



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community December, 2007

Chair Notes

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth and good will
to all!*

~ Henry Wordsworth Longfellow,
"Christmas Bells"



Peace on earth and good will to all, a Christmas blessing repeated over many centuries from the time the angels first announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds near Bethlehem. Although we include the Christmas message of peace in our songs, poetry, and Christmas greetings, peace still seems so illusive for each passing generation.

Peace is a frequent topic of discussion and prayer intention at Nova. In November the Social Action Committee included peace as one of five focus points for the coming year. Later in the month we devoted a general meeting to the discussion of a Community peace statement to articulate our dedication to peace. From this discussion we decided to rename the Social Action Committee to the Peace and Social Justice Committee because it is toward social justice that we dedicate our main efforts and it is through social justice that we work towards peace. At that meeting we also examined our weekly observance of the "Peace Candle" in which we remember all who have perished that week in the war in Iraq. The Community decided

to continue the "Peace Candle" observance each week. We also acknowledged that peace is not the absence of conflict; peace requires our active participation.

Peace is not only global and communal. It calls for a very personal response, it calls for each one of us to be an instrument of God's peace through the way we live our lives each day.

- If we are not at peace with ourselves, how can we spread peace to others?
- How do we resolve our own inner conflicts rather than act them out by trying to control or manipulate others or expecting those with whom we share our lives to "live up" to our standards?
- How well do we take responsibility for our own actions, making amends when we have hurt another through thoughtlessness or pre-occupation with our own interests?
- To what extent do we appreciate the differences of others or are we quick to judge differences in beliefs, values, political views, lifestyles, or occupations, for example, as inferior to our own?
- What are we doing to depolarize issues and work toward building consensus?

Let us prepare to fill our hearts with peace and dedicate ourselves to bring peace to all of God's people this Christmas season and beyond.

Namaste,
~Nancy



Message Line		703-852-7907
Chairpersons	Eric Carroll	703-536-2616
	John Veldhuis	703-750-1670
	Nancy Veldhuis	703-750-1670
Treasurer	Joe Formoso	703-503-9731
Religious Ed. Coordinator	John Mooney	703-425-1639
Coordinator, Community Life	Cece Michelotti	703-241-0789
Liturgy Coordinators	Gloria Mog	703-522-1812
	Anne Passin	703-538-6545
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mooney	703-425-1639
Music Coordinators	Tom Clarkson	703-560-2096
	Victoria Robinson	703-237-0008
Peace & Justice Coordinators	Dianne Carroll	703-536-2616
	Marie Keefe	301-229-2016
Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti	703-241-0789
Facilities	Glen Passin	703-538-6545
Newsletter Editor	Marie Pinho	703-569-6080
NOTE EMAIL!!	mdpinho@verizon.net	

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-end 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

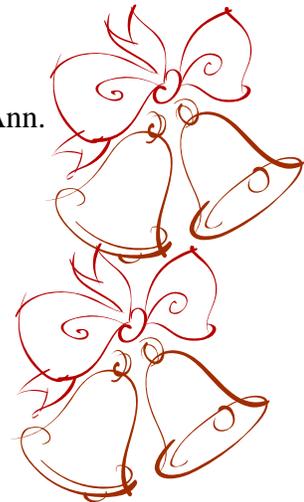
[Kenmore]
Liturgy begins at 10:15 am—Gather at 10:00 am

Keeping In Touch:

Some of our community members are not connected to us through email and as a result do not receive time-sensitive messages that go out periodically on our electronic Nova 911 or Discussion list. If you are not connected electronically and wish to receive these important messages, e.g., last minute changes in the Nova Schedule or other immediate community life events, please call Rose Barrett, (703) 241-3854. Rose will contact you by phone if the need arises.

December Birthdays, etc.

- 8 Joe Bonsignore
Grace Michie
Marjorie Weber (**RIP**)
- 11 Anna Todaro
Carmela Ormando
- 12 Jim Furlong
Chris Mausert-Mooney
- 13 Andrew Perez-Lopez
- 15 Leonardo Yath-Cruces
- 16 David Markey
- 18 Sonja Donahue
- 19 Annunziata Wedding Ann.
Peter Mandaville
Anya Perez-Lopez
Tonya Perez-Lopez
- 21 Peter Mele
Mendez Wedding Ann.
Warren Reich
- 25 Jesus
- 26 Lila Powell
Kathy Perez-Lopez
- 28 Judy Christofferson
- 29 Jerry Barrett
- 31 Joel Mog



**Newsletter Deadline
 is December 16....**

Year A — Cycle II

Liturgies

DECEMBER MUSIC LIAISON Linda Rosenberg

December 2 – 1st Sunday Advent

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. -- J Tarrant, Alida Yath
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-9
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Sat, Dec 8 -- Immaculate Conception No liturgy at Kenmore

December 9 – 2nd Sunday Advent

Bill Callahan -- Jeanne Clarkson
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17
Romans 15:43
Matthew 3:1-12

December 16 – 3rd Sunday Advent)

John Haughey, SJ -- Susan Jelinek, Linda
Rosenberg, Kathy Scheimer
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:6-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 23 – 4th Sunday Advent

John Langan, SJ - Ahrens, Christoffersons
Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-10b
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



December 25th – Christmas

Aidan Shea, OSB – P Becker, A Cackley, M Pinho
10:00 a.m. – Goodwin House/Bailey's Crossroads
Please bring poinsettias and finger food for Agape afterwards

December 30th – No Liturgy at Nova. Join Pax
Community at 8:45 a.m., St. Luke Orthodox Church
Hall, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA.



JANUARY MUSIC LIAISON Barbara Formoso

January 1 – Mary, Mother of God – No liturgy at Nova

January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord

Bill Callahan – Archer & Jim Heinzen
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Nova's 40th Anniversary Celebration
4:00 p.m. – John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Quinn Connors, Ken Himes – Anne Passin, et.al.
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

January 20 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jim Scullion, OFM – Cackley Family
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

January 27 – 3rd Sun. in Ordinary Time

Joe Nangle, OFM – Affirmandi, Kate Doherty, Gloria Mog
Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthew 4:12-23 or 12-17

For inclusive Readings and Music Selections
go to www.nova.novacommunity.org, member
section, Liturgy Info. Give all music selections
to the Music Liaison one week ahead.

Announcements . . .



NOVA is praying for ...

Grace Birch was hospitalized last month and is back at Sleepy Hollow. She cannot transfer in and out of her wheelchair without a lot of help, and is in Physical Therapy. She is very tired and, though articulate and thoughtful, still somewhat confused. Her family opted not to try to get her out for the Thanksgiving dinner. John went to see mom before our Thanksgiving dinner, then Sebastian and I went after the family gathering. The girls (Julia, Jenneca, Mary Grace) spent Friday morning, through lunch, with Grace, which was wonderful. They left after Peggy and Bill Meyer arrived to visit. Bill said something funny about the girls, who were dancing out on the patio, which made Peggy's laugh ring out in the dinning hall. The whole room brightened! It was a great way to leave mom -- happy, smiling and in the company of dear friends. Mary Grace, in particular, is asking us to phone Grace 703-256-7000. Mary is anticipating doing jail time for protesting Blackwater.

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Jim Becker a retired United Methodist pastor and former husband of **Peggy Becker**, has suffered a stroke. He is being cared for in Norfolk General Hospital and is in ICU.

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Ken Chaison's uncle **Robert Chaison** has undergone several ordeals. He was hospitalized with serious infection which ultimately required his leg to be amputated. When he sufficiently recovered from this surgery and was about to leave the hospital, he suffered a heart attack. Fortunately the hospital staff responded immediately and he is expected to recover completely. Please, God.

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Clare Guzzo Robert's son, **Nathanael** has been suffering with a brain tumor since his diagnosis in 1992. He was hospitalized at New Haven Hospital and required an admission to a rehab hospital. He appears to have a new tumor, and prognosis is uncertain. Please keep this family in your prayers. Lord, we ask for healing, peace and clarity for everyone involved with Nathaneal. Clare's email is clarerobert@earthlink.net if you want to send her a message.



Gunston volunteers for December

Every Thursday volunteers distribute food from the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to clients at the Gunston Recreation Center in Arlington. Nova folks bring boxes of cereal each Sunday to add to the distribution so each family can have a box of cereal. So if you are local don't forget to bring a box of cereal to church. And if you would like to help with the distribution please contact Dianne Carroll, diacarroll@comcast.net or 703-536-2616

- December 6 Cecilia, Kathy S, Cathy G/ Peter
- December 13 Tim, Jerry, Lani,
- December 20 Glen and Syd, Lani
- December 27 Cackley family



IRAQ Casualty Toll	
US Military Deaths	3,881
Suicides	130
Civilian Deaths	75,598—82,369
American Wounded	28,451
" " Returned to Service	15,778

Annual Peace and Social Justice Meeting Report

*NOVA's Response to Social Injustice:
Times change. Do we need to change with them?*

The question posed at this meeting comes as we enter into a new decade following our 40th anniversary in January. With renewed commitment to social justice and the addition of "peace" to the title of our efforts, the community brought lively attention to the projects we have supported, to the concerns that have been voiced during the year, and to creating a process for responding to this very essential question.

Over this past year, the committee has organized information and interest gleaned through surveys and discussions within Nova about social concerns. They fall into the following categories: Care of the Earth, Immigration, Domestic Poverty, International Economic Development, and Peace. We decided on the process of Learn, Talk, & Do to be applied to each topic so that we can make informed decisions about present and future projects. For this year all current projects have been funded anew while we participate in this process that will give us new knowledge and perspectives to apply to our response to social injustice.

Flip charts were set up for each topic and everyone was asked to write down what they were interested in learning as a community. Next, folks chose a topic that interested them and spent a half hour in a group looking over the questions people had written and beginning to formulate how they might approach that topic: Who might have the information and might be willing to educate us, what reading might be appropriate, in essence how they would apply Learn, Talk, and Do. Later each group reported on their discussions and indicated what their next steps might be.

What has become very clear is that in each case there were a lot of questions and that people felt once they had learned more they would have better discussions that could improve our actions in social justice. For example, the international economic development group wanted us all to become better versed in micro-financing through our own Nova experts, and to have a discussion after reading *Three Cups of Tea* and *The World Is Flat*. After reading flip chart questions the immigration group determined that there should be a session on "facts" about immigration issues and then the experience of speaking with immigrants to understand their reality.

The last segment of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of some new projects and approaches. Some people have begun the new approach of committing a

specific monthly donation to social justice, in addition to their general Nova contributions. We had a report from Rosa on the needs of her community in Las Huer-tas and have committed to raising \$1000 in the Christmas season to run power lines to fifteen families in rural El Salvador. We will support AACH's Sullivan House, a transitional shelter and will continue with our efforts to prevent homelessness. This year it will be through providing temporary rental assistance to a specific family that has been managing fine until faced with a financial crisis. The family has been recommended by a social worker who has known the children through the school system and who will be directly overseeing the assistance and monitoring the well-being of the family. See the Social Justice Projects for 2008 for information on each project.

The following are the topics and people who will bring them to life for us. Please contact them if you are interested in helping with one of the areas.

Immigration

Linda Rosenberg
Emma Violand
Joe Bonsignore
Teddi Ahrens
Jim Weber
Catherine Schmidt
Cathy Showalter
John Tarrant
Marie Pinho

Care of the Earth

Jeanne Clarkson
Clyde Christofferson
Tim White
Marlene Shade
Meg Tucillo
Peggy Becker

International Economic Development

John Veldhuis
Ted Miller
Carolyn Miller
Carmela Ormando
Eric Carroll
Peggy Meyer

Domestic Poverty

Kopp Michelotti
Cece Michelotti
Kathy Scheimer
Dianne Carroll
Bill Meyer

Peace

Gloria Mog
David Mog
Kate Doherty
Archer Heinzen
Marie Keefe

News About the 40th

Nova's 40th Anniversary Celebration is just a few weeks away and it already feels like it has been a rich opportunity to reflect on our past (you wouldn't believe the photos being unearthed!), take stock of the present and begin envisioning the future. The Catholic Teaching on Social Justice summer series, the challenges of the fall retreat to consider what bridges we need to cross, and the dynamic Social Action meeting in November asking us to take a hard look at 5 areas that need our attention – all seem to be supporting us to live out the theme of the 40th liturgy: Giving Thanks for the Work to Be Done.

We have over 100 people registered for the weekend as of this writing and the numbers are growing steadily. Because of space limitations, we will have to cut off registrations for Friday night at 100 and for Saturday night at 200. If you want to come and have not registered, please do so immediately at www.nova40th.info. Checks for \$40/person should be given or mailed to Larry Goldschmidt as soon as you have registered. If you are able to give more than \$40, don't be shy, we can use the money! The liturgical celebration will be held in the sanctuary at John Calvin Presbyterian Church which holds 300. We are not expecting to have to limit numbers for either the liturgy or the Sunday morning brunch and roundtable.

The Friday evening "Gathering In" kick-off at Meg Tuccillo's should be a lot of fun as well as a musical trip down memory lane. Meg and her crew will be asking for volunteers to help produce a delicious chili dinner for all. We will be meeting and greeting out of town guests and sharing some of what has been written about how Nova has affected the lives of individuals and their families. Victoria Robinson and others will lead a sing-along that takes us on a tour of our musical heritage.

Saturday afternoon at 4:00, the community will gather at John Calvin for a celebratory liturgy complete with processional banners, liturgical dance, gorgeous music, drama, gratitude, joy and a Ken Himes homily! Who could ask for more? All past chairs of Nova are asked to wear their crosses if they received one at investiture. After the liturgy, there will be some time to connect, view the displays on Nova projects and find a table as your home base for the evening Gala. A catered dinner will be served buffet style, wine and beverages will be plentiful. The committee has been working hard on providing a beautiful, eco-friendly environment for this event with china and linens and flowers and Nova's very own silverware to set the mood.

After dinner all will be treated to the first-ever showing of a new film, "The Nova Story", being produced by Jim Furlong and his loyal helpers. Ted Miller and his crew will then take over for a "fast-paced evening of music and comedy and a surprise visit from someone special". A new "Nova 40th" song will be introduced and Ted promises that you will have fun. The evening will be over by 9:00 but we will need all who can to stay and help clean-up so that the room is useable for the church members on Sunday morning.

The final gathering will be at Kenmore on Sunday morning from 10 am -- 1:00 pm. A light brunch will be served and a Round Table discussion will ensue featuring some of Nova's Padre Cadre. This will be a chance to hear their thoughts and challenges as to how the community might evolve in the years to come. There will be time for all to participate in this visioning experience.

~ *Gloria Mog*

40th Anniversary Committees

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. 13th) “*Beyond 40 Years: Nova’s Challenge*”- Joe Annunziata (convener), Peggy Becker, Kathy Scheimer, Cece & Kopp Michelotti, Eric Carroll, Rosemarie Annunziata, Clyde Christofferson

Shrinemont Retreat: Where have we been and where are we going – reflections on individual and community visions. Jeanne Clarkson (convener), Bill Callahan

Creation of Global Map Visual on where Nova is working in the world: The Affirmandi with Kate Doherty

Publicity/Publications: Ted Miller

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 & Gen Timpane, Carolyn Miller

Clean-Up: Cackley Family (coordinators)

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 & Registration: Dianne Carroll

Treasurer: Larry Goldschmidt

Social Justice Projects: Dianne Carroll (convener), Marie Keefe, Cathy Showalter, Joe Annunziata, Eric Carroll, Tim White, Kopp and Cece Michelotti, John Veldhuis, Meg Tuccillo.

The Nova Story DVD: Jim Furlong, Teddi Ahrens, Jim Todaro

Housing Coordinator: Teddi Ahrens

Last minute volunteers will be needed in several of the areas above. If you would like to help, contact one of the Coordinators.

Updated: 11/15/07

NOVA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS FOR 2008

Each year the community has a Social Justice Annual meeting to remember the projects of the previous year, to address possible new projects, and to talk about the direction the community should take in the future. This list is the projects that the community agreed to fund for the coming year. Each project has a Nova person as it's sponsor and that person is responsible for monitoring the project as well as keeping the community informed. The dollar amounts are per month except where stated. All project monies come from general funds except for those with asterisks which are designated donations.

AACH Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless **Kopp Michelotti** **\$100**
Works in coordination with public agencies, businesses and community groups to give homeless people the support, shelter, counseling and employment training they need to regain self-sufficiency. Sullivan House is a transitional shelter in Arlington administered by AACH. Nova members are on the board.
<http://www.aachhomeless.org/>

ACTION AFRICA **Marie Keefe** **\$250**
Action Africa serves children and families in rural sub-Saharan villages in the vital areas of health, education, and economic generativity. NOVA is the sole supporter of 4 free medical clinics yearly, seeing over 1,000 each and giving HIV/AIDS education in Imo State, Nigeria. In 2007 we plan to begin clinics in war-ravaged Sierra Leone www.actionafrica.org

AMANACER SALOMON KLEIN ORPHANAGE **Emma Violand** **\$175**
Currently there are 150 children from newborn to 6 year at the orphanage in Cochabamba Bolivia. At the "hogar" (home) children receive medical care and attend Montessori and Kindergarten classes.
<http://www.amanecer-bolivia.org/amanecer.htm>

AFAC: Arlington Food Assistance Center **Dianne Carroll** **\$100**
Over 975,000 pounds of food are distributed directly to needy families in Arlington. The working poor, elderly and disabled rely on AFAC. Nova members volunteer for the Gunston distribution site every week on Thursday. <http://www.afacinfo.org/>

ASPAN: Arlington Street People's Assistance Network **M. Tuccillo** **\$100**
Emergency winter shelter offers warm space for the homeless in Arlington. Employment counselors assist those who can work. Some Nova members are on the board. <http://www.a-span.org>

BETHANY HOUSE **Anne Houck** **\$75**
Shelter for abused women and their children in Fairfax County. <http://www.bhmv.org/>

BOLIVIAN FAMILY SUPPORT **Linda/Rich Rosenberg** **\$200***
Support for a young woman in financial crisis known and helped by the Rosenbergs when they were living in Bolivia.

CAMBONI SISTERS/Sister Adriana Tovar **Carolyn Miller** **\$100**
Project in South Sudan, Leer-Upper Nile -- support education for primary and secondary schools, and training local teachers

CENTER OF CONCERN **Jim Hug, SJ** **\$75**
Non-governmental Organization (NGO) working for greater global justice <http://www.coc.org>

CHRIST HOUSE **Kopp Michelotti** **\$55**
It opens the doors to serve an evening meal to those who are hungry.
An average of 80 people eat at Christ House in Alexandria each evening. Nova volunteers serve the meal and clean up on the 3rd Monday of every other month. http://www.cdda.net/programs_christhouse.php

CO-PARTNERS OF CAMPESINAS **Archer Heinzen** **\$75**
Supports a training center and scholarship program in Ilobasco, El Salvador and a small micro enterprise program in Chichicastenango, Guatemala. Money pays teachers' salaries and utilities in the training center, supports school supplies and transportation scholarships for impoverished children, and provides micro credit. Nova members have traveled to El Salvador to volunteer. <http://copartners.org/>

ESCUELA BOLIVIA **Emma Violand-Sanchez** **\$100**
Funds are used to fund scholarships at Escuela Bolivia in Arlington VA. About 85% receive scholarships. In addition to Spanish, English and Quechua language classes, Escuela Bolivia offers a comprehensive parental leadership program. <http://www.escuelabolivia.org/> (Continued on page 9)

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS (page 3 of 3)

(Continued from Social Justice, page 9)

MINISTRY OF PETER HENRIOT, SJ **Pete Henriot, SJ** **\$75**

This helps to support the ministry of a Nova priest working in Zambia. www.jctr.org.zm

QUEST FOR PEACE **John Mooney/Meg Sullivan** **\$200**

Works to build a policy of peace and friendship between the people of Nicaragua and the United States through humanitarian aid, partnering with the Institute of John XXIII to build homes and sends 60 tons of school supplies to Nicaragua for use in rural schools. <http://quest.quixote.org/>

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL **Marie Pinho** **\$25**

To provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church. To support those who have been abused, to support priests of integrity, and to shape structural change within the Church. www.votf-nova.com

WOMEN'S ORDINATION FUND **Nancy Veldhuis** **\$50**

The Women's Ordination Conference is a US based Catholic organization working locally and nationally in collaboration with the worldwide movement for women's ordination. <http://www.womensordination.org>

BREAD FOR THE WORLD **Peggy Meyer** **\$150/yr**

Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian citizens movement seeking justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers. BFW Institute seeks justice for hungry people by engaging in research and education on policies related to hunger and development. <http://www.bread.org/>

ARLINGTON INTERFAITH COUNCIL **Kopp Michelotti** **\$100/yr** The mission of the Arlington Interfaith Council is to provide a tangible religious witness in the community through promotion of understanding and cooperation among member congregations and to develop and support programs to alleviate suffering and promote justice for residents of Arlington. <http://www.arlingtonva-interfaith-council.org>

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY **Peggy Meyer** **\$250/yr**

The Center's focus is three-fold: education, legislative advocacy and providing a spiritual presence to the Virginia state legislature. <http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org>

CENTRO VILLA CANDELARIA **Dianne Carroll**

A school in Cochabamba, Bolivia educating and supporting the child and family. A group of 35 Nova members participate in this project. Each person contributes \$10/month for 1 child. The parents of the children contribute to the school a small amount and some cannot pay at all and are on scholarship. The young girls are making dolls to sell and food production (dried fruit) started in 2002.

GUNSTON FOOD DISTRIBUTION **Dianne Carroll**

Nova volunteers pick up perishable food at the AFAC warehouse on Nelson Street in South Arlington and take it to Gunston Middle School recreation center and distribute it to the families.

ST CLEMENT'S EMERGENCY SHELTER **Dianne Carroll**

This overflow shelter is housed in the sanctuary at The Church of St. Clement, Episcopal, Alexandria VA. Nova volunteers participate in this program.

NORAH'S EDUCATION – UGANDA **Nancy Veldhuis**

A group of 7 Nova women provide her tuition 3 times a year for her schooling in Uganda.

LIGHTS FOR LAS HUERTAS **Archer and Nova members**

A one time project to bring electricity to 15 families in El Salvador in the village of Las Huertas by "selling bulbs" for a Christmas tree during December. Buying a light could be a gift for someone. \$1000.00 will be raised by this.



What does it mean to “save your life?” First what does it NOT mean. It does not mean that you are not going to experience the natural human phenomena of human death. It means, in my opinion, that one lives in such a way that one connects with a part of themselves that is transcendent, authentic, rooted on God and which cannot die. It refers to the rock of one’s TRUE name. It is something that one can experience, more importantly one can choose in this human life but is very difficult to name or even to understand. It is the part of us that remains after mortal death: one’s true nature held in the mind of God from eternity, the true self. Erich Fromm once said “One’s most important task is life is to give birth to one self”. Jesus gives an excellent road map to this task of saving one’s life: Patient Endurance.

Patience -- Patience with the already but not yet; ambiguity tolerance and humility. You don’t have all the answers and that is okay. To quote Rainer Maria Rilke, “Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart. Try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present you need to live the question. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day.” Because of the impatience of living our own process we look for shortcuts. One of these is trying to live somebody else’s script. And we do a very poor job of it. What our parent’s want or our children want or what we thought was cool ten years ago. Some goofy ideal that we created as a child about what life should be ...Miss the Point. Saving one’s life means being patient with the uniqueness of my own authentic call. Margery Williams in the *Velveteen Rabbit* describes this process:

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?" "Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real." "Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit. "Sometimes," said the Skin

Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt." "Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?" "It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in your joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

We are all looking for microwave solutions to life’s problems. Easy answer to every challenge of life: quick, simple, and wrong. This is why quieting down, praying, meditating is so important. We need that eternal perspective that only patience can give. Saving one’s life is a life time process that requires patience.

Endurance etymology: bearing hardship, staying power, backbone, cool, grit, guts. moxie, spunk, pluck, perseverance. I choose to live in such a way as to save my life. Temptation is to see ourselves as victims;(reality is that many of us have reason to see ourselves as victims) but when we camp there we come WEAK, Passive!, consumed by self-pity -- the opposite of “saving my life”. We waste so much time in life sucking energy into “Shoulda, Woulda, and Coulda. We pour precious energy into crossing fantasy bridges that will never come true. We do almost anything to avoid being present to the moment. We live in these fantasy castles that have nothing to do with reality. Alexander Evangeli said
“Things never were ‘the way they used to be.’
Things never will be ‘the way it’s going to be some day.’
Things are always just the way they are for the time being.
And the time being is always in motion.”

Life is too short for foolishness. Saving your life implies being INTENTIONAL about wanting to live a full HUMAN life now. Henry David Thoreau said “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I

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Save your life

By patient endurance
you will save your *Life!*

(Continued from page 11)

came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life.”

Living is so dear.

Encounter Jesus in the Gospel: he is BIG. He is firm. He is not reactive but clearly claims his mission. Jesus reminds me of Walt Whitman: *“Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself. I am large. I contain multitudes.”* I choose to live in such a way as to save my life, stubbornly facing life on life’s terms -- Taking responsibility to live with integrity in the present moment. Really difficult. Every moment is charged with GRACE, opportunity and possibility.

There are a million distractions from my main task of giving birth to my real self. The dangers we face are real compelling and immediate. But Jesus is exhorting us nearing the end of the Liturgical Year that ONLY through patient backbone, cool, grit, guts, moxie, spunk, pluck and perseverance will I save my life. I have no idea when the end of the world is going to be, but I have absolute knowledge that the end of my world on this life plane will occur when I draw my last breath. Therefore I waste no time saving my essential life, for our God is the God of the living.

~**Joe Kenna**

Sunday homily, Nov 18, 2007



*Whenever we tell stories about our own lives or share what we have learned, we are nourishing people. All of us are, indeed, **bread for the world.***

~**Peggy Meyer**

Events, Meetings —

Third Annual
Co-partners of Campesinas
Christmas Sale
Sunday, December 2
Before and after liturgy

Crafts from Guatemala and
El Salvador and
a few miscellaneous other
places

There's something for everyone. Avoid all those awful after-Thanksgiving crowds and wipe out all your shopping in one fell swoop on the 2nd. We'll also be selling gifts of "Light for Las Huertas" for socially conscious friends and family members. During Advent we'll try to light up a Christmas tree that will have 100 light bulbs, each representing a \$10 contribution. Donors will receive cards explaining the project that they can send to the individuals they are recognizing through their gift.



A Gift of Light for Christmas

Las Huertas is a rural community of 400 families who live in adobe houses located 9 kilometers from Ilobasco where four young Nova members carried out a social action project last summer. When Rosa Flores, a resident of Las Huertas, recently visited Nova we asked how best to help families in the community. Her community has responded with a request for electricity. As a Christmas project, Nova has set a goal of raising \$1,000 to run power lines to 15 homes.

On the four Sundays of Advent Nova members will have the opportunity to invest in "Light for Las Huertas" as a social action Christmas gift. For each \$10 donation, contributors will receive a special card indicating to the recipient that a donation has been in their honor. Cards will be available after liturgy on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd of December. For more info, contact Archer (703) 548-6713.

Events, Meetings —



Northern Virginia Chapter Social Justice 101

Location: Congregation Etz Hayim
2920 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22204 (703)979-4466

12/2/2007 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Hosted By: Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center
Ron Brandt, Northern Virginia Chapter Coordinator: ronbrandt@cox.net***** Ryan Rinn,
Grassroots Organizer: ryan@virginiainterfaithcenter.org, (804)643-2474
RSVP by: December 1, 2007 at 12:00 am (Eastern Time)
Details at <http://ga4.org/interfaithcenter/events/sj101/details.tcl>

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Presents:

“Social Justice 101”

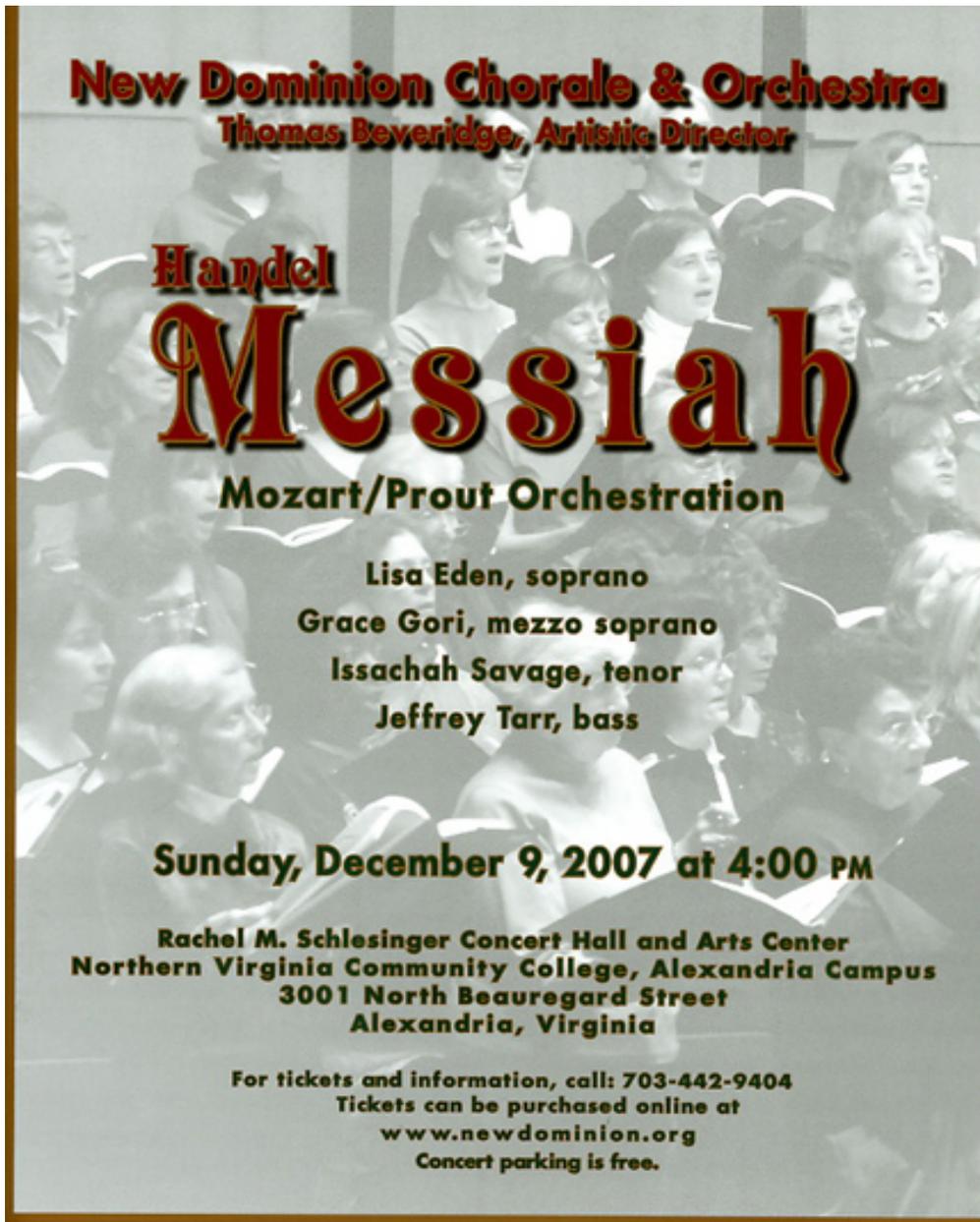
A unique educational program designed by the Center to train and engage
faithful advocates

Sunday, December 2nd
4:00pm-6:00pm
Congregation Etz Hayim
2920 Arlington Blvd. (Rte 50)
Arlington, VA 22204

LEARN about policy issues for the upcoming General Assembly Session.
PRAY with other faith communities to amplify our collective voice. **ACT** to
effect positive change for all Virginians.

*Virginia Interfaith Center
P.O. Box 12516
Richmond, VA 23241
804-643-2474*

Events, Meetings —



New Dominion Chorale & Orchestra
Thomas Beveridge, Artistic Director

Handel
Messiah
Mozart/Prout Orchestration

Lisa Eden, soprano
Grace Gori, mezzo soprano
Issachah Savage, tenor
Jeffrey Tarr, bass

Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 4:00 PM

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus
3001 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia

For tickets and information, call: 703-442-9404
Tickets can be purchased online at
www.newdominion.org
Concert parking is free.

Tickets can
be
obtained
from
Kathy
Scheimer
by 12/3

Alleluia, alleluia, alleuia

Events, Meetings —

Christ House



NOVA will be serving dinner for about 70 hungry clients at the refurbished Christ House shelter in Alexandria on Monday, Dec 17. Since this is our first time back at Christ House, we'll continue with our recent practice of using "store bought" food. If you would like to help the kitchen crew prepare and serve the meal, call Kopp Michellotti (703-241-0789) for details. Also, the NOVAtones usually perform Christmas music during our December dinner. Maybe you'd like to get your pipes warmed up for holiday caroling? Check with Tim White.

Again this month, we would like to bring a little extra cheer into the lives of people who are truly having a rough time of it by giving them a little Christmas present - something to warm their bodies as well as their hearts - in the form of gloves or heavy socks. For the next few weeks, if you can, please bring to liturgy wrapped presents labeled for a man, a woman, or a child. (My seat of the pants estimate is that about 90 percent of the clients are men.) And a shopping suggestion: there is a vendor who sets up outside the Grand Market at Seven Corners on weekends and sells gloves, heavy socks and touristy t-shirts and sweatshirts at very attractive prices.

Our next scheduled date after the first of the year is Feb 18. At that time, if the community is ready to start cooking again, we can go back to our traditional menu of home prepared meatloaf and scalloped potatoes. More on that topic to follow. Thank you for all you do to help those in need.

~ *Kopp Michellotti*

**Greetings Nova folks,
Nova's 40th Anniversary Celebration
is only 2 months away.
If you haven't registered
It's time to do it.**

**There are limitations on numbers so
if you haven't signed up
[CLICK HERE](#) and be sure you are
included.**

[or visit
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzegpnp2/nova/>]

**If you want to postpone answering the question
presented with the registration
"How has your time and/or connection with
Nova impacted your life?"
you can do that at a later time or email it to me
at a later time.**

**LET'S CELEBRATE
"GIVING THANKS FOR THE WORK
TO BE DONE"**

*From Anne Passin....
Dear NOVA friends,*

*To be among a loving, supportive community
is an inestimable blessing, particularly in
times of struggle and loss. In the midst of my
father's aging and my stepmother's dying,
your prayers, emails, cards, as well as the do-
nation in her memory, have lifted up my spirit.
In so many ways, you are the face of God for
me.*

*I recall Ken Himes once saying about commu-
nity, "It's better together." Yes!*

*Gratefully with love,
Anne Passin*

Baptism of Matthew Robert Cambridge III

Bob and Laura (Goldschmidt) brought their son to the Nova Community for baptism. The community accepted their responsibility to be a spiritual community for Matthew. Fr. Ray Kemp presided and delighted in baptizing the baby. Larry and Cathy Goldschmidt are proud Nova grandparents. Baptism was attended by grandparents, great grandparent, aunts, uncles, friends and Nova members. Photos were taken by Cathy and Ken Showalter.



Announcements . . .



Monastery products are treats for family and friends, holidays or anytime! But especially for Christmas!!!

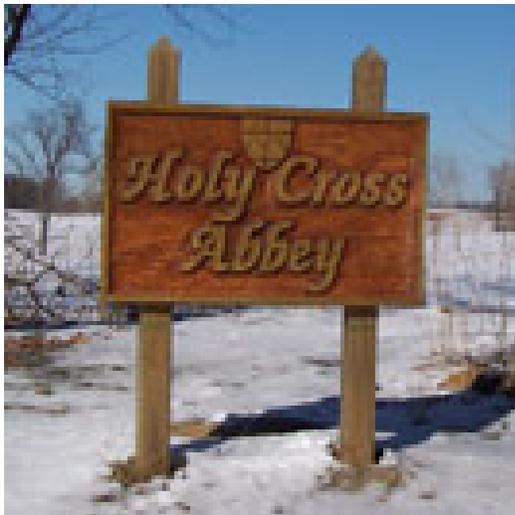
Their products include

- Fruitcakes (known worldwide)
- Honeys
- Fraters (chocolate covered fruitcake bites—sinful?)
- Truffles

You can order online at

<http://monasteryfruitcake.org/products.asp>

Or call 540 955 9494



Roman Catholic Womenpriests

From Bridget Mary Meehan . . .

God has done great things for us, we are glad indeed!

Elsie and Ree continue to receive an outpouring of support for their new community, St. Therese of Divine Peace which will begin on Dec. 1st in St. Louis. I wonder if St. Therese is not up there in heaven cheering our movement on as this community bears her name and she is the patron of women's ordination.

The media continues to request interviews and are telling the story of a renewed priestly ministry in a Christ-centered community of equals across the U.S. and indeed to other countries around the world.

One professor who wrote the Encyclopedia of Catholicism, called the St. Louis ordinations, "a watershed".

"The church is going to have to change on this issue and these women were ahead of the curve.. he said scholars agree that women were fully functioning members of the early church, but the hierarchy wants to "preserve the male patriarchal model."

This google movie features the famous Rabbi Susan Talve, Bishop Patricia Fresen, and highlights of our joyous ordination celebration in the Jewish synagogue. As Bishop Patricia said, Jesus would have felt right at home!!

<http://tinyurl.com/2nxnzi>

Love and peace,
Bridget Mary

Last month's doings . . .



Social Justice project board(s)



New visitor?
Or Bernie
Byrne's
Granddaugh-
ter, Julia



Nicaraguan Crafts in time for
Christmas!



Offertory Procession

More Blessings . . .

Blessing the Timpanes on their
50th Wedding Anniversary



Prayer in a Desperate Advent

By Jean Stokan

O May all hearts be broken
with stories of squalor
and horrors of war.

O May all be haunted
by the screams of the
tortured and the faint whimpering
of a hungry
child dying.

O May Madonna images
from Africa, Iraq, inner-cities
everywhere burn deep

Pieta embraces of unnecessarily
broken bodies
pierce our comfort.

O Dear Compassion
May a path be made ready.

Through the desperate wails and
gnashing of teeth

O May Justice be birthed

O Dear God
Come.

***A very, very,
Merry Christmas
to Everyone...***



December, 2007



NOVA Calendar

Every Thursday.... Food distribution at Gunston, see page 4

Every Sunday in Advent, after Liturgy, Gift of Light Program, see page 13

Sunday, December 2 – No. VA Interfaith Advocacy, Etz Hayim Synagogue, page 15

Tuesday, December 4 – Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers, St Mary's, page 14

Sunday, December 9 – Messiah by New Dominion Chorale, page 16

Monday, December 17 – Christ House, page 17

January 11-13, Nova Anniversary, remember?

Tuesday, January 15 – Call to Family, Community... St Mary's, page 14

Save Dates –

February 12, March 25 – Diocesan Catholic Social Justice Teaching Lectures, page 14