



nova notes

NOVA Catholic Community

April, 2009

Chair Notes

March roared in with several inches of snow and, true to form, is bleating out with a glorious display of daffodils, forsythia, flowering trees and much warmer weather – just in time for Easter. This season of hope and resurrection and bursting forth seems somehow to reflect what is going on in our busy and energetic community these days. The 5 Peace & Social Justice Committees have all been meeting and gaining momentum for special projects in their area of concern. Lots of new ideas are percolating and I sense a renewal of faith and hope – just in time for Easter.

Our Lenten theme this year is, “Let Your Heart Speak”. We are asked to slow down, listen, take a longer walk to where we’re going in order to hear the wisdom of Sophia within. The First Sunday of Lent we entered into a deep meditation as we joined Jesus in his desert experience – 40 days and 40 nights of listening, grappling with fears, paying attention to the small things so that we might know what the truly big issues are. Our liturgical space has been almost magically transformed into a container of peace, ringed with candles and photos of labyrinths meant to remind us to slow down and walk the circuitous route with Jesus this Lenten season. We are asked to enter the space quietly and slowly and follow the tiled path around the room to the altar placed in the center. A single candle in a glass bowl is set to remind us of coming to the heart of our intentions. At several liturgies we have been invited to “speak from our hearts” with

one another – a gentle kind of sharing that has helped to deepen and inspire. I have heard so many comments about how beautiful this Lenten experience has been. Deep gratitude is due to all the planners and musicians and priests who are leading us through this special time.

Meanwhile, so many things are “cooking” in the community. The Holy Thursday team has had their annual debate about what we should prepare for dinner for that “holy of holy” nights in our seasonal cycle. The Palm Sunday and Easter teams are stirring up wondrous things for us once more. The Peace Committee brought the Grandmothers for Peace out to Route 50 to commemorate the 6th anniversary of the start of the Iraq war and is working on a Peace Liturgy as well as a fall workshop to enhance peace in our personal relationships. More than 40 Nova members have signed up for the IEC Conference in May and many are working on the program and liturgy. The Environmental Group is looking at Earth Day and/or seasonal celebrations for the community. Bob O’Toole is arranging to bring the premiere screening in the Washington area of the new “Women of Faith” film. And, of course, the International Development Committee has set the date for a major fund-raiser for Nova international projects. Save Saturday, October 3rd for the “Men Who Cook” extravaganza.

Our annual Calling Forth meeting will be held this year on Saturday, May 30th. Please plan to come. SOMEBODY has to lead/follow this incredible community into the future.

~Gloria

NOVA Catholic Community
<http://nova.novacommunity.org>
 NOVA Photos <http://web.mac.com/dicarroll/Nova>

April Birthdays, etc.

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The NOVA Catholic Community Invites You To Celebrate The Eucharistic Liturgy With Us Every Sunday in Arlington, Virginia.

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

[Lacey Woods]
 Liturgies begin at 9:30 am—Gather at 9:15 am

[Kenmore]
 Liturgy begins at 10:15 am—Gather at 10:00 am

- 1 Abraham Maslow
- 2 Chris Egbulem
- 3 John Marron
- 4 Sarah Gillmarten
- 5 Gil Donahue (RIP)
- 6 David Meyer
- 7 Steve Michelotti
- 8 Archer Heinzen
- 9 Buddha
- 10 Ray Tarasovic
- 11 Victoria Robinson
- 12 Meg Tucillo
- 13 Maureen Flood
- 14 Tom Hayes
- 15 Chris Massey
- 16 Timothy Showalter
- 17 Pope Benedict XVI
- 18 Jim Weber
- 19 Chris Donahue
- 20 Alicia Swanberg
- 21 Kopp Michelotti
- 22 Jason Powell
- 23 Emilia Formoso
- 24 Patricia Violand Mercado (RIP)
- 25 Benjamin Ferguson



Newsletter Deadline is April 26....2009

Liturgies: Year B— Cycle I

For inclusive Readings and Music Selections go to nova.novacommunity.org, member section, Documents/Liturgy Info. Please give all music selections to the Music Liaison the Sunday before your liturgy.
LITURGIES AT KENMORE

APRIL MUSIC LIAISON Gloria Mog

Reminder: *During Lent, please arrive a little early and enter the meditative walk in silence.*

April 5 – Palm Sunday

Bill Callahan – Mike Timpane et al.
Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philemon 2:6-11
Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

April 9 – Holy Thursday

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. – Dianne Carroll et al.
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

April 10 – Good Friday

Meg Tuccillo
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

April 11 – Easter Vigil

Joe Kenna – Jeanne Clarkson, Marie Keefe
Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-14
Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5-11; Exodus 14:15-15:1
Psalm 30:2-13; Romans 6:3-11
Mark 16:1-7

April 19 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Bill Callahan – Clyde Christofferson
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

April 26 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Bill Callahan – Larry and Cathy Goldschmidt
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48



MUSIC LIAISON Tim White

May 3 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. – Kate Doherty
Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

May 10 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Joe Kenna – The Cackley Family
Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-28, 30-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8


**Note:
Last Sunday
at Kenmore**

May 17 – No Nova Liturgy

All are invited to the closing liturgy of the IEC Conference at 10:30 a.m., whether attending the Conference or not. Location: Auditorium of the National 4-H Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

May 24 – 7th Sunday of Easter (at Lacey Woods Park)***

Bill Callahan – Marie Keefe and Alida Yath-Cruces
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11b-19

May 31 – Pentecost (location to be determined)***

Jim Hug, S.J. – Linda Rosenberg and Kathy Scheimer
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

*****Nova's summer schedule in effect starting May 24 through September 13. Gather at 9:15 am. Liturgy begins at 9:30 am. Location for all Sundays except May 31: the picnic pavilion at Lacey Woods Park on N. George Mason Drive near Washington Boulevard in Arlington.**



NOVA 2009 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Where: Kenmore Middle School
Time: 10:15 am
Presider: Bill Callahan

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Where: The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment (formerly the Woman's Club of Falls Church) 222 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, one block north of Route 7). Parking is available in the municipal lot between the State Theater and Rt. 7 and in the office condo lot next door. Please do not park in the State Theater lot.
Time: Gather between 6:30-6:45 pm. Liturgy begins at 7:00 pm.
Presider: Quinn Conners, O.Carm.

This is the one NOVA occasion where space is limited and an RSVP is required. Please call Cathy Goldschmidt at (703) 527-7447 cmgolds@comcast.net by April 4 to let us know how many will attend and to receive your meal assignment. Thanks!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Where: Kenmore Middle School—Black Box Theatre (near the main entrance)
Time: 8:00 pm
Presider: Meg Tuccillo



EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY APRIL 11

Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA 22124 (In the Chapel)
Time: Gather 7:15 p.m. Liturgy begins 7:30 pm
Presider: Joe Kenna

In keeping with past custom, there will be an agape following the Easter Vigil liturgy. Please bring finger food to share. Beverages will be provided.



IRAQ Casualty Toll

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

US Military Deaths	4,261
Suicides	177
Missing or Captured	1
Civilian Deaths**	30,723 — 273,378+
American Wounded	
(reported)	45,583
(estimated)	100,000+

**documented to 3/23/2009. This number may be seriously understated.

Afghanistan Casualties: 665
(Operation Enduring Freedom)
American Wounded (reported) 2,725

Source:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>

More than 103 times as many people have been killed in these wars and occupations than in [all terrorist attacks in the world from 1993-2004](#). About 241 times as many people have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq than in the ghastly attacks of September 11, 2001.

Source:

www.unknownnews.net/casualties.html



U.S. anti-war demonstrators stage a protest in New York March 19, 2009, marking the 6th anniversary of the start of Iraq war.

NOVA is praying for ...



Jim Furlong . . . needs your love and prayers. He underwent treatment at Fairfax Hospital and is now in Hospice care. Jim is home and open for visitors after 10 am. Please call ahead of time to see if the day is good for a visit. Please note the need to avoid any scents (deodorant, perfume, etc.) on your person in order to avoid adverse impact on Jody while visiting. NOVA has planned a special celebration for Jim and his many gifts to us on Sunday evening, March 29th. Jim's address is 7930 St. Dennis Dr. Springfield, VA 22153-2712 and phone, (703) 455-2439.

+

Joe Bonsignore ... is home from the hospital, recuperating very well and looking better than ever. He has returned to being a "regular" at liturgies. See if you can spot a photo of him in this newsletter.

+

Jean Mendez ... successfully underwent surgery on her eyes. Of course, you know that you can't keep her down for long. In addition to your prayers, Jean enjoys calls and notes, but not email.

+

Warren Reich ... is recuperating at home. He underwent spinal surgery at Inova Fairfax, followed by rehabilitation at Mt Vernon hospital and continues his regimen at home in Alexandria.

+

Lord, hear our prayer

Activities . . .

Gunston volunteers needed



Nova volunteers distribute bags of non-perishable food, cereal provided by Nova, perishable (eggs, milk, meat, etc) items picked up at the Arlington Food

Assistance Center warehouse on the night of distribution and produce items every other week picked up by Eric Carroll at the produce markets downtown(funded by the Nova Peace & Justice budget). The distribution takes place at the Gunston Middle School Recreation Center in Arlington. Many volunteers have been active in this project for a dozen years and others are more recent. All love their work and would love to teach new Nova folks how it's done. So if you would like to volunteer: email Dianne Carroll diacarroll@comcast.net or call 703-536-2616

~Dianne

April 2: Eric Marie Claire, Cathy G

April 9: Holy Thursday

Nova celebration Lani will help

April 16: Glen, Syd, Lani

April 23: Kopp/Cece Michelotti, Gloria, Marie K

April 30: Marie P, Tim, Jerry, Lani

Routine: (usually)

Perishable pickup at AFAC warehouse at 6:00pm

Distribution at Gunston 6:30-7:30

Clean up and return list to AFAC

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

We Pray for Just Immigration Reform

We pray for the grace of a new perspective and the ability to see and hear a different voice in the immigration debate.

We ask for the clarity of vision to see the false projections and mis-portrayals of honest people seeking life.

Help us to reject and silence the divisive and dehumanizing political rhetoric surrounding immigration.

Enlarge our vision to see real people, not labels; to recognize with dignity the human beings who long for security, for safety, for the well being of their families so they can thrive.

We pray for all those who have lost their lives in their search for a better life. We pray for families who suffer such losses and grieve for loved ones.

May we remember that the duty to protect and promote the sacredness of all life is in our hands. May we be advocates for humanity, not judges patrolling the borders of our collective fear.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, whose border crossing brings us all to abundant life.

*--Sr. Katherine Feely,
Education for Justice/
Center of Concern*



Announcements

Christ House . . . Meat & Potatoes

The NOVA community will prepare and serve dinner for nearly 70 clients of the Christ House shelter in Alexandria on Monday April 20. How do we do it? Many cooks; many hands! Members of the community prepare meatloaf and scalloped potatoes to be served by volunteers who take the food to Christ House. Please mark your calendars to prepare food and bring it to liturgy on Sunday April 19, or drop it off at the Michelottis any time Sunday or, on Monday, up till 1:00 PM. The address is 6325 19th Street N., Arlington. Just leave your spuds and/or meatloaves in the coolers on the front porch. You need not bother knocking – the front porch is always unlocked. If you would like to help serve, call Kopp Michelotti at 703-241-0789 for information and directions. I wish I could tell you how grateful the clients at Christ House are for your generosity. Those who have helped serve have come to realize that the NOVA “menu” is probably the most popular meal offered to the clientele.



Help the working poor - Yard Sale on May 2 - Please save the date and check with Victoria with details on de-Cluttering your life and helping others at the same time. (see page 14)

Ana Cackley is appearing in HB Woodlawn's production of the "Heidi Chronicles". Ana's last show had standing room only. Save the dates. *Apr 2 & 3, 7:30 pm & Apr 4, 2:30 & 7:30 pm-Cappies Show in the Black Box Theater.*

24th Annual Peace Justice & Environmental Conference - April 3 (evening) & April 4, 2009 - Sponsored by Pax Christi, Metro DC. Location: The Church of the Resurrection, 3315 Greencastle Rd, Burtonsville, MD. Please contact Peggy (BILLPEGM@aol.com) for additional information.

Relay for Life - Genevieve Schmitt is participating in the American Cancer Society **Relay for Life on May 30, 2009**, supported by the Falls Church Public Schools. She would like your support. Please click on the following link for event information... <http://tinyurl.com/d5yrlj>
For more information, please contact Gen & Catherine Schmitt, CatherinelovesNova@gmail.com.



Q. What do Easter Bunny helpers get for making a basket?
A. Two points, just like anyone else.

Praying with the Mystics Series

Make a Date with a Mystic (continuing)

A Free Series and Open to the Public

Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm

January - December 2009

"When I think of mystics, I think of ordinary people living out an incredibly intimate experience of relationship with God - gifted, too, with wisdom, grace and spiritual communion. And I wonder what the message is for me in my life today."

Please join us Tuesday evenings as we immerse ourselves in the stories of fourteen ordinary men and women who led extraordinary, God-gifted lives. Learn what they have to teach us today and how their lives can still inspire and influence us.

Each evening will include an introduction to the mystic, prayer, and small group sharing. No registration necessary. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

April 7
7:30-9pm

Hildegard of Bingen - a German abbess, artist, author, counselor, linguist, naturalist, scientist, philosopher, physician, herbalist, poet, visionary and composer.

Led by Liz Ward

Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, 7720 Alaska Avenue, Washington, DC

May 5
7:30-9pm

Jean-Pierre de Caussade - a French Jesuit priest and spiritual director known through his writings, *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, and his posthumously-published letters of instruction.

Led by Leslie Miller

Location: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA

June 2
7:30-9pm

John Woolman - an 18th Century itinerant Quaker preacher, who traveled throughout the American colonies, advocating against slavery, war and the plight of the poor.

Led by Bill Dietrich

Location: St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 14100 Darnestown Rd, Germantown, MD



What do you call a bunny with a large brain?

Egghead!

Living Hope: The Well of Life WomenCircles Retreat Week-end

April 24-26, 2009

Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday 3:00 pm

Blue Mountain Retreat Center - Knoxville, Maryland

"Within each of us is a holy well, a place in which the living waters of gratitude, wisdom, creativity and deep communion with Spirit continually flow." -Joan Borysenko, "A Peaceful Heart in a Busy World"

Cultivating hope as a source of energy, inspiration, joy and motivation seems particularly critical in this time of fear and discouragement. This retreat will focus on the "practice" of hope vs. that of despair and pessimism. We are using the metaphor of drawing water from a well in recognition that hope is as vital for the soul as water is for the body.

Come join us in creating a community of hope as we explore how to build and sustain this life-affirming energy within. Meditation and movement, journaling and song, poetry, artistic creations and the gift of time with nature and silence, all help to create a "holy well" of living hope.

Blue Mountain Retreat Center is located just outside Harpers Ferry, W.Va. in the Blue Ridge Mountains, less than 2 hours from the DC area. Set on 27 acres of secluded wooded land, this recently opened retreat center has spacious meeting areas, comfortable bedrooms (2-3 beds/room), two large fireplaces, a wrap-around deck and a hot tub. Food contributions and preparation will be shared by the group.

*Fee: \$325 if registered by 3/24 - \$350 after. A \$100 deposit holds your reservation until 3/24 when the balance is due; no refunds after 4/6. **Please call Gloria Mog (703) 550-4164 with any questions.***

Limited to 15 participants - register early!

Oral Rehydration Project

~Carolyn Miller

This event took place for the second time on March 1, 2009. The project was an ecumenical one including Jews, Christians, Students and non-affiliated peoples.

Summary:

We are thrilled to announce that we completed 19,488 packets. We had approximately 270 volunteers, 30% from Beth El and 25% from ICOH. We had at least 6 ministers sitting at our tables. We had other volunteers from Nova Roman Catholic Community, One Brick volunteer organization, CIVICUS of University of MD, Rotary of

Baileys Crossroads and a handful from Fairlington Methodist. We also had some teens who had just heard about it. For most of the day, we were at capacity and always had a few people waiting for a spot.

We want to thank the Rabbi and the RS for financial assistance and ICOH for contributing all of the dental bags. When this project was first suggested, I never imagined such a success.

[Carolyn Miller reported on 3/24] Thought you'd like to know that they were picked up last week and flown to Darfur. It's so good to know that they went there where they're so badly needed, and will save some lives.

Action Africa, Inc.

2903 Mills Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20018
Phone: 202-529-8350 <http://www.actionafrica.org>
Email: actionafrica@verizon.net

NOVA Catholic Community

Action Africa has been making gradual but systemic progress on several fronts over the past year, in spite of the hostile economic environment that everyone has been facing. Following guidelines that were developed during our organizational workshops last fall; we have been implementing strategies that will enable us to grow beyond where we are currently. Again, the economic situations have not helped this process, but we believe strongly that the seeds that we are planting now will germinate and flourish when the rains finally come.

This week, we begin a new phase of our organizational overhaul when four MD University students come in to take up aspects of our technology and development tasks. In the coming weeks, he will be collaborating with a team of website designers to update and refresh our website. (I cannot forget to pay homage to Leslie Keefe who has manufactured some time over the past number of years to help design and configure and manage our site till date.)

Nigeria: Our current Health care/ Clinics coordinator, Nurse Nkechi Ndekwe, has recently completed required Local Government training at a State Health Institution, and has been assigned by the government as Station Nurse at Ubulu. Action Africa is coming up with some supplies.

Sierra Leone: Action Africa is in the process of adopting a village clinic that was built by foreign missionaries many years ago but which was com-

pletely vandalized by rebels during the civil war in the country. There are visiting health workers that we are currently signing up to run our programs there, which would include free clinics and maternity services. Programs at this clinic in the village of Masimera-Rotheren (Northern SL) are being designed to reach out to as many as 18 surrounding villages that the clinic served initially. The total population of these many villages is estimated at 22,000. We have initiated plans to send a group of University of MD students to volunteer in this region next winter.



Thank you NOVA, for your continued support. Your commitment to Action Africa is making these initiatives possible. Know that your monthly seed-money to Action Africa is an investment in human lives.

God bless you and all.
Sincerely in Christ,
/s/Chris Nwaka Egbulem,
President



PAX Community 40th Anniversary Lecture Series

Post-Vatican II Intentional Eucharistic Communities: Theological and Practical Issues

A series of lectures, offered by the PAX Community to celebrate its 40 Anniversary Year, open to the Christian community of the Greater Washington area. **All talks begin on Sunday at 6:00 PM** and will last approximately 90 minutes (including discussion and questions). Refreshments will be served after the sessions.

For more information (or in the event of inclement weather), call Patti Wilson at (703) 241-1910 (pattishanahan@yahoo.com). All talks will be held at **St Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Old Georgetown Pike, McLean VA** (approximately ¾ mile inside Beltway). Admission is free. Reservations are *not* required. The speaker sessions will be as follows:



Sunday liturgies are celebrated at 8:45 am at St Luke Orthodox Church, McLean, VA.

Date	April 19th (Sunday)
Topic	Christology and the Intentional Eucharistic Community: What are They Saving about Jesus, the Christ, today?
Speaker	Donald Buggert, O.Carm , STD, Professor of Systematic Theology, Washington Theological Union

Date	May 3rd (Sunday)
Topic	Ministerial Priesthood Among the Baptized
Speaker	Theresa Koernke, IHM , PhD, Professor of Word and Worship, Washington Theological Union.

News from Zambia

Fr. Henriot celebrates with us when he comes to the states and has been working in Zambia for many years.



Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Lusaka, Zambia celebrates 20 years of Promoting Faith and Justice

Peter J. Henriot, Director of the Centre

The Centre vision is to have a society where faith promotes justice for all in all spheres of life, especially for the poor.

Join Christian Peace Witness for Iraq in Washington!

WORSHIP & WITNESS

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 pm
Washington Convention Center

Featured Preachers & Speakers include:

Tony Campolo - author, pastor, social activist, sociologist, and passionate follower of Jesus

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr. - minister, community activist, president of the Hip Hop Caucus, and US Air Force Reserve Veteran

Sr. Dianna Ortiz - US born survivor of torture in Guatemala, Founder of Torture Abolition and Survivors' Support Coalition International

Elizabeth McAlister - peace activist and co-founder of Jonah House

Daniel Berrigan - Catholic priest, poet, peace activist

Worship will be followed by a procession to the White House that evening, and a

WITNESS AND NONVIOLENT ACTION

at the Capitol the following morning
Thursday, April 30, 9:00 am

ALSO:

Wednesday, April 29
National City Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW

Opening Convocation 12:30-1:30 pm
Nonviolence training 2:30 pm

April 29-30, 2009: Join Christian Peace Witness for Iraq in Washington!

On the 100th day of the new administration, come to Washington, D.C. for the third national Christian Peace Witness for Iraq event. Join us in the nation's capital for witness and worship Wednesday evening and nonviolent action and advocacy on Thursday to call on the new president and Congress to end the war and occupation in Iraq, support a comprehensive peace process, end the policy and practice of torture and meet human needs at home.

<http://christianpeacewitness.org/>

Lent 2009: Repent, Return, Restore A Lenten Prayer for the 6th Anniversary of the War in Iraq

by Johnny Zokovitch

Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. – Joel 2:12

O God of peace:

Let our nation **return** to the ways of God, the ways of justice and mercy, so absent in the vengeance and greed which drove the decision to invade and occupy Iraq.

Let us **fast** and repent of torture, violence, extraordinary rendition, the employment of mercenary forces like Blackwater, and let us **return** to our belief in the rule of law, the practice of diplomacy, and the desire for peace.

Let us **weep** for all those who have suffered on both sides, all those lives irrevocably broken by the violence of this war.

And let us **mourn** the dead—our nearly 5,000 soldiers and the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and children.

Let our hearts break and our souls wail for all those who have been lost to us.

And finally, dear God, let our troops **return** home

and let us **return** Iraq to its people, supporting them in rebuilding and reconstructing their devastated nation.

During this season of Lent, this will be our prayer,

supported and deepened by our fasting and action:

No more war in Iraq. No war! Never again!
Amen.

[Pax Christi Lenten events](#)

[On behalf of the family of Jesse Zinn: Jennifer and 3 children and 1 on the way, NOVA held a second collection at church and from community members living far away. Gloria delivered this card with the check to Kathy and Joe to deliver to Jennifer. It was received with overwhelming gratitude and love. The card read:

*Dear Jennifer, Elli, Will, Aidan, and family,
May God's peace surround you,
May you find comfort in knowing that
the Nova Community shares your sadness.]*

[from Jennifer. . .]

*We will hold in
grateful remembrance*

*your kind expression
of sympathy.*

The family of Jesse David Zinn

Dear Friends of the NOVA Catholic
Community,

Thank you so much for your support and prayers following the death of my husband, Jesse Zinn.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers sent in remembrance of Jesse. Your kind thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Love,
Jennifer Zinn

Nova Discussion List Recommendations

At the last General Meeting the community discussed whether or not to have guidelines for the online Nova Discussion List. Some people have complained about receiving too many emails, a few have opted out of the List entirely because of volume. Strong feelings were expressed on both sides of the issue with some wanting an open and encouraging List that would invite more posts and discussion and others wanting strict guidelines that would restrict the list to Nova announcements only. While it may not be possible to reach consensus on this issue, the following general ideas were put forth for the community's consideration.

- Stop, breathe and think before hitting "reply all" or automatically forwarding emails you receive from various organizations. Ask yourself if the majority of the community needs to receive this information, if it might be more appropriate to respond just to an individual sender or if your personal response to a situation/issue may be "too much information" as the young folks say.
- Try to be diplomatic and calm when replying to emails – particularly those that upset you. Criticism always feels harsher when written and misunderstanding can spread quickly. It may be better to communicate 1:1 with that person.
- If someone has written to you privately, do not forward their email unless you have their permission. What they wrote may not have been intended for wider distribution.
- If you have an idea for a new Nova project or response to an issue, send it to the Chairs or the appropriate Committee Chair so it can be considered in light of what else is going on in the community before being debated on the List.
- Nova has a Facebook Page (thanks to Ken) where individuals who would like more extensive discussion about a variety of issues can join together. Email Ken if you have questions about how to use this feature. Please send Eric and Gloria your response to these ideas and any other thoughts you have on making our Discussion List a good experience for everyone.

[Ed. Note: Contact Ken Chaison if you would like to be on the Nova Discussion List, or if you would like to be taken off. Also, contact him if you would like to add your name/address to the Nova Directory.

Ken Chaison [kenchaison@yahoo.com]

Cash & Carry!

Social Justice Yard Sale

Saturday, May 2d
7:00 am - 1:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax
2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124

www.uucf.org

1/2 mile from Chain Bridge Road (Rt 123)

Questions: LFleetwood@mentalhealthamerica.net

- clothes
- toys
- housewares
- Books
- Furniture
- d.v.d.s
- c.d.s
- Small appliances
- tools
- jewelry
- artwork
- computers
- office items
- decorative items
- sports equipment
- linens & drapes
- much, much more!

All proceeds go to our social justice projects:

- Our Daily Bread
- Partner Church Circle
- Mosaic Harmony
- The Shepherd Center





A Looming Ecological Food Crisis

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News from the front lines of food security has been grimmer than usual over the last year. Food riots have occurred in countries as disparate as Haiti, Yemen, Cameroon and Bangladesh. There are now 963 million undernourished people globally according to the World Food Programme. Another 110 million people have been driven below the poverty line by food prices of staple goods that had risen as much as 200%, before beginning to fall again at the end of 2008.

Many of the underlying causes are deeply imbedded within the structures of the global economy: trade liberalization, market deregulation, speculation, and the concentration of food production and distribution within a handful of large agribusiness concerns. The underlying free market ideology has created a situation in which many low-income countries have become highly dependent on food imports, leaving them extremely vulnerable to external shocks and price volatility.

And the news is likely to get worse. Although environmental causes have contributed to some degree to the current food crisis, without a major reversal of current trends, they are likely to take a leading role in the coming decades. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released

a new report in February looking at the environmental underpinnings of long-term global food (in)security.

As the UNEP study emphasizes, the natural environment forms the platform upon which food production takes place. It provides vital services to agriculture including soil nutrients, water management, a stable climate, insects for pollination, genetic diversity, and resilience against natural disasters. Yet critical resources are rapidly being depleted and ecosystems degraded. The combination of water scarcity, soil degradation, land-use changes and evolving climate change could lead to a global food shortfall of up to 25% of demand by 2050. To look at just one piece of the puzzle, projected changes in growing conditions such as average temperature and precipitation due to global warming will have serious negative repercussions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that yields from rain-fed agriculture will fall by up to 50% by 2020 in Africa, and up to 30% in Central and South Asia by 2050. Increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events will compound the problem. Already drought is one of the primary causes of food shortages worldwide.

In addition, the relationship between climate and agriculture is a two-way street. Although little discussed, agriculture accounts for approximately 30% of human contributions to global warming, more than either the transport or building sectors. Livestock production is a major culprit, accounting for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Oil-dependent production and distribution systems, and land-use changes as forests are converted to crop lands also contribute to food-related emissions. They undermine the ability of ecosystems to sequester car-

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

bon, and remove key natural defenses against climate variability.

Similar themes play out in other facets of the looming ecological food crisis. The current large-scale, input-intensive industrial model of agriculture focuses on productivity, yet it simultaneously undermines the viability of the resource base it relies upon, and thus long-term objectives for global food security. Agriculture accounts for 70% of global freshwater usage, much of it non-renewable. Intensive farming methods deplete the soils, necessitating more and more chemical fertilizers to maintain yields. Monocultures replace genetic diversity, weakening resilience against pests, disease and disasters.

Growing evidence, however, points to the promise of sustainable agriculture models, particularly those that support local production and rebuild local markets. A study from the University of Michigan shows that organic agricultural practices could in fact meet global food needs on existing crop land. Yields fell very slightly in developed countries, but made significant gains, double or even triple current levels, in developing countries, many of which are at present food insecure. Another study demonstrated that “resource-conserving” practices that sustainably manage the natural resource base of local agricultural production could lead to yield increases averaging 80% in developing countries.

A deeper probing of the food crisis reveals that the question is not a simple one of how much food is being produced. The question more essentially is about how it is produced. A more holistic vision of agriculture that appropriately values its social, cultural and ecological dimensions is more likely to guarantee not only long-term food security, but healthier and more resilient ecosystems and communities.

Endnotes

1. United Nations Environment Programme. “The Environmental Food Crises: Environment’s role in averting future food crises.” February 2009.
2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. “Contribution from Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report: Summary for Policymakers.” April 2007.
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. “Livestock’s Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options.” 2006.
4. Catherine Badgley et al. “Organic agriculture and the global food supply.” *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*. 2007.
5. J. N. Pretty et al. “Resource-Conserving Agriculture Increases Yields in Developing Countries.” *Environmental Science and Technology*. 2006.

[The above article was reprinted with permission from *Center Focus*, Spring 2009. This excellent publication is from the Center of Concern and available online at <http://www.coc.org/> Our appreciation to Fr Jim Hug.]

Also available at their website: **Darfur: A Catholic Study and Discussion Guide**

The new 47-page Catholic study guide, a companion to the New York Times best-selling book, *Darfur: Not On Our Watch*, is available for free. ***Not on Our Watch : Catholic Companion and Discussion Guide***

is designed to help Catholics understand the issues of Darfur from a Catholic perspective. Explore what is happening, why it is happening, what has been done, and what still needs to be done to bring justice and peace to the people of Darfur. Each segment includes short prayers, scripture reflections, reflection and discussion questions and more. This discussion guide was written by Education for Justice staff: Jane Deren, Sr. Katherine Feely, SND, Bill Griffin, CFX and Elizabeth Leipold.

Marking the Sixth Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq



On March 15, remembering the beginning of the war in Iraq, some Nova members stood on the sidewalk on Rt. 50 an hour before the liturgy.



This month at Nova . . .



at Solomon Klein . . .



Easter, 2009

Finally, from now on, we are people of life, people of eternal life, Easter people, people of the resurrection, people who look to the risen Jesus, people who know that Jesus is alive, people who follow him on the road to resurrection. So I invite you to begin fifty days of the Easter season, and to ask the risen Jesus to give you his Easter gifts of joy and peace, to rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus as the first disciples did, and to hear Jesus call you to share in his resurrection. I wrote out a little litany for us:

- + To whatever part of you is dead, today the risen Jesus says, “Rise and live.”
- + To whatever part of you is in despair or depressed or sad or ill, today the risen Jesus says, “Rise and take on hope.”
- + To whatever part of you is stuck in fear or anger or resentment or revenge or hurts or apathy or indifference, today the risen Jesus says, “Rise and receive my love and live in my compassionate love.”
- + To whatever part of you is stuck in lies or cynicism or gossip or putting others down or heavy burdens or greed or the culture of death or violence or empty patriotism or deadly American warmaking, today the risen Jesus says, “Rise and welcome my reign of love and nonviolence and truth.”
- + To whatever part of you is stuck in doubt or worry or anxiety or loneliness or grief or sorrow, today, the risen Jesus says, “Rise and from now on, live in the new life of resurrection and receive my Easter gift of peace and joy.”

Happy Easter!

~John Dear, Easter 2004



April, 2009



NOVA Calendar

Every Thursday.... Food distribution at Gunston, see page 6
Every Sunday ... Cereal boxes brought to liturgy for Gunston
First Sunday of Month ... Paper products (towels, toilet) for Doorways

April 2-4 – Heidi Chronicles w/Ana Cackley, page 7

April 3-4 – Pax Christi J & E Conference, page 7

Tuesday, April 7 – Hildegard of Bingen, page 8

April 9-11 – Holy Week, page 4

Sunday, April 19 – PAX Lecture, Christology and the IEC, page 11

Monday, April 20 – Christ House, page 7

April 24-26 – WomenCircles Retreat Weekend, page 9

April 29-30, Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, DC, page 12

Saturday, May 2, Charity Yard Sale, page 7, 14

Sunday, May 3 – PAX Lecture, Ministerial Priesthood, page 11

Tuesday, May 5 -- Jean-Pierre de Caussade, page 8

May 15-17 – Intentional Eucharistic Communities Conference

May 30 – Annual Calling Forth Meeting, 5:30-9:30 pm. – Rose & Jerry Barrett’s – Details to follow.

May 24 – September 13 – Liturgies in the Park, 9:30 am

May 30 – Relay for Life, Gen Schmitt, page 7

Save the Date

September 18-20 – Annual Retreat at Shrinemont

October 3 – “Men Can Cook” – Gala Fund Raiser

International Development Committee