



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community August, 2006

Chair Notes: *Sunday in the park with Nova*

What a rich summer it has been.....and we still have all of August ahead! Even a particularly heavy Sunday deluge, followed the next week by a giant downed tree on the edge of our summer "chapel", became part of the Nova Community summer tapestry.

Each Sunday liturgy has begun with the lighting of the **Peace Candle**. With its light we commemorate all those who have died in Iraq. The names of those from the U.S. who have died since the beginning of the conflict are listed on scrolls at the base of the candle stand. The "**Peace In Today's World**" series began with Warren Reich on "The God of Violence and Love: Our God", continued with an original Peace Negotiation skit brought to us by Rose and Jerry Barrett, and followed by Joe Annunziata's presentation and discussion on "Non-Violence" (Look for a taste of the series further along in the newsletter.)

The summer has been marked by a joyful multitude of special life celebrationsgraduations, the return of our college students for the summer, **Peter Henriot's jubilee**, the installation of our new community leaders, the **Marron's 40th wedding anniversary**, **Meg Sullivan's and John Mausert-Mooney's marriage**, **Nicolas Christofferson's baptism**, and the celebration of **Mary of Magdala's feast day**.

On **Pentecost Sunday** Bill Callaghan reminded us that the followers Jesus "left behind" on earth after His death and resurrection were ordinary people. Jesus had given them a spark; they were trying to be believers in spite of their many doubts following Jesus' horrific death. Like the early disciples, we are wrestling with the issues of the day, sometimes gracefully and at other times clumsily. Most of us come to an understanding of Jesus from the experience of someone else bringing us along. How very important it is to be mindful of that as we live out our faith in community and the larger world. No matter how ordinary we are we bring something to the community that no one else can bring.

Trinity Sunday brought the celebration of Commitment, Commission and Trinity with the celebration Peter Henriot's 50 years as a Jesuit, the investiture of the community co-chairs for the year, John Tarrant, John Veldhuis, and Nancy Veldhuis. Peter Henriot reminded us that Trinity Sunday is actually a Feast of Community. Just as the Trinity is a unique relationship of the of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we are created in the image and likeness of God, thus we are made for community relationships. Peter shared a Bantu saying with us, "I am because we

are. We are because I am." to focus our attention on the solidarity to which we are called to have with the people that we encounter daily and those with whom we co-inhabit the world in which we live.

Commitment, Commissioning, and Corpus Christi was the theme of our celebration of the year's graduates and the challenges to them as well as all community members to be like the seed of the gospel parable. May we fall on rich soil, to go forth and bring the fruits of the gospel message into the world by the way we live it each day, supported and challenged by our community.

At the end of June Jim Scullion called us to bolster the faith of each other in community. We were challenged not only to continue to seek God's help in learning to pray but to also allow ourselves to be shaped by God in our prayers.

At the beginning of July we were reminded that Jesus cares about each of us and our lives. Jesus connected by touching others throughout his ministry. He continues to connect with us through the Eucharist and in community. Jesus brings about change and we are no longer the same after this encounter.

The importance of our contributions to and experience of community has been a recurring theme throughout the summer as Bill Callaghan reminded us that we, in community, make it possible for each other to dream dreams and act on them.

At **Nicolas Christofferson's Baptism**, Joe Kenna reminded us of how profoundly Jesus believed in himself, trusted in the process of faith, and acted in community. By extension we prayed that Nicolas would grow to believe in himself, not be confused but keep life simple, and be supported by his community of family, friends, and faith community.

As July begins to wind down, Joe Nangle called us to be **shepherds in the world**. One of the more critical tasks of today's world is shepherding ourselves and others to overcome fear. Our world is full of fear, filling its people with a dread of what catastrophes could befall us as a Nation if we are not super-vigilant and prompting violent attacks and counter-attacks in the already troubled areas of the world. Jesus has taught that fear is useless; what is needed is faith and trust in God's providence.

Namaste,

~Nancy Velduis

NOVA Catholic Community
<http://nova.novacommunity.org>

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Music Coordinator	Tom Clarkson	703-560-2096
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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 Week through Labor Day 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

newsletter deadline
Sunday, August 27

Birthdays, etc August

2 Chris Annunziata

Marcelline Niemann

4 Peg Taylor

7 Peggy & Bill Meyer Anniversary

9 Bob Birch (RIP)

Stephen Schmidt

Matt Weber

11 Joe Annunziata

Anne Houck

12 Eric Carroll

20 Rose Barrett

Marie Keefe

Christie Tuccillo

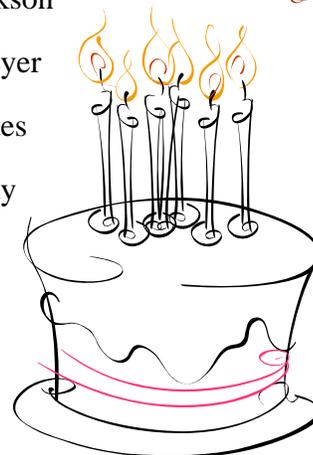
23 Mike & Nancy Chase Anniversary

26 Tom Clarkson

29 Peggy Meyer

30 Dan Montes

31 Kate Brady



Liturgies

AUGUST MUSIC LIAISON ...
Victoria Robinson

SEPTEMBER MUSIC LIAISON ...
Charlie & Amy Bailey

August 6 -- Transfiguration of the Lord

John Langan, SJ – Peggy & Bill Meyer
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Mark 9:2-10

August 13 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jim Hug, SJ – Joe Annunziata
1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:2-9
Ephesians 4:30--5:2
John 6:41-51

August 20 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna -- Cackleys
Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:2-3, 10-15
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 27 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan – Nova Prayer Group
(Jim Furlong, Peggy Meyer, Marie Schum-Brady,
Tim White)
Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 34:2-3, 16-23
Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69

September 3 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Francis DiSpigno, OFM – David Mog
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 10 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan – Emma Violand-Sanchez
Isaiah 35:4-7
Psalm 146:7-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

NOVA RETREAT—at Shrinemont

September 17 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

TBA – Retreat Planners
Isaiah 50:4-9
Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

See page 5 for details. . .

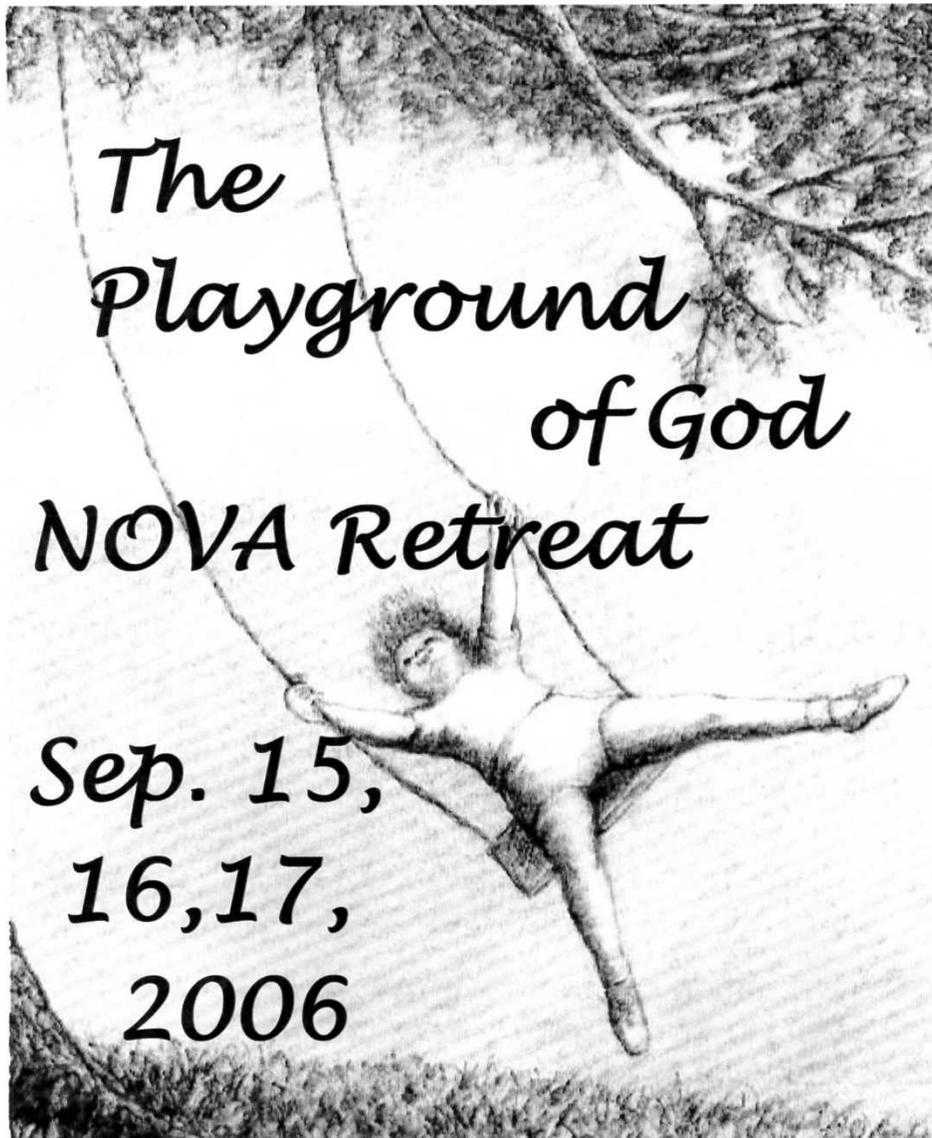
September 24 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Nangle, OFM -- Formosos
Wisdom 2:17-20
Psalm 54:3-6, 8
James 3:16--4:3
Mark 9:30-37

**Commitment, Commissioning
&
Corpus Christi**

June 18, 2006

NOVA RETREAT 2006



God's playground is creation. Our focus for the 2006 NOVA retreat is the rekindling of our playful spirit so that we can bring gusto, enthusiasm and passion back into our lives.

NOVA's 2006 retreat will be held at Shrine Mont from Friday evening through Sunday noon, September 15-17. The theme of the retreat will be "the Playground of God."

You must make reservations ahead of time with Kopp Michelotti because we have to give Shrine Mont a count of participants in advance. Call Kopp at 703-241-0789 or e-mail him at koppmich@yahoo.com. Leave a message with the names of all adults and children for whom you are reserving space. Please specify whether the kids are 3 or younger or 4-12 years old.

Shrine Mont is located approximately 2-1/2 hours from the Washington DC metro area, just beyond the Basye/Bryce Mountain ski resort. However, traffic gets very heavy on I-66 on Friday afternoons; that might make it prudent to allow a little more time. To reach Shrine Mont, follow Route 66 West to I-81 South to Mt. Jackson (Exit #273). Turn left onto Rt. 703 (East). (You will pass the biggest Sheetz in the universe! It's my experience that Sheetz almost always has the cheapest gas and the best coffee wherever you are on the road.) Then turn right (South) on US 11; follow it through town and turn right on Rt. #263 and follow approximately 15 miles to Orkney Springs.

Friday dinner will be served from 5:30 till 7:00 PM. The retreat will end with lunch on Sunday at 12:30 PM.

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

The cost for the weekend, lodging and meals, is \$135 for adults and teens, \$40 for children ages 4 to 12, free for children 3 years old and younger. NOVA doesn't want anyone to miss the retreat because of cost. We always have subsidies available; just talk to Kopp. Again, please call 703-241-0789 or e-mail koppmich@yahoo.com as soon as possible to reserve your space for the retreat.

News/Announcements

Nova Sunday Lecture Series launched this Summer (Summaries)

The God of Violence and Love: Our God – Warren Reich

Warren invited us to reflect on God and our relationship with the Divine as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures, where we come face-to-face with a God who seems to be involved in both wrath and love, violence and care. He asked: is there any way of explaining this so that care and love can win out over violence and war?

Many of us generally believe that if we work hard enough, with patience and commitment and faith, there will be no more violence or war; it will be a world only of peace. But the Bible portrays a world that is centered on humans who must live between the two poles of war and peace, anger and gentleness. Israel understood that God is related to and deeply active in the affairs of this world and is deeply affected by the humans to whom God relates. Thus even God will be affected by every act of violence. The difference is that for God it is not a toss-up between good and evil. God strives towards the good, the peaceful, the gentle, the loving, the caring and God want us to strive in the same direction.

God wants us to recoil from the energy of violence so we take that as energy toward the good. If based on the recoiling notion, the quest for peace is fragile. Will we always recoil from the horrific violence that is before us daily, or in trying to escape it, will we cease to be involved in trying to deal with violent behaviors in ourselves and in our communities while striving toward love and care? It may help to:

1. Meditate about how we understand God.

2. Acknowledge and act on the positive roll that violence and suffering play in human life. Every time we respond positively and compassionately and in favor of peace in the face of suffering caused by natural disasters or human violence such as the indiscriminate slaughter of Iraqis and people in Darfur, we are contributing to human conversion from violence to care and love.

3. Insert yourself in the dynamic energy that exists between anger and gentleness.

When anger arises, acknowledge it, feel it, accept it and put yourself in the energy that can move you toward gentleness which contains strength and power.

~Marcelline Niemann

Peace Negotiations, a Skit – Jerry Barrett

Based on his research concerning the conditions leading to Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, Jerry's creative skit presents the event as an example of perfect negotiation.

After his initial negative response to Grant's request for surrender, Lee asked the perfect question to set the stage for a peaceful resolution to their conflict: "What did you have in mind?" Both Lee and Grant set aside strong emotions and kept their focus on the desired outcome with which they were in full agreement, namely: end all fighting and bloodshed and get the men home. They created an environment which enabled them to do this in several ways. Lee in full dress uniform with sidearm and saber was not required to give up his sword. Their conversation focused on common interests such as news about Lee's sons or the need for the men to get home in time for the spring planting. Upon such shared concerns they could build rather than on details that could arouse negative emotions and stop the flow toward agreement. Lee was assured that Lincoln did not envision punishing those who ended the fighting. Grant ordered that Lee's troops and prisoners be provided with food and supplies as needed.

The discussion which followed the presentation asked how we can create the environment for successful negotiation so needed in our personal and community relationships. Can non-violent conflict resolution be taught in our schools? If we put more emphasis on how violence affects our families, would conflicts end sooner? If we learn to negotiate in our personal lives, can we influence national and world leaders to use non-violent means to settle the differences that lead us into war? What is the importance of mediation in the resolution of conflicts?

~Marcelline Niemann

Next Lectures in Schedule...

8/13 *Poverty*
Archer Heinzen
9/10 *What Do I Do*
Marie Keefe

News/Announcements

NOVA Consensus: How it Started

Using consensus wasn't always the way NOVA made decisions. In our early days, NOVA voted a lot. We felt voting on community decisions distinguished us from the top-down process of the institutional church. We relished that distinction a lot. We placed a high value on not being like the institution. Voting meant long debates, often with more points-of-view than members in room. That required many more meetings than is the practice today. And all meetings were very long.

During this early period, we were finding our way, creating a new church, checking the boundaries, determining if there were any boundaries. It was an exciting, lively, noisy, expressive, and opinionated time. The idea of seeking consensus was never considered. Given the environment, consensus wouldn't have worked.

The empowering feeling provided by a vote is illustrated by this recollection: once when the elected Chair moved overseas in mid term, Vice Chair Paul Heist could have finished out the term. But he insisted on a vote to promote him to Chair. He called a general meeting and persuaded several other candidates to compete with him for the job. Each candidate made a campaign speech to the assembled voters, ballots were distributed, ballot counters did their job, and announced Paul the winner. He then told the crowd how pleased he felt to be empowered as their leader by a majority vote.

Over time, many decisions on community practices and policies became accepted as established and workable ways of doing the community's business. As that occurred, debating many questions diminished, as did the need for voting.

Then in 197?, Dick and Peggy Magee, the Chair Couple at the time, were told by Mike Timpane about a meeting he had attended in which consen-

sus decision making was used. Intrigued with the idea, they asked Rose Barrett to gather a committee to discuss and recommend a plan for using consensus in

NOVA. Committee members Tom and Margaret Hayes, Don Byrne, John Tuccillo, Gil and Sonja Donahue, and Mike Timpane met a number of times and produced a plan. Following discussion by the community, the plan was adopted and implemented. NOVA has used some version of that original plan ever since.

After thirty plus years, NOVA has significant experience in using consensus for a variety of decisions and with a changing population of members. But, as with any process, periodic reminders and refreshers can help sharpen and enhance the way the process performs. With that in mind, current NOVA leadership has asked me to write a few items for the *NOVA NOTES* to remind us all on how consensus should work. You just read the first installment.

NOVA E-mail List

Over the last year there have been many updates to e-mail addresses, precipitated by changes to Internet providers, etc. Your new e-mail address must be registered on the NOVA mail server in order to continue receiving (sending) messages from (to) the community via the server.

If you are not now receiving the NOVA messages and wish to have your e-mail address registered on the NOVA mail server, please contact Ken Chaison at kenchaison@yahoo.com. He will add your e-mail address.

Also, contact Ken if you are now receiving the messages, but wish to register a new e-mail address. kenchaison@yahoo.com. He will add your e-mail address.

Also, contact Ken if you are now receiving the messages, but wish to register a new e-mail address.

News/Announcements

In Gratitude.....

- Thank you to Ken Chaison for putting together the invaluable resource brochure, Liturgy Guidelines and Tips. It includes the many "Liturgy tips" that have appeared over time in the Newsletter on liturgy planning. (Check the Nova web site or ask Ken for a copy)
- Thank you to Peggy Becker for making the Peace Candle a reality.
- Thank you to Cece Michelotti for her commitment to serve as the Coordinator of Community Life Ministry for the coming year.
- Thank you to Meg Tuccillo for her commitment to serve as the Agape Coordinator for the coming year.
- Thank you to Gloria and David Mog for the gift of the beautiful Paraguayan Cross.
- Thank you to Eric Carroll and Victoria Robinson for the "Nova Worships Here" sign.

Thank you also to the many community members who have contributed quietly to the community's life and ministered to our members in so many different ways this summer.

Reminder:

The Nova Community counts on the financial and personal support of each of us year round....and so do those we serve through our social action commitments. Please keep this in mind as you make your summer travel plans.



*What do you call a cow
with no legs??*

Ground beef !

Peacemaking Project

The lighting of the candle during liturgy through the Summer is a symbolic action designed to invoke the spirit of Peace, and to express our desire and intention to work toward Peacemaking in our selves, our families and our world. We do This in conjunction with the nova community's study of non-Violence and conflict resolution, and peacemaking.

During the prayers of the faithful we will also remember all of those in our human family who have died or been injured in IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN. We have a special responsibility to keep in mind the lives of those sent to war in the name of our own country, and the price that they and their families pay for our decisions. We ask the nova community to remember these people in your prayers, and we light this candle, which is green – a color of hope – to commemorate their lives. The scrolls include the names of the more than 2,500 US service people whose lives have been sacrificed so far.



The names of US military deaths in IRAQ may be found at the following websites:

www.icasualties.com
www.abcnews.com

~ Peggy Becker

News/Announcements

ABOUT WGEP

The Women's Global Education Project (WGEP) was founded on the idea that everyone is entitled to an education regardless of gender or economic status. Peace Corps volunteers, Amy Maglio and Elise Annunziata, among others, founded it after their service in Senegal, West Africa. WGEP's mission is to provide opportunities for women and girls to receive the education and training they need to build better lives for themselves and their communities. Its current focus is in Sub-Saharan Africa where the most serious school enrollment problems occur, especially for rural girls. Among the statistics that underlie the Project's mission includes data showing that two-thirds of the 880 million illiterate adults in the developing world today are women and that girls account for over 60 percent of the 113 million children not enrolled in primary school worldwide. Seventy-five percent of the world's lowest primary school enrollment rates are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

WGEP's main effort at this time is called "Sisters to School Program," which supports girls' education at the primary and secondary levels, and focuses on the poorest and most disadvantaged girls who have had no previous opportunity for formal education. The recipients are selected by an in-country committee of community leaders, women's groups, teachers and program alumnae. There are several components of the program, including scholarships for room, board, tuition, travel, and medical support. It also funds tutoring, mentoring programs, community (mostly rural villages) education and training, and vocational training. With the support and oversight by the program's Senegalese partner organization, it has 34 girls on primary/secondary school scholarships, 10 girls in vocational training, 10 community village training programs and approximately 20-25 girls in after-school/tutoring programs.

Women's Global Education Project is a public charity with 501 (c) 3 status. This means your contribution is tax deductible. Where does your dollar go?

- \$300 provides a scholarship for one girl for one year. The scholarship pays for school supplies, fees, clothing, food, and boarding. Funding for each chosen recipient is committed from primary through secondary school education. On average, that equates with seven years of schooling, both primary and secondary.
- \$1000 provides summer school and mentoring programs for 20 secondary school girls for one year.
- \$20 per month provides secondary school tutoring for one girl.
- \$5 per month provides primary school tutoring for one girl.

The Program anticipates working with a Kenyan partner organization to start the Sisters to School Program in Kenya, hopefully by this next academic year.

For more information, see WGEP's website at:

<http://www.womensglobal.org>

~Rosemarie & Elise Annunziata

[Editor's Note: see page 10 for more communication from WGEP]

Christ House is Still Open!

There are plans to perform renovations at the Christ House shelter in Alexandria. When? An indeterminate "soon." The staff thought the shelter would be closing temporarily by the end of July while the renovations were carried out. However, plans, permits and contracts have not been finalized, so the shelter - and the evening meal program - continue to operate as usual. That means that NOVA will be preparing and serving dinner on Monday, August 21. If you have not worked at Christ House before, this could be your last chance to do so during 2006 (depending upon the construction schedule).

Because of newly enforced health department regulations, we do all food prep in the Christ House kitchen. We start cookin' at about 3:30 or 4:00 PM for the first dinner seating at 5 PM. What bothers me most about the new rules is that so many NOVAn's no longer have the opportunity to "get their hands dirty," so to speak, by preparing meatloaf and potatoes in their homes. Now, if you want to be personally, physically involved, you've got to come to the Christ House kitchen. If there are folks who want to be involved, hands on, call Kopp (703-241-0789) for details and directions.

~Kopp Michelotti

News/Announcements

ABOUT BILL MEYER

[*Nova Notes* is happy to reprint an article originally found in *Highlights*, a publication from Capital Hospice. Thanks to Anne Houck for initiating this!]

Our Volunteers Seem to Get as Much as They Give

When Bill Meyer was considering where he would volunteer his time, he had some doubts about whether he would be a good match for Capital Hospice (then Hospice of Northern Virginia). He remembers thinking, "I could never work with terminally ill people. I'd never know the right thing to say." Now, 20 years later, Meyer has devoted countless hours of his time as a patient care volunteer at Capital Hospice's Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center and in patients' homes, as well as through our Speakers Bureau. He says his life is much richer for the experience and that he has learned many valuable lessons over two decades.

A resident of Springfield, Va., Meyer, now 74, has worked with patients of all ages — literally — from 2 to 92. In just the second week on the job he learned an important lesson. "It's not what you say that counts, but how you listen," he says. "It's an important lesson in life."



PHOTO BY EMANUELE MANTRO
Bill Meyer visits with Enid Hairston of Falls Church, Va., at Capital Hospice's Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center where he has volunteered for 20 years.

There have been many other lessons, too. Meyer has observed in patients an inner strength at the end of their lives. And he has learned that sometimes families need a hug or a caring touch to get through their days.

The hardest part about volunteering, Meyer admits, is the emotional connection with patients, especially those he is with over an extended period of time. Talking with Peggy, his wife of 40 years, has provided an outlet.

Meyer's advice to those considering volunteering: "Give it a try. You might surprise yourself. Being with families at such a critical time in their lives is more rewarding than you can possibly imagine."

Dear "NOVA"

This is a very, very long overdue note of Thanks to you. I "rejoice at all times" remembering so many happy memories of my time with you.

This is also a very long overdue "fee payment" for my perennial subscription which has never run out.

Getting the NOVA NEWSLETTER through all years has truly been a spiritual grounding, a reference point no matter where I've "churched."

Thank you and thank you. And God's Special Blessings All Ways & All Days...

~Mary Ann Romano

Thank you, NOVA . . .

Dear Nova Catholic Community:

Thank you for your partnership in helping girls in Africa go to school! We are delighted to be the recipient of your generous contribution. Your contribution to the Women's Global Education Project in the amount of \$418 will go toward providing critical education services for women and girls in Senegal and Kenya.

With your support, we are able to almost triple the number of scholarships we are providing for rural girls in Senegal. Including, launching our new middle school scholarship program to help girls continue their education. We are also able to expand our services and help more girls pass exams and stay in school through providing after-school tutoring for over 70 girls for the 2005-6 school year. We will continue to provide these girls with the support needed for them to thrive in school.

Through supporting our project, you are helping to change girls' lives through education. These programs are not only important for individual girls so that they can have the chance to build better lives for themselves, but it is important for the advancement of global development. We know that if you educate a girl the effects are felt in the entire family, community and country. The true impact of our work will be seen in many years to come.

I want to thank you again and especially Rosemarie Annunziata for your generous contribution and your partnership in increasing educational opportunities for women and girls around the world. I will be sending up updates on our project throughout the year. If you have any question, please feel free to call me at 708.415.7410.

Sincerely,

Amy Maglio
Executive Director

from Women's Ordination Conference . . .

Your generosity allows WOC to expand our programs and work even more ardently for women's ordination into a renewing priestly ministry. You are helping us carry out our exciting plans for 2006, a few of which are outlined below:

- November 3; Bridging the Gap: Gender Equality, Sex and Ordination. As a member of the National Catholic Ministerial Alliance, WOC is planning a day-long event with keynote speakers Anthony Padovano, Andrea Johnson and more to discuss the movement for an inclusive Catholic priesthood.
- Updating NewWomen, New Church: We plan to redesign our newsletter. We recently expanded it from eight to twelve pages with color on every page. We also added sections for our Three Ministries and Young Feminist Network.

In addition, we would like to honor you in a special way! We would print your name in the Spring 2007 issue of NewWomen, NewChurch under the donor level in which you fall for 2006. If you do not want us to print your name, or if you would like us to print your donation in honor of another, please let us know and we will make sure your wishes and privacy are honored. If you do not want us to print your name, you must let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you would like your name to be included as it is in our records.

If there is anything I can do to better serve you as a valued member of our community, please contact me at (703) 352-1006 or ataylor@womensordination.org

Blessings for justice,
/S/Aisha S. Taylor, Executive Director

from Sister Adriano . . .

Dear Carolyn & Ted and NOVA Community:

After my sabbatical time, the general superiors assigned me to South Sudan. I thank God for having me back in Africa. Tomorrow, I leave with two other sisters to open a new community in Leer with the Nuer people in the Dioceses of Malakal. The Nuer Land is in the upper Nile and we will see how to answer to the needs of the people. First of all, we need to start learning the languages, Nuer and Arabic. God help us! The situation of Sudan is not stable, the peace treaty was signed a year ago, and there are many humanitarian organizations coming into the

country to be part of the reconstruction and to continue the peace process. We, the Comboni Sisters, hope that we too may be instruments of God's peace and reconciliation. Let us continue to pray for peace in Darfur, there are still hundreds of people being killed. I will communicate how our new mission unfolds. May God's Spirit enlighten our hearts and minds as in a new Pentecost. United in prayer, and con carino,
Adriana Tovar Villacis
c/o Comboni Sisters
Convent Drive - Laxington
P O Box 25736
00603 Nairobi, Kenya



Happy Family, July 1, 2006





August, 2006

NOVA



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