVA as a Community that expresses the Christ living in our midst ... with a continued commitment to Word and Sacrament in a Community that cares for one another and for the wider community beyond the boundaries of your geographical space and time! It would be grand to join you at least for the Liturgy, but I doubt that it will be possible to do so.

### **Bonnie/George Lowery**

Bonnie says you can tell folks that NOVA is the only real church she has known and from my perspective, NOVA is the only Christian group I know who practices the way Jesus would have wanted, not the way the organized (any) churches do in our world today!

### **Eric Carroll**

NOVA – a daily chance to think, pray and practice spirituality with others outside the box of organized religion and constantly

discovering the SPIRIT the box is trying to contain.

### **Dan Gatti (Padre Cadre)**

my grateful heart will be with all of you gathered; grateful for the opportunity to minister within NOVA, to come to know so many people of deep faith, to share in your joys and sorrows, and be confirmed in my own vocation. I close my eyes and see many grace-filled liturgies, baptisms, Holy Week Services, pot luck dinners and so many faces, fully alive, joyful, laughing - finding God in each other's presence. May our gracious God continue to bless the NOVA tribe, all its good people and all its good works!

### **Nancy Veldhuis**

Nova has given me the gift of a spiritual home; supported me and my family through difficult times and rejoiced with us in the good times; provided a community that continues to challenge and support me in living out the gospel message of social justice; and provided the environment in which I have been able to remain a "practicing" Catholic. Nova's Padre Cadre has enriched my spiritual life beyond measure.

### **Anne Passin**

Bede Griffiths, the late Benedictine monk and leader of Christian-Hindu dialogue wrote, "*The aim of every community should be to enable its members to realize this transcendent mystery in their lives and communicate their experience to others.*" NOVA helps me to appreciate and live more fully the mystery of God's love in my life.

# Friday Evening Gathering ...

## Friday Night Reunion

by Teddi Ahrens

Cars were parked bumper to bumper in the cul-de-sac that evening, and windows in one house brightened a path from curb to front door. It was easy to pick out the Tuccillo home where the NOVA reunion was taking place.

We stepped out of the car and like everyone else, headed into a dizzying, joyful swirl of our NOVA past and present. Thus we entered, falling into one embrace after another, sharing conversations and stories, admiring photos of grandchildren, and shifting from standing to sitting on chairs and the floor as the house absorbed more than 100 NOVA folks and as we moved from talking and eating to introductions and singing. Every room in the house reverberated with greetings and laughter because there was always someone else to recognize and greet and hug. Chairs were pushed together in clumps to better hear each other above the happy noise and then pushed



Victoria Robinson leads singing

Abby Carome dancing with spirit!



NOVA takes the cake!

apart to welcome interruptions.

In the kitchen, steaming pots of chili lined up in rows, accompanied by baskets of bread, bowls of crinkly, crisp salad and yummy desserts. Wine and soft drinks filled the countertops. Later, we balanced portions of these items precariously on our laps while we continued our conversations.

Then Gloria gave the signal for quiet and gathering time. We filled the living room, squeezed together on the couch, tucked into chairs, front row enthusiasts sitting side by side on the floor, standees and restless folks in the rear. Like all NOVA events, there were announcements and introductions, placing ourselves into the colorful, patchwork quilt of NOVA history-- "the people" and the 60's, the 70's, the 80's, and onward to our most recent, welcome members. We were all ages, including three generations of the Tuccillo family. Who could not be excited looking around the room at the many faces of this community? We represented some portion of 2,000 plus liturgies (and even more meetings!) that nurtured us, challenged us, inspired us, even provoked us, but most of all, kept us connected somehow over all these 40 years.

Dianne shared some of the thoughtful, poignant statements sent in by members to describe NOVA's impact on their lives. Individuals praised NOVA as "an anchor amidst turmoil" and "life-saving and life-changing" and for providing "my roots, my formation, my awakening." We smiled to hear "God lives here happily." To each statement, we sang our response: "We are sending you light, to bless you, to hold you..."

From prayerful reflection and song, we turned to a little rowdier music. Whether you called it a hootenanny or "Medley of Musical Memories," the climax of the evening, led by Victoria and the NOVAtones, had folks clapping and swaying. Thanks to goldenrod-colored booklets, we had words for favorite songs deeply connected to our past, and a few "alternative" versions were added here and there. However, everyone knew the words to serenade Gregg Dixon, who happened to be celebrating his 65th birthday that day. When we started "Morning has Broken," Kathy could not resist the music or our urging to dance. She leapt and swirled to "Lord of the Dance" as well and little Abby Carome left her daddy's lap to do some swinging and swaying of her own.

The evening began with laughter and hugs and ended with laughter and songs and perhaps a tear or two. Sandwiched between were a million remembrances of rich and lasting friendships.

# Friday Evening Gathering ...

at Meg Tuccillo's Home ....



Jim Furlong, Jim Todaro, Bill Meyer



Valerie Dixon & daughter Christina

# Liturgy Theme: Giving Thanks for The Work to Be Done

NOVA's community life is one of voluntary cooperation.  
Many contributed to this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liturgy.  
We thank everyone who participated in this celebration.

**Presider:** Rev. Quinn Connors, O.Carm.  
**Homilist:** Rev. Kenneth Himes, OFM  
**Readers:** Rev. Valerie Dixon, Mike Timpane

**Opening Procession:**

Kathy Fredgren, Cantor for Movement  
Sonja Donahue, Founding Member and Past Chair  
Eric Carroll, Chair  
Nancy Veldhuis, Chair  
John Veldhuis, Chair  
Nwaka Chris Egbulem, Director Action Africa  
Ilse Cruces, Affirmanda  
Ana Cackley, Affirmanda  
Ben Brady, Affirmandum  
Mali Ormando-Kane, Affirmanda  
Emma Violand-Sanchez, Bolivia & Latin American Projects



Revs. Valerie Dixon,  
Quinn Connors, Ken Himes

**Gospel Dramatization:**

Jesus: Quinn Connors  
John the Baptist: Phil Cackley  
Followers: Amy Bailey, Elena Bailey, John Cackley  
Narrator: Marcelline Niemann

**Peace Candle:** Marie Keefe

**Gift Bearers:** Amy, Charlie & Elena Bailey, Joe Bonsignore, Archer Heinzen, Marie Pinho

**Communion Ministers:** Kirsten Carroll Teal, Rev. Quinn Connors, O.Carm., Rev. Valerie Dixon,  
Rev. Kenneth Himes, OFM, Cece Michelotti, John Tarrant

**NOVAtones:** Charlie Bailey, Peggy Becker, Cecilia Cackley, Tom Clarkson, Barbara Formoso,  
John & Nancy Malin, Bill Meyer, Gloria Mog, Victoria Robinson, Arthur, Linda & Rich Rosenberg, Kathy Scheimer, Tim White

**Program:** Ken Chaison & Dianne Carroll

**NOVA Banner:** Teddi Ahrens,  
Eric Carroll,  
Anne Houck,  
Marcelline Niemann,  
Cathy Showalter,  
Ken Showalter,  
Gen Timpane

**Planners:** Teddi Ahrens,  
Rosemarie Annunziata,  
Peggy Becker,  
Quinn Connors,  
Gloria Mog,  
Anne Passin,  
Cathy Showalter,  
Tim White



Kathy Fredgren



Quinn Connors

# Liturgy Theme: Giving Thanks



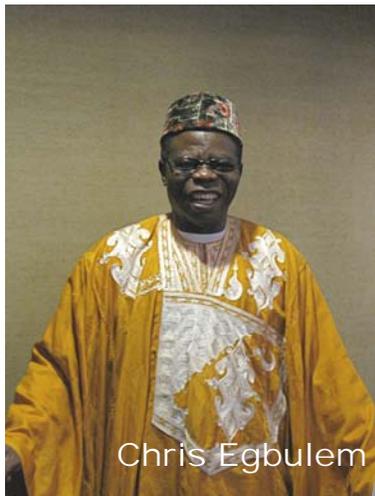
Procession...



Sonja Donahue



Baptism of Jesus



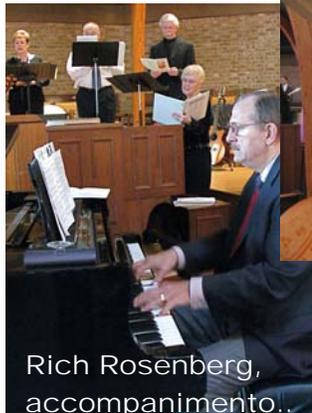
Chris Egbulem



Interpreting the Baptism of Jesus...  
Phil Cackley (John the Baptist) and Quinn Connors



Arthur Rosenberg and  
The NovaTones



Rich Rosenberg,  
accompanimento..



Kirsten Carroll Teal  
and daughter Ella

# Liturgy Homily

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## We Are Baptized

by Clyde Christofferson

We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and homilist Ken Himes recalled a day early in his ministry, on this very feast day, when a young couple came up to him after mass and asked, “why was Jesus baptized; he didn’t have original sin?” With this opening, Ken began a homily that you can hear in full at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/novacommunity/links/NOVA\\_Audio\\_Files\\_001250783287/2008\\_01\\_Fortieth\\_Anniversary\\_Homily\\_001263436814/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/novacommunity/links/NOVA_Audio_Files_001250783287/2008_01_Fortieth_Anniversary_Homily_001263436814/)

A paraphrase of Ken’s homily: “The same question, for a different reason, haunted the early Church. Jesus was greater than John; the baptism of Jesus by John was an embarrassment to the early Church. John was recognized as being a prophet. This holy man of integrity had been martyred. Why? Because he spoke truth to power, taking on Herod. Lots of John’s followers wanted to preserve that memory. When these rubbed shoulders with early Christians who wanted to tell them about Jesus, they said ‘no, let us tell you about John: he baptized Jesus.’

“How did the early Church handle this? Mark is short and straightforward: John announces to his disciples, ‘I’m not fit to strap on his sandals; look to the one who follows me.’ In today’s Gospel from Matthew, John says ‘you should be baptizing me’. Luke is factual: ‘John was beheaded: he had baptized many, including Jesus.’ And in John’s gospel, written later, there is no baptism of Jesus. “Baptism is a sign of conversion, but not always ‘from’ something, such as sin, but rather ‘to’ something. It’s not a private act, but a public act. It is an act of initiation, like marriage, a statement of intent: ‘from now on, this is who I am; I will live like this.’ For Jesus the occasion of baptism by John was a public declaration of his identity and his mission: this is who I am, the beloved son; I shall live as the one who brings God’s reign into existence, who preaches the good news to the poor. We have heard this so often, we let the words rush past us; we are so used to them.

“And so it is with you and me. At some point in our lives, we asked: ‘Who am I? Who can make claims on me?’ During those years, there were painful and sometimes embarrassing moments ‘as I began to work out for myself: who am I, how shall I live, and to whom shall I give myself?’ “At this point in Matthew’s gospel Jesus is now an adult. How did he come to this point? Here, at the baptism, he provides an affirmation: ‘I am the beloved son; I shall bring good news to the poor.’ But getting to this point is a long, tough process. We see it even in corporations. I hear, for example, that Xerox is changing its logo: who they are, apparently, is not who they want to be. Politicians are always redefining themselves, but they are easy targets. Think of entertainers, sports figures, and also church leaders. It’s a constant process: ‘this is my identity, this is what I am about, this is how I shall live.’

“We are known and named by these identities: ‘Richard the Lionhearted.’ ‘John the Baptizer.’ And ‘Jesus the Christ.’ It means ‘messiah.’ The title was early Christian PR: ‘He’s the one to watch.’ “What about us? How are we defined? Who will define us? Baptism is an act of public identity making. “Most of us remember the 60’s, the golden age of banner making. ‘The middle ages had monasteries, we had felt.’ One of those popular banners said, ‘If you were accused of being a Christian, would you be convicted.’ A good question. And we remember the holy water at the entrance to the church, where we signed ourselves to remind ourselves that we are the ones who are the baptized: we know who we are and how we shall live.

“But there is a lot of competition to try to tell us who we are, who we should be, and how we should live. Think of all the pressures on adolescents. Everyone from entertainers to advertisers is trying to show us how to live. It is hard to find an identity in this environment. And so the community tries to help. I’ve heard tell that some communities create ‘affirmation’ processes where the young person can say for themselves what their baptism is. “That’s about ‘ID’, identity. “What about calling, mission. How shall I live? There is a poem that talks about ‘the mood of Christmas: when the song of the angels is stilled, when the star is gone, when the kings and princes have gone home, when shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins, to rebuild the nations, to make music in the heart.’

“We need people who know who they are – the beloved of God – and how to live. They will love like God loves; they will love even those who do not know that God loves them. They will serve those whom God cares for. They will comfort those who mourn.

“At another NOVA anniversary, where I was privileged to speak, I saw at NOVA people who simply wanted to be adult Christians, not insulted by authorities, who take the faith and live in community with others. NOVA is a people who take baptism seriously. We believe we are loved by God, and with this bedrock we don’t have to be teasers, we don’t have to be pleasers. God’s love for us is the only foundation that really matters. We are then free to be the people that we are called to be.”

# Gala Celebration . . .

by Midge Wholey

**Grace:** Dear Lord, thank you for all the good that you have shared with us for the last 40 years. Thank you for providing a spiritual home for so many good people over these years. Thank you for the good liturgies we have shared, and for our continuing focus on spirituality and on social justice.

Thank you for all of Nova's experiences over the last 40 years. Thank you for those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. Please keep your loving eyes on all of us as we continue our journey.

We ask your blessing on this food and our time together this weekend. Please take care of all those who have so much less than we have. **Amen**

The Mass was such a glorious celebration it was very difficult to drag people away to the upper room where other wondrous events were to occur. After much prodding, folks finally moved upstairs to the awaiting goodies.

Water flowed like a river and wine flowed like water, a promising beginning for any celebration. Nostalgia flowed like the wine, and they made a superb combination. Old friends greeted and were greeted. New friends were made, children and grandchildren, spouses, and probably even in-laws were marveled over. But wait! There was more to come -- FOOD.

DC Central Kitchen catered a delicious meal and served it with grace and good humor. Not a single awkward silence was heard as the meal progressed and everything in sight was gobbled up.

After such a wonderful meal, the group was feeling pretty good, pretty satisfied. There were a few old codgers ready to doze off, but the committee had thought of everything. They knew just how to handle the postprandial slump and in their excellent planning had managed to put together talents from many walks of life to revive any spirits that may have been drooping.

The Grand Ole Opry shared their wonderful Tim White Quartet with us. The Metropolitan Opera contributed the brilliant voice of David Timpane, who in turn contributed his lovely wife Anne as accompanist. Eric Robinson, the great British poetry reader, brought delight and proper pronunciation to the ears of poetry lovers. Brief appearances by the famous SNL clergypeople Connor and Dixon added solemnity to the occasion. The Cackley Family Singers vied with the Dixon Family

Singers in a Friendly Family Sing-off. Arthur and Richard Rosenberg enlisted the help of Gilbert and Sullivan to make their family routine pretty special. Last but not least, Barbara Formoso and Chuck Bowley provided the perfect run-up to the rousing finale by those beloved Nova stars, The NovaTones.



Valerie Dixon, Ken Himes

*Breaking News ...*



*David Timpane singing,*



Quinn Connors, Joe Kenna

*More Breaking News ...*

# Gala Celebration . . .



Tim White Quartet +



Cackley Family Singers



Christina, Gregg, Valerie, (Mark in absentia) Dixon



NovaTones take of  
HMS Pinafore

## Nova

(sung with gusto, to tune of Oklahoma— original written and updated by Gregg Dixon)

Noovaaa lives in our community with you and me;  
We believe in God, which may seem odd,  
But our faith keeps growing hopefully...

Nova, we are glad to have our bishop let us be,  
We have great respect for benign neglect  
Which he gives us and our liturgy.

We may not always take a stand,  
But at least we don't own any land

And when we say ... What is NOVA  
We say ... Pray .. That is Nova  
You're doing fine now with Nova.. Yes, Nova's okay!

Nova was a new community for you and me.  
Though we're getting old;  
It's true, I'm told,  
We still can plan a liturgy/

Nova, we are glad to add new members every day.

Yes, it is the truth, we value youth;  
We need them when we sing and pray,

We still don't own any land;  
But our fellowship assets are grand.

And when we say ... What is NOVA  
We say ... Pray .. That is Nova  
You're doing fine now with Nova.. Yes, Nova's okay!

NOVA NOVA Nova's okay!!!

# Padre Cadre Roundtable: Beyond 40 Years: Nova's Challenge

## Sunday Morning Padre Cadre Panel Discussion

By Carolyn and Ted Miller

Sunday morning was devoted to a brunch and roundtable discussion with NOVA's Padre Cadre. Titled "Beyond 40 Years: Observations and Challenges for NOVA," the discussion was moderated by Rosemarie Anunziata and featured presentations by Bill Callahan, Quinn Connors and Joe Kenna, followed by questions and comments from the audience. Rosemarie said that the purpose of the session was to discuss how to help NOVA continue to answer Jesus' call to live in love and peace and to translate his principles into action as we continue to evolve. She asked, "What does NOVA look like to our priests?" and "What new actions might NOVA take to bring our vision to the world?"

Bill Callahan reviewed the turmoil in the Catholic Church surrounding the beginnings of NOVA. The Second Vatican Council had just concluded, issuing a document attesting to the "special role" of the liturgy and calling for "fully conscious and active participation," of Church members in its celebration. The document gave wide latitude to each local diocese to revise parts of the Mass and incorporate local customs. Thus it "made sense" for experimental liturgical communities such as NOVA to emerge. But Vatican II was marked by conflict, and despite the clear intent of the Council's document supporting change in liturgy, those seeking to actually change it faced serious obstacles within the Church. Bill cited the key roles played by Bishops Russell and Sullivan, Monsignor Dozier, Bob Hovda, Gil and Sonja Donahue and others in the early years of NOVA as evidence of the importance of clergy and lay people working together to build such a community.

The last document issued by Vatican II, "The Church in the Modern World," summed up the attending bishops' reaction to the Council and offered a fresh interpretation of the Great Commandment (*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*). Prior to Vatican II, the emphasis for fulfilling this commandment had been on looking inward, creating quiet structures for prayer. "God was presumed to speak to us in a soft voice," Bill said. "We needed to still everything down to hear." But this document proposed a new, outward-looking definition of the Great Commandment, a vision of the Church filled with the grace of God, what Pope Paul VI later termed a "ringing call to work for justice." NOVA's emphasis on social action fits this vision, Bill said, later adding this admonition about the effort involved in work to be done: Let's not die all saved up! He read from a recent press release from the Vatican, which declared that the modern Church should emphasize the spiritual formation of its members, and not try to be "a charitable NGO (non-governmental organization)." "I have a bone to pick with that," Bill said. "...The practical application of charity was probably the single most important factor in the early Church's success."

Quinn Connors cited a book that has been very important to him, *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* by Timothy Radcliffe. NOVA, he said, has helped keep him in the priesthood because its members keep asking themselves that question. He cited the experience planning the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary liturgy as an example. Some had suggested omitting the Peace Candle in order to smooth out the ceremony, until Marie Keefe reminded planners of the need to not be smooth, but to have room for everyone. The Peace Candle segment remained.

NOVA has an "edginess," Quinn said and, like our faith in general, is always morphing—a process that isn't often smooth. For him, NOVA is an ongoing formative experience. He cited Gen Timpane's comment in Jim Furlong's wonderful new movie about NOVA's history: NOVA didn't grow out of the "anger of the 60s," but was a vision of what we could be as Church. NOVA is "infective," he said. We infect people with that question: What is the point of being a Christian. He urged us to remain "infective" and continue to ask nudging, irritating questions.

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# Padre Cadre Roundtable: Beyond 40 Years: Nova's Challenge

*(Continued from page 24)*

Quinn also offered some practical recommendations. How about an “Affirmandi Reunion” featuring a panel discussion about former affirmandi’s experience in NOVA, how it has affected their lives, and why they left. He also suggested “Homecoming Sundays” to which we’d invite people in to see whether NOVA could infect them with our brand of active Christianity and whether they could infect us.

Joe Kenna confided that he has always had a “passion for community” and in fact, his doctoral dissertation was entitled, “The Psychology of Intimacy in the Diocesan Priesthood.” Joe was in a Benedictine monastery from 1961-1974 and left because he couldn’t find there the sense of community he needed. NOVA offers that, he said. “The world is crying out for what we have. If we don’t figure out a way to share it, it will evaporate.”

Community is a form of intimacy, Joe said. He passed out diagrams describing what he sees as the four parts of NOVA’s intimacy: *spiritual* (marked by solitude, contemplation, prayer and healing ministry); *pastoral* (performing social service and being change agents, for instance); *particular* (passionate engagement, friendship); and *social* (solidarity with the oppressed, giving oneself to suffering). Maintaining a balance among these various aspects of intimacy requires a diversity of archetypal traits among members and leaders. We need *lovers*, who can be charismatic in prayer and hospitality; *magicians*, who value solitude and the healing ministry; *rulers, or “kings,”* who take the lead in service, and can handle suffering; and *warriors*, who take naturally to passionate engagement, solidarity with the oppressed and lead the way as change agents.

The functions of leadership in a community such as NOVA are to maintain the balance among the different kinds of intimacy; to promote diversity of the archetypes; to clarify the vision of the community; and to help shape structures that ensure safety and predictability. NOVA must have walls, not to keep people out, but to maintain our values and foster a sense of safety within the community. Finally, Joe said, we must “treasure the shadow” –not run away from our problems, but move into them and welcome the challenges they present to our notions of who we are. He reminded us that “Heresy is the revenge of a lost truth.” He then read his favorite poem, *I Saw in Louisiana a Live Oak Growing* by Walt Whitman. It speaks of the poet’s need for community.

*I saw in Louisiana a live-oak growing  
All alone stood it and the moss hung down from the branches,  
Without any companion it stood there uttering joyous leaves of dark green,  
And its look, rude, unbending, lusty, made me think of myself,  
But I wondered how it could utter joyous leaves standing alone there  
without its friend near, for I knew I could not,  
And I broke off a twig with a certain number of leaves upon it,  
and twined around it a little moss,  
And brought it away, and I have placed it in sight in my room,  
It is not needed to remind me as of my own dear friends,  
(For I believe lately I think of little else than of them,)  
Yet it remains to me a curious token, it makes me think of manly love;  
For all that, and though the live-oak glistens there in Louisiana  
solitary in a wide flat space,  
Uttering joyous leaves all its life without a friend or lover near,  
I know very well I could not.*

The panel was asked about the nature of their own membership in NOVA. We call on a number of different  
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# Padre Cadre Roundtable: Beyond 40 Years: Nova's Challenge

*(Continued from page 25)*

priests. What is the effect of this on the panelists? None seemed bothered by the in-and-out nature of their relationship. Both Joe and Quinn mentioned that they also work in other churches. "The community is not the priest," said Joe. "I like the NOVA model, though it isn't the only possible model." Quinn saw his relationship with NOVA as both a gift and a challenge. It creates the diversity that he considers so important. That in turn creates some tension, but belonging to different communities works because they each have the Gospels as their norm. Quinn urged us to "hold the tension that diversity brings."

A member of the audience noted that striving for more diversity suggested that we needed to become more public, but many members of the community fear the possible consequences of a higher profile. NOVA is not a mainstream parish. What if the bishop attempted to shut us down?

"It's a very tough question," said Joe. The issue is how to maintain the boundaries that make us NOVA while maintaining our connection to the larger Church. "I don't know what I'd do if they pulled the plug on you." Quinn agreed, citing the tension created by this relationship. "Your willingness to hold it makes me willing to, also," he said. "I'm grateful for that. I don't know if we need to advertise in the paper."

The community acts as a safe house, said Bill. We need them. The community has the energy to take on struggles that an individual can't take on. It helps us bear what seems to be an unjust struggle. Bill reminded us that the locus of leadership must be in the laity because they, the priests, are a "dying breed." He challenged NOVA to consider whether it is ready to face the disapproval of the Church hierarchy.

Some in the audience confessed difficulty staying in a church that handled the pedophilia scandal so poorly. Another noted the subordinate role of women. Quinn acknowledged that there is a lot of pain surrounding these issues. It takes the Church a long time to change, he said. Can we hold this tension and still nudge the Church toward this goal? We're in it for the long haul, and we do what we can do.

In other discussions, NOVA was urged to reach out to people and communities of "like intention," to collaborate with other Christian communities, not necessarily Roman Catholic, which are struggling with the same issues we face. One member of the audience compared NOVA today with the catechumens of the early church, longing to be but not entirely integrated into the big Church.

Michael Schulteis, a Jesuit who celebrated with NOVA in the 1980s, joined the panel toward the end of the session. Michael has been doing missionary work in several African countries for the past decade or so and is currently working to establish a Catholic university in Southern Sudan. He urged NOVA members to continue thinking of themselves as members of the Church. It would be a disaster, he said, to say the Church belongs to the priests and bishops, and let them go their way and we'll go ours. We need each other. He quoted this from one of his teachers: "Never judge a society by its superiors."



Rev. Mike Schulteis, Rev. Quinn Connors,  
Moderator, Rosemarie Annunziata

# Then and Now: Reflections

## NOVA -Then and Now

by Judy Christofferson

Clyde and I attended our first Nova liturgy in January of 1971. I remember because I was pregnant with our first child (Scott), later baptized that year in Nancy and Grover Stock's backyard.

There were lots of young folks in their 20's & 30's active in the community then. Most of us were just starting families. I'm not sure whose idea it was, but a new parents group was started. Sonja Donahue was our "guru" and it was a quasi-support and learning group that continued meeting for several years. People even trekked out to our little apartment on the Quantico Marine Corps base for a meeting and then to Burke when we moved.

Although there were also many "older" members (people over 40!), everyone socialized and formed friendships independent of age. The energy was high and it seemed to me that every week there were meetings as well as after-liturgy get-togethers at someone's house.

Here are a few observations of what has changed and what has remained constant through the years:

1. Starting liturgies on time took 30+ years. They still take a long time to end. (Myers-Briggs J-P differences don't change.)
2. The community has aged considerably and there aren't as many members in the thirty and younger set as there were during the first 20 years. What we can or will do about this is one of the community's challenges.
3. We don't "experiment" much with the Sunday readings any more, i.e., we seldom substitute the gospel readings with material from other sources as we did frequently in the early days. (Who could forget Jonathan Livingston Seagull?) Today, everything (tablecloths, candles, etc.) one needs for a liturgy is stored and well-organized. In the old days, well, suffice it to say that liturgy planners were often running around the last minute to get these items together. There was a lot of creativity in those early liturgies, which fortunately hasn't been lost. In addition to attending to the environment, Nova planners today still create thought-provoking themes and questions about the gospel readings.
4. Social action, always a hallmark of the community, is stronger than ever. . Preparing food for members who are ill is the same as well. The energy and concern for the needs of others remain high.

In short, Nova has changed and grown as the members have aged, changed and grown (we hope) in wisdom.

Will there be a Nova Community in another 40 years? No one can say with certainty, but as long as the Spirit lives in even a few of the faithful, it's not unlikely.

from Paul Visokay...

Dear Victoria and Eric, Thank you so much for your dear hospitality. Good company, great conversations, (I loved the walk in your park), great celebration ... comfortable guest quarters .... Eric, thanks for John Clare and George Herbert. And please thank Meg and everyone whom I always remember and who remember me. A great dip into the renewing water of past present and future with NOVA community. Great laughs, sense of humor, ability to dance and sing and be crazy "after all these years." I will be in touch.

In peace and love and gratitude

from Margaret Kirk

Dear All: Just a note to tell you how deeply moved I was by the NOVA 40th celebration. I had not seen many of you for 25 years, yet it felt like yesterday, so vivid were my memories of the NOVA liturgies that brought me to Jesus, to religion, to all that is beautiful in my life. I wept my way through the whole liturgy. The first time I ever went to church was at 18 at NOVA with my sister Muftiah. I was 23 years old when I left NOVA for Venezuela to work with street children. Twenty five of you signed up to sponsor the children I went to serve, an act of generosity that truly amazed me. As soon as I arrived in Venezuela, I went straight to the barrios (slums), to meet the children you sponsored, and my life was changed forever. I still work with the poor in a more local way as a child and family therapist at Alexandria Mental Health. My life revolves around my two little children and the children I mentor at work. I married David Kirk, a wonderful guy. He is an Episcopalian and so I joined the Anglican church which is very close in liturgy to the Catholic Mass, so the change wasn't too much of a stretch. Yet it is a great big stretch to be confirmed and initiated in faith at NOVA and to now be part of a traditional congregation. I cried when I came home from the celebration thinking, what am I doing at my stuffy church, why don't I take my kids to NOVA at Lacey Woods during the summer? But something so sweet happened to me during that cry, God softly whispered in my ear, how much God loved NOVA but also how much God loved the

# Reflections . . .

(Continued from page 27)

part of me that resonated with NOVA's spirit. God then told me that NOVA didn't need me, that you all had spirit to spare, my 'stuffy' congregation needed me to bring that NOVA spirit to them! I can't do anything about my church's million dollar building, but spirit is priceless and I will spend it with abandon in my community of faith. I still plan to bring my children to meet all of you this summer at the park and catch some of the NOVA spirit. I love you all dearly for introducing me to Christ in such an alive and experiential way, for confirming me by laying your hands on my head and showering me in holy spirit, for sending money to support the children who opened my eyes to the true meaning of the gospel.

May God Bless You All Dear NOVA Friends with the deepest of appreciation for the gifts you have given me and of which I was so heartily reminded of at your 40th! Love, Margaret (Koach) Kirk

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## from Fr. Mike Schultheis, sj

Peace ... and just a few lines to celebrate again the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nova and to commend you all for the dedication and creative spirit and consistency in your lives and the communities you nurture.

For me it was blessing and inspiration to be able to join you and the padre-cadre for your discussions and discernment on NOVA, where you have come from and where you are being invited/called, in your individual and community response to the larger community where you/we find y/ourselves and that has so much need of the NOVAs. It was an engaging day – and great to meet so many “long time” friends and new ones too!

I am back in the Pacific NWest and at Gonzaga University/Spokane, engaged in teaching a course in the Doctoral Program – it is not as demanding as I had anticipated, which is positive too for there are many tasks ahead in planning for the next steps in beginning the Catholic University of the Sudan. Here we are in a real winter situation – some ten inches of new snow last week end and more expected during the next few days. Most schools in eastern Washington are closed, now the third day. I am rather appreciating the beauty of the season – easily said, since I need not shovel sidewalks and drive the uncertain roads!

## from the Dixons

Dear Nova Friends,

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend was a time of many insights and much joy! Thank you for three glorious days, for the rich tapestry of events, for great conversations and good food, and for all of the time, energy, and loving attention to detail that went into the planning. We appreciated being able to share our “silly songs” and to celebrate Gregg’s birthday.

We have thought much about the weekend and want to share four reflections.

- We were struck once again by the power of Spirit-filled, creative worship to awaken us to the God within us. The music and dance, the colors and symbols, the choice of readings, the chance to break bread together – everything called us into that precious present moment where we can be loved, strengthened, and healed. The creative talents of Nova members that have always blessed the community were so apparent in worship on Saturday afternoon. I know that I felt drawn to the path of ordained ministry in part because I had experienced the transforming power of great liturgy in Nova. At that service I recommitted myself to take every opportunity I have to share the Good News through good liturgy.
- We remembered what a critical role mentoring has played in our lives, particularly the mentoring we received from Sonja and Gil as young parents. Their wise, loving guidance and the friendships we developed with other parents in Nova shaped our own lives and the lives of our children in deep and lasting ways.
- We marveled all through the weekend that five years of shared life thirty-five years ago could have such a profound and lasting impact upon us. We felt “at home” as we reconnected with so many of you who continue to be our lifelong friends. As our lives have unfolded in different places with different people, we have come to realize that in Nova we found friends who share our search for spiritual understanding. That deep desire continues to draw us to you all, and your ongoing search continues to feed and inspire us.
- We realize that Nova is a unique “sign,” not a broad “solution” for all faith communities. We encourage you to continue to be what you are – a “beacon on the hill,” a resource for the broader church, a training base for “missionaries” like us. Keep your common life wrapped in prayer. We are not called to be responsible for everything – but we are called to be able to respond to the “nudges” of the Spirit that are constantly coming to us. Our work is to prepare our hearts and minds to receive those “nudges” every day in every situation – and that happens through prayer. As you consider your course, do what gives you joy and energy to keep going, sure signs that you are on the right path.
- The 40th Anniversary was a powerful reminder of all that Nova has given us so much over all these years. Thank you for your friendship, your relentless pursuit of spiritual understanding, your witness in the world, your outreach support, and now for a great weekend. We loved it all and are glad we came!

With many thanks and much love,

~Valerie and Gregg

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# Reflections . . .

(Continued from page 28)

"It was something amazing and made one feel proud to be part of such a loving church family."

"The anniversary weekend looked, sounded, tasted, smelled and FELT amazing. What a good group of people!"

**from Anna and Warren Reich**

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Nova:

Anna and I send to all of you, from Australia, our deepest and most prayerful wishes for a joyous celebration of Nova's 40th Anniversary.

I have so many joyous memories of these past 40 years of Nova and of the year or two leading up to its creation. It has been a centerpoint for personal spirituality and an extraordinary experiment in a liturgically- and socially-oriented small Christian community.

Our open, non-judgmental, lay-directed community has fostered faith in the midst of a chaotic world of change. It has helped to establish new church paradigms for pastoral care of one another. And it has done all of this in the setting of an extended family. The Nova family IS family !!

**from Maureen Connors and Maury Flood**

Maury and I were unable to make this weekend because I was committed here at the Franciscan Center where I work. We're having a women's retreat from Edwina Gateley this weekend. As I listened to her tonight, I was grateful for the two lay communities that have nurtured Maury and me.

Nova has been in my life since Maury introduced me to the community when we moved to Northern Virginia 31 years ago. He had been a member before he moved to Eastern KY. How happy I was to have found a community home. You supported our finding our second community--The Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) when we went off to South Africa in 1988. Edwina founded that community. As she spoke about "soul sisters" especially Anna the prophetess and the church that is so much larger than the institutional church I keep thinking, "I know that. Nova taught me that years ago!!!" Gil and Sonja, Mike and Gen Timpane, Anne and Dean Houck, Marcelline Nieman, just to name a few of the elders---all of you past and present members, the wonderful Padre Cadre, the first women's retreat, the powerful liturgies especially during Holy Week---I could go on and on.

Thanks for continuing to live what Diarmuid O'Murchu calls "living as if." May you and the generations which follow keep on keeping on! Celebrate with gusto as we would if we were with you.

Love and prayers ...

## If

If I were brisk and self-sufficient  
Contented, agile, keen, efficient  
Rising nimbly to every occasion  
Convincing all without evasion  
If the crown gently bowed to God at  
my nod  
If my face were fresh and lovely  
Dear God, who would seek my  
heart?

**from Bob Birch,**  
Streetsweeper Christ: The Church  
Speaks from the Gutter



# *Nova's 40th Anniversary Celebration*

January 11-13, 2008

Friday: Pot Luck/Musical Memories  
at Meg Tuccillo's home

Saturday: Main Celebration  
4pm- Liturgy 6pm Dinner/Gala  
John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Sunday: Brunch/Round Table  
10am at Kenmore School

Are you looking for more? See more photos at Dianne's site at  
<http://web.me.com/dicarroll/Anniversary/Welcome.html>  
<http://novacommunity40th.shutterfly.com/>

Well, we have recipes from the Friday night chili get together and DVD(s) of the

1. Liturgy Celebration,
2. Reception Celebration, and
3. Sunday morning Padre Cadre

Nova will provide the discs at cost. (Approx. \$6 mailed, \$3 if picked up)  
You can get one (or more) by

contacting Dianne Carroll [diacarroll@comcast.net](mailto:diacarroll@comcast.net)

[www.novacommunity.info](http://www.novacommunity.info)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/novacommunity/>