



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community

December, 2008

Chair Notes

In this after-Thanksgiving-time-of-year my heart is filled with gratitude for all the folks who work tirelessly, week in and week out to help keep our community alive and well. The musicians make our hearts sing. The priests and planners and coordinators nourish our spirit through liturgy. The activists and organizers lead us in service. The techies and writers keep us in touch with one another. The faithful –far and near– keep showing up and giving of themselves in so many different ways. The list goes on and on and all any of us can do is to simply and grandly say, “Thank you!!” Without you, Nova could not be.

November was a rich and varied month in the life of our Community. We began with a moving liturgy on All Soul’s Day that included a reading of the names of the Nova Saints. The group went on to tour Arlington Cemetery with our very own professional tour guide, Marie Pinho. Wreaths adorned with ribbons in the name of Nova were laid on the graves of Grover and Nancy Stock, Louis Mendez, Dean Houck, a friend of Ken Chaison and Carolyn Miller’s brother. Many memories were shared at the gravesites and all went away deeply touched by the experience. Thank you, Marie.

Following up on the October General Meeting, the Chairs and Bernie Byrne met with the Coordinator of Roman Catholic Women Priests, Bridget Mary Meehan. Bridget lives in Falls Church and heads a community that celebrates Mass together on Saturday evenings in her home. She is a gracious, spirited, knowledgeable and ever-optimistic feminine force and we had a delightful visit. She is very interested in Nova and plans to attend a liturgy soon. Shortly after, the news broke about the threatened ex-communication of

Fr. Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest who has supported women’s ordination for years and preached at the ordination mass of Janice in Kentucky. Many Nova members were moved to make a statement against this injustice. The chairs wrote a petition, Ken Chaison figured out how to put it on the internet for those who were interested to sign, and over 80 individuals added their signatures and thoughts. Thank you, Ken, for all your hard work on this.

The Liturgy Lottery was completed. Thank you, Gen and all those who agreed to be planners for the next liturgical year. Arrangements were made with Holy Cross Abbey to have an Advent Day of Reflection for the community on Saturday, December 6th. Thank you, Mike, for helping to deepen our spiritual life. Fr. Josy, an Indian White Friar whom we met through Quinn, happily filled in for Bill Callahan who was unable to be with us mid-month. Thank you, Nancy and John, for arranging this and god speed to Fr. Josy who returns to India this month.

And so we enter the Advent season with hope and promise and anticipation of all that is to come. Thank you, Linda Rosenberg and the Advent Team, for all of your preparations to lead us through this holy season. We look forward to after-liturgy brunches on 12/7 to reflect on Immigration at the Cackleys and on 12/14 at the Ormando-Kanes to hear about Mali’s time in Bolivia. And, of course, we will gather on Christmas Eve to share the joy and peace of this wonderful holiday. Thank you, Jesus.

~Gloria

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

December Birthdays, etc.

Message Line		703-852-7907
Chairpersons	Eric Carroll	703-536-2616
	Gloria Mog	703-522-1812
Treasurer	Joe Formoso	703-503-9731
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Coordinator, Community Life	Cece Michelotti	703-241-0789
Liturgy Coordinators	Anne Passin	703-538-6545
	Jeanne Clarkson	703-560-2096
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mooney	703-425-1639
Music Coordinators	Tom Clarkson	703-560-2096
	Victoria Robinson	703-237-0008
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Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti	703-241-0789
Facilities	Glen Passin	703-538-6545
Newsletter Editor	Marie Pinho	703-569-6080
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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-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

- 8 Joe Bonsignore
Grace Michie
Marjorie Weber (RIP)
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 11 Anna Todaro
- 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 28....2008**

Liturgies: Year A — Cycle II

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**

DECEMBER MUSIC LIAISON
Linda Rosenberg

JANUARY MUSIC LIAISON
Barbara Formoso

December 7 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Quinn Connors – J Clarkson, Teddi Ahrens

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm 85:9-14

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

December 14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Joe Kenna – L Rosenberg, K Scheimer

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

John Haughey – GoldschmidtS

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



December 24 – Christmas Vigil 7:30 pm Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3441 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church 22041

(See page 4 for additional information)

John Langan – L Rosenberg, Michelottis,
Timpanes

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:1-25

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Family KENMORE CLOSED – No NOVA Liturgy

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Psalm 105:1-9

Colossians 3:12-21 or

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40



January 4 – Epiphany

KENMORE WITHOUT HEAT – No Nova Liturgy

(See page 4 for additional information)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

January 11 – Baptism of the Lord

Joe Kenna – Walt Landry

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-38

Mark 1:7-11

January 18 – 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

TBD – Jim and Archer Heinzen

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

John 1: 35-42

January 25 – 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

TBD – The Cackley Family

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 25:4-9

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Liturgies Notes

December 24-Christmas Vigil

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads (lower level auditorium)

3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church 22041

Parking: Because of construction of a new building at Goodwin House West there is **NO PARKING ON SITE**. You can park in the parking lot behind the shopping center that is adjacent to Goodwin House. This is the parking lot behind and to the left of the Giant Food store located in the Bailey's Cross Roads Shopping Center at 3480 South Jefferson Street.

When you get to the Giant, drive in front of the store toward the Great America Steak Buffet (3500 S Jefferson St). When you get to Great American Buffet, you will have to turn right. Drive toward the fence facing the building under construction at Goodwin House. When you get to the fence, take a left to the end of the parking lot. You will see an opening in the corner of the fence. This will allow you access to Goodwin House. Park along the fence on either side of the opening. There are signs indicating which space is dedicated for Goodwin House visitors. Once all the spaces are filled, then park in any available space. Note. The facilities coordinator was concerned about having more cars than the number of designated spaces. We told him we would encourage those who attend to car pool if possible. Since this is Christmas Eve, we don't expect the parking lot to be too crowded.

Please bring poinsettias to help decorate the environment and finger food for the agape immediately following the liturgy.

December 28 – Kenmore closed; no Nova Liturgy: Nova members are invited to celebrate with the PAX Community at 8:45 am St. Luke Orthodox Church Hall, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA. The PAX information number is 703-749-6702.

**January 4 – Kenmore without heat; no Nova Liturgy
Nova may gather with another community.
Details to be announced.**

NOVA is praying for ...



Nathanaël Robert ...

“What was taken from us is enormous and what was given is infinite.” ~ Clare Robert. We mourn his passing and continue to hold his family in our hearts.

See page ??? for additional info.

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Ken Showalter . . . Ken had a "little" heart attack-atrial fibrillation event which caused him to be rushed to Haymarket emergency room, Reston Hospital, and, eventually Fairfax Hospital. Here he had a catheterization and more tests. Everything went well. They found the artery with the blockage (90%) and successfully put in a stent. Ken is recuperating and catching up on tv programs. Cathy and Ken expressed gratitude for received prayers.

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Bill Callahan . . . Bill has successfully come through 2 serious surgeries and (hopefully) is laying low and recuperating well.

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Emma Violand-Sanchez Congratulations for her successful campaign to the Arlington County School Board and our heart-felt prayers that her work will be easy and her burden light. Emma will be sworn in on December 10! We're so proud, Emma.

+

Jim Hug, S.J. . . . who joined thousands at the SOA for the annual remembrance and protest of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her teenage daughter that were massacred in El Salvador November 16, 1989. We pray for his safekeeping, courage, and peace.

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Lord, hear our prayer.

IRAQ Casualty Toll

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

US Military Deaths	4,204
Suicides	167
Missing or Captured	1
Civilian Deaths**	30,723 — 273,378+
American Wounded	
(reported)	30,832
(estimated)	100,000+

* documented to 11/24/2008. This number may be seriously understated.

Afghanistan Casualties: 629
(Operation Enduring Freedom)

** from Iraq/Afghanistan

It is estimated that the number of US military wounded is more than 100,000. The reported official number only accounts for those wounded in combat. When troops who were wounded in other ways are counted, the number more than doubles. Non-battle wounds can range from injuries in vehicle accidents to illnesses. Some are sports injuries that need care outside the war zone. Many of the wounded return to duty.



**Day of Recollection
Holy Cross Abbey
December 6, 2008
10:00 am — 4:00 pm**

Several NOVA members have asked me to arrange for an Advent day of recollection at Holy Cross Abbey--reviving a much-cherished practice from a few years ago. I corresponded with Fr. Robert, still abbot there, and he would be delighted to see us once again Saturday December 6th, from 10 to 4, is the time we have agreed upon.

Many of you will remember the wonderful hours we have shared at the abbey in earlier years. For those who have not, it is a simply structured quiet day, with time alone, time attending the monks' mid-day prayers, and an afternoon talk by Fr. Robert, shared reflections and closing prayer. There's also a chance for a timely pre-Christmas visit to the gift shop, with its fruitcakes, jams and preserves, and religious articles.

The trip to Berryville is about an hour and a half. Car pools have worked well. Individual bagged lunches are the order of the day. Bottled water will be there, too.

Given the abbey's facilities and the unavoidable strain that we (even our unusually quiet selves) put upon Trappist routine, our practical limit of attendance is twenty people. Let me know if you want to be part of this day.

~Mike timpanes@verizon.net

News . . .

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

SCHEDULE:

December 4 Gen, Mike, 2 grandsons, Tim White

December 11 Lani, Kopp/Cece

December 18 Syd, Glen,

December 23 Tuesday: Cackley family

December 30 Tuesday: Lani, Eric, Marie Claire?

Overflow Winter Shelter Schedule

Nova volunteers will again participate in the overflow shelter at St Clements Episcopal Church in Alexandria. Each year between Jan 2 and March 15, St Clements offers their sanctuary to be used as a winter shelter for overflow guests from Carpenter's Shelter. Each night there are about 14 guests who sleep on cots in the sanctuary--safe, warm and quiet. Volunteers greet the guests, assist in locating mats, pillows, sheets etc. Volunteers stay until 7am when all guests leave.

January 5, Monday: Clyde Christofferson and Marie Pinho

January 19, Monday: Ted Miller and Jerry Barrett

February 2, Monday: Jason Powell and he'll bring his helper

February 16, Monday: Joe Annunziata and Glen Passin

March 2, Monday: Michael/Joe Kane and Anna Reich



Joe Kane



Immigration Talk & Brunch Sunday December 7 12 noon – @ the Cackleys

Angela Kelly, Director of Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation, will provide a presentation about immigration. The Cackleys have graciously provided their home and brunch, for which we will make a contribution. Their address is 500 S. Abingdon St. Arlington, (703) 271-9743. This meeting will take place after our liturgy. Website: [Immigrationpolicy.org](http://immigrationpolicy.org)
Blog: <http://www.immigrationimpact.com>

Mali Kane is Home!

Sunday December 14th after Mass all are invited to the Ormando-Kane's house for pictures and stories from Mali's recent trip to Bolivia. There will be lunch, and the slide show will start at 1:30. We hope to see you there!
Address: 4107 N 34th St; Arlington, VA 22207

Directions: From Kenmore: Left onto Carlin Springs to George Mason North, cross Lee Highway to a right on N 26th St, Left at light onto Glebe Rd, Right after country club onto Rock Spring, quick left onto 32nd St which winds its way down to 35th St. Take a right onto 35th St, right onto N Thomas St, second left onto N 34th St - The Ormando Kane house is at the top of the hill.

~Mali

Christmas Time at Christ House

On Monday, December 15, NOVA will prepare and serve meatloaf and scalloped potatoes to the hungry clients at Christ House. Please mark your calendars to remember to bring your meatloaves and spuds to liturgy on December 14. Alternatively, you may drop them off at the Michelotti's anytime on Sunday or up till 1 PM on Monday the 15th. Just leave them in the coolers on the front porch at 6325 19th Street N., Arlington.

Since it's the Christmas season, this month we also try to give the Christ House clients a little something special - a useful, warm present. So please also bring gloves, hats, or socks, *wrapped as Christmas presents*, and marked as gifts for a man, a woman, or a child. We will be serving nearly 70 people, mostly men, on the 15th, so we'll need a lot of warm presents to go around. Also, we usually perform Christmas music during our December dinner. Maybe you'd like to get your pipes warmed up for holiday caroling?

If you'd like to get involved in the kitchen, please call or e-mail Kopp Michelotti (703-241-0789, koppmich@yahoo.com). We generally start food prep around 4 PM. And remember that you can brighten someone's holiday season.

Thank you for all that you do to help those in need.

~ Kopp Michellotti



News, Events . . .

IEC Conference May 15—17, 2009

The third national conference of the Intentional Eucharistic Communities, "Embracing and Shaping Our Future," will be held May 15 - May 17, 2009 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815.

Please use the registration form available at liturgy. Additional registration information and program details is available on the IEC website: Intentionaleucharisticcommunities.org

~Rosemarie Annunziata

Full-Community Social Justice Meeting

January 10, 2009 — 5:30 pm

Potluck

All members of the Nova community are needed to discuss our response to the social justice and peace issues facing us in this very critical time. While it is a time of great economic and social insecurity, it is also a time of new beginnings and great opportunity. All minds and hearts are needed in this endeavor, so turn down those pre-pre-inaugural invitations as well as those Dia de los Reyes parties and join us.

**Meg Tucillo's home
2532 N. Ridgeview Road
Arlington, VA
phone: 703-522-3213**

Third Annual
Co-partners of Campesinas
Christmas Sale
Sunday, December 7
Before and after liturgy

Crafts from Guatemala
and El Salvador

New this year: Holiday
earrings, photo cards,
Christmas ornaments,
fairy doors!!

There's something for everyone. Avoid all those awful crowds and wipe out all your shopping in one fell swoop on the 7th.

We will be ready at 9:30 am, before liturgy as well as immediately after.
<http://copartners.org/>

~Archer

[See page 7 — Immigration Talk will follow at another location.]

News, Events . . .

Special Social Justice Collection December 14

Helping the Working Poor:
Homeless Prevention

NOVA has become the last ditch effort for families on the brink of losing their housing and becoming homeless. When any unexpected expense occurs for families living at the poverty level, their ability to pay the rent is jeopardized. It is a niche we have chosen because we have direct contact with social workers in the schools who work with these families and who make sure all avenues for government or NGO assistance are sought in the 5-day window for payment before large fines are levied. On occasion the \$400-500 that will keep a family from being homeless is unavailable. In the last 2 years, families received our assistance because:

- a child was burned and the parent needed to take off work to care for him,
- a spouse was incarcerated,
- child support did not arrive,
- job cuts,
- a grandmother stopped work to care for her daughter and grandchild after a transplant,
- a husband entered an alcohol rehab losing the month's pay but not the job.

These have all been one-time situations and the families resumed rental payment.

We will take up a special collection on December 14 as these crisis rent relief circumstances are on the rise. We hope you dig deep into your pockets as the bang for your buck is tremendous: the cost of preventing homelessness is miniscule compared to the cost of getting families off the street.

~the Social Justice & Peace Committee



UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
OF HUMAN
RIGHTS

Dignity and justice for all of us

The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan
Washington
The United Nations Association of the Na-
tional Capital Area and
Soka Gakkai International-USA

invite you to

AN INTERFAITH OBSERVANCE OF
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS

Dec. 2nd, 6:30-7:30 with reception following
at the Soka Gakkai Buddhist Center
3417 Massachusettes Ave, NW, Washington,
DC

FEATURING
THE HONORABLE ELEANOR HOLMES
NORTON

Interfaith testimonials, Greetings from the UN,
Music, and

Light hors d'oeuvre reception

No tickets required, but space is limited.
Please RSVP to annd@ifcmw.org.

News, Events . . .

Virginia Shouldn't Lead Such a Sheltered Life
By: John Horejsi, SALT

When I purchased my first computer I was delighted to discover that its software package contained "spellcheck." It was amazing to me that in connection with my SALT advocacy leadership work every time I typed in the word "Homelessness" the spell-check would reject it as "no such word." How times have changed. Already we have seen an evolution of a new vocabulary. In the homeless jargon, homeless shelters are of several different kinds: Housing First, Tier I, transitional, soup kitchens, day programs, Hypothermia only shelters, etc. The tragedy is that we run the risk of accepting these as a solution to our affordable housing problems.

Shelters must remain a necessary first response to the requirements for those living on our streets. However, when shelters become the low-income housing of the 2000s, this is not acceptable. Shelters were envisioned to be temporary pending "real" housing solutions. The question is: are we building a permanent poorhouse system instead of solving the tragedy of homelessness.

The fact is shelters are becoming the low-income housing of the 2000s. So much so, that they represent one of the few growth areas in housing for poor people. The other area of growth is prisons: we're building lots of them in Virginia at an enormous cost—that far exceeds the cost of any other housing approach.

Substituting shelters for meaningful affordable housing has serious consequences. It means that we are well on our way to building a permanent poorhouse system. In short, shelters cannot substitute for real housing for low-income families and poor individuals.

Biblically speaking, God's vision for human beings is that "they shall build houses and inhabit them" (Isaiah 65:21). Housing is understood as a means to preserve and protect all of us.

We are reminded, that our church offers an alternative view, in that the church has traditionally viewed housing not as a commodity, but as a basic human right. Housing is being seriously neglected as a priority of local, state and national concern of governmental action and investment. For example federal housing programs were cut 80% in the 80s and those cuts were never restored.

We must always remember that none of us are immune to homelessness. When persons are unable to secure decent housing their humanness is diminished. The lack of available affordable housing leads to economic hardship, community instability and a sense of hopelessness among families and individuals.

Some surprising facts, in Virginia—the 10th most wealthy state—are: that more and more families in the Commonwealth are forced to spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing. In Northern Virginia this includes even two income households. Nationally

37.5 million households spent an excess of 30 percent of their income on housing. Also, did you know that 19,550 households in Virginia lack complete indoor plumbing? Additionally, the problem is made worse by Virginia's income distribution among the 50 states---the gap between rich and the poor families—Virginia ranks 43rd (1=best, 50 + worst).

Sometime ago, SALT & Partners arranged for NOVA [Northern Virginia] legislators to visit a homeless shelter. All, were struck by the fact that there were no homeless residents to be found. It turns out that all were away from the shelter at their jobs, working. So what's going on here? Why are they in shelters anyway?

The sad fact is that they are stuck in shelters because they cannot afford area rate rents. This only aggravates the homeless problem because other needing shelter are turned away. Last year, 80,681 Virginians asked for shelter---51,315 were turned away. Shelter programs are filled to overflowing. Most of the 29, 366 people served had jobs—in Virginia that means a minimum wage worker would have to work 100 hours a week to afford a 2 bedroom apartment.

That is why SALT decided to successfully advocate for the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP). HIP prevents homelessness before it begins by creating a fund used to keep people in their own homes. This statewide HIP program kept over 7,600 people from eviction to the streets and into homeless shelters. HIP usually runs out of funding after six to nine months each year.

In response to the homeless crisis, SALT along with the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH), has proposed a Rental Assistance program to assist working families to move off welfare and out of shelters and to make it possible for others to move into shelters and off the streets and out of the woods.

In our shelters, we serve those who are usually able-bodied working people, yet they cannot afford a roof over their heads. They are a vital part of our economic work force. The sad fact is, that the lack of affordable housing will curb economic growth and damage a generation of homeless children unless Virginia makes continuing investment in its housing future.

Why should concerned people support SALT's "Home for the Holidays" letter writing campaigns? Because, as people of faith who care for others, we must join our voices with SALT and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness to urge our legislators to remember the needs of Virginia's ill housed, as they make the difficult decisions to balance the Commonwealth's budget.

Ministry of Money Report . . .

A Giving Sampler

As we come to the holidays, we try to live out the prayer: Gracious God, inspire us to engage in actions that give witness to Your love for the world and to be co-creators with You of a cosmos that celebrates all of existence. We know that all of us will continue to give of our time and talents to the social action efforts we make all year long. In addition to those, we have compiled some suggestions that might trigger thinking about deepening our giving efforts.

Post-Liturgy Hand-made Craft Buying Opportunities: December 7 before and after liturgy, Co-Partners for Campesinas will have hand-crafted gifts for sale: pottery, cards, textiles, jewelry.

Give the Gift of Peace: Give Peace Bonds (\$10 and up) and invest in the vision of a more peaceful, secure future for all. You will be directly supporting unarmed peacekeepers working to reduce violence around the world.
<http://nonviolentpeaceforce.org>

Franciscan Mission Service. They have beautiful Christmas Cards...you will remember their support of Mali in Bolivia. Cards are \$10 per packet and available from Joe Nangle, OFM.

Additional Gifts of Peace: Pace e Bene Resources for Nonviolent Living --Books, cards, CDs, DVDs, etc. online at
<http://paceebene.org/peb-store/>

Want to Provide TLC for Soldiers Far from Home? At <http://anysoldier.com/> you can find direct contacts with soldiers that list what the folks they represent want and need. All the Soldiers involved in this effort are military volunteers stationed in areas that are in harm's way and they put your letters and packages into the hands of Soldiers who don't get much or any mail first. Everything is shared.

Surround a Child with Education, Nutrition and Medical attention: for \$12 a month, through Action Africa, you can sponsor a child such as Mohamed whose father was killed by rebels when they attacked his village in Sierra Leone and whose mother was abducted.

www.actionafrica.org. Marcelline Niemann could help you too.

A two-fer=Donate while you shop online at no extra cost: If you will be doing some holiday shopping for books, music, electronics, toys, gift certificates, etc., via the Internet, please consider beginning your shopping "trip" by clicking on the link below, connecting to Amazon.com, via [The Healing Exchange Braintrust](http://TheHealingExchangeBraintrust.com). Amazon offers over 30 categories of on-line shopping. For other charities use buyforcharity.com or igive.com as a gateway and designate your charity.

Love thy planet: If every household replaced just three 60-watt incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent bulbs, the pollution savings would be like taking 3.5 million cars off the road. Get your friends and family on the road to environmental health. Give them a starter set of CF bulbs.

Go to <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/> to see the right ones for their needs. A starter set of "green" detergents and cleaners treats God's creation thoughtfully and gently.

Bring hope to others through the media. A new magazine, GOOD covers pragmatic social entrepreneurial efforts: "We sum all this up as the sensibility of giving a damn. We're here to push this movement and cover its realization. Choosing GOOD gets you a charter subscription to GOOD Magazine (6 issues) and the full amount of your subscription fee (\$20) goes to the organization of your choice."
<http://www.goodmagazine.com/> Dianne Carroll has a copy.

Involve your kids and grand kids in thinking about how they might help others: Christ House will need donations of gloves, socks, long underwear for gifts. Keep an eye out for the date. Giant gift cards, Target gift cards, diapers are needed for Sullivan House.

Want to help someone become self-sufficient? Kiva lets you lend to a specific en-

(Continued on page 12)

Ministry of Money Report . . .

A Giving Sampler (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

preneur in the developing world-empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty. Small investors can make loans of as little as \$25 directly to specific individual entrepreneurs. Kiva partners with local organizations to screen businesses and administer your loan. Our partners average a historical repayment rate of +96%.

<http://kiva.org>

Also you can choose a meaningful gift and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. Find out how your gift will provide families with resources they need at Heifer, Intl.

<http://www.heifer.org>

Entertain with Spirit: Not joining us for a day of recollection with Holy Cross Abbey? Check their online catalog and perhaps someone can pick up an order for you. Delicious fruitcake, truffles, cheeses, jams, etc.

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

Bring Hope to Uganda: You can assist the mission of bringing education to deserving but poor Ugandan students in any of the following ways,

- 1) Make any size contribution and we will give you a receipt for tax purposes. (We are a 501-c-3 organization)
- 2) Pledge a monthly or yearly contribution.
- 3) Sponsor a student at \$ 600 per year.
- 4) Sponsor a room in your name (We will identify your room with a brass plaque)
- 5) Build a college, library, lab, etc. in your name.
- 6) Invite a member of our Foundation to come and speak to your group, club, or church.
- 7) Join others and develop the water system for the university and community of Kasaka. (Goal \$ 25,000)
- 8) Join the Board of Central Buganda University Foundation
- 9) Join one of our Mission Trips and meet the students face to face.

Think really big: Some families decide to forgo individual gifts and harness their money for bigger things. Talk to John Veldhuis about building on his campus or a scholarship for a Ugandan student or to Emma Violand-Sanchez about the children in Bolivia. How about a well in Nicaragua or Africa?

All social action projects will be thrilled to help you think about how to donate time and energy in a way that will matches your talents. We can be in a perpetual state of awe and thanksgiving at the capacity the Creator has given us to transcend our limits and do the unimaginable.

Ole, deo gratia!

~Marie Keefe



Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

ASPAN Auction

Donations of wine are welcome any time for the ASPAN annual silent auction in December.

Please contact Meg Tuccillo
mtuccillo4@comcast.net
for details.

News, Events . . .

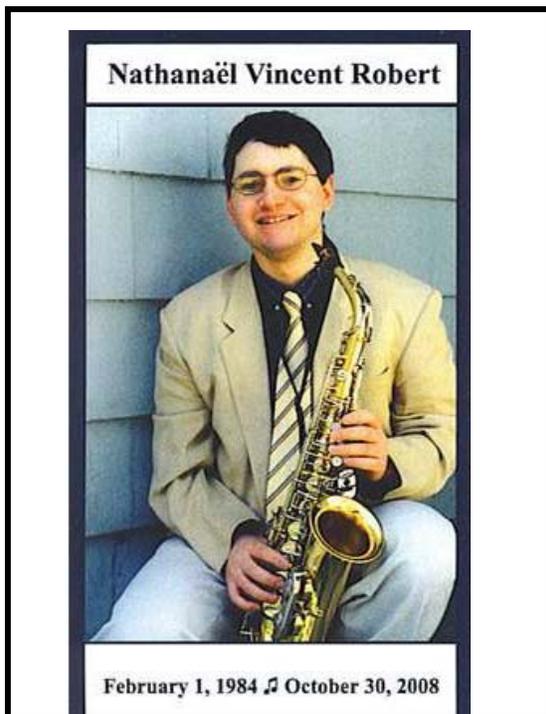
Nick Mele quoted in Seattle:

Case for nonviolent action is strong

The omission of nonviolent action from public discourse is both puzzling and troubling.

Way to go, Nick! You can read the full article at:

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/388069_firstperson17.html



A celebration of his life and his love for jazz and poetry was held and a jazz band played at his reception. Nathanaël's cousin, a musician and composer from France, played an original composition, in memory of Nathanaël. Clare and Patrick acknowledged everyone who has helped over the years.

Community Prayer Requests:

At liturgy on November 16 we were asked to reflect on the talents that God has given us and how we "multiple" and use them in the service of God's people. (Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30). We wrote our reflections on cards that were collected and included among the Offertory gifts and blessed. A number of Community members included the following prayers as part of their reflections. Please take time this month to remember these prayer intentions in your personal prayers:

- * Help me to be ever mindful of the need to be conscious of my talent and to be strong enough to use it.
- * I need help to identify how to use my skill to help others.
- * Pray that I will make good choices about what God is asking me to do. Help me to find work where I can make a difference.
- * Pray for the stillness and quiet time to be able to hear the need.
- * Pray that I may stay focused and not be distracted from my goals.
- * Help me to use my talents in a more focused way, less scattered.
- * I need prayer support for patience to always be present for those in need.
- * I pray for the courage and organization to stay committed.
- * Prayer intention to develop more ability to inspire and use it freely.
- * That I may make the world a more beautiful place by encouraging and inspiring others as they encourage and inspire me.
- * I pray I may work within community to bring about our partnerships with others in need, to live out the notion that we are One.

From Christian Witness for Peace in Iraq:

Events:

<http://christianpeacewitness.org/>

January 19-20, 2009: "Rebirthing America - Rebirthing King's Dream"

Monday, January 19 and Tuesday, January 20 converge to unite the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the inauguration of a new President of the United States. Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnership and Christian Peace Witness for Iraq encourage you and your faith community to join in public worship and action to point the United States toward fulfilling Dr. King's vision of justice and peace. An interfaith event is planned in Washington, D.C. on January 19.

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. As we seek together to be faithful followers of that "radical rabbi from the ghettos of Nazareth" (Rev. Rafael Warnock, CPWI witness 2007), we need your help. We need:

- [partner organizations](#) to recommit with funds and volunteers;
 - volunteers to serve on committees:
 - Building Diversity (reaching out to young adults and racial/ethnic leaders)
 - Prophetic Service (humanitarian relief and peace building with Iraqis)
 - Engaging the Church (resourcing & empowering local congregations)
 - D.C. 2009 Event Planning
 - Communications (website, newsletters, etc.)
 - Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partners (strengthening our relations with people and groups of other faiths);
- [financial donations](#).



SOA Presente



SOA mock funeral

Thank you, to NOVA. . .

[from Valerie Dixon, Prison Update Ministry]

Dear Nova Friends,

I am writing just before Thanksgiving with a very grateful heart – grateful for your loving support of Isaiah Prison Ministry over these last five years. I want to share some of the highlights of the past year:

- I continue to teach the Chrysalis Program at the Connecticut State Women’s Prison in Niantic, CT, two afternoons a week, and I coordinate the Prayer Partner volunteer program on Wednesday nights. That group keeps growing, to my joy. Some nights we have 60 women from “inside” and “outside” of all ages, colors, and backgrounds praying, talking, crying, and laughing together. The weekly curriculum continues to challenge me to do my own work on prayer, meditation, and self-care, as well as on the critical life issues of self-esteem, grief, and forgiveness. The women teach me at least as much as I am able to teach them on so many levels of life.
- Because of changes in the state’s parole stipulations, the number of women in the program has decreased from the high of 75 one year ago to 55-60, a much more manageable group for the Graduate Coordinator and me. As always, we have a broad spectrum of ages, races, educational backgrounds, and faith traditions, including an Islamic woman and several Buddhists. Though the crimes and personal wounds they struggle with are often similar from one semester to the next, the variety of personalities continues to challenge and delight me. By December we will have graduated almost 200 women from the Chrysalis program. The rate of return for Chrysalis Grads released from prison continues to hold at 11 %, well below the national rate of 65-75%.
- Funding for Chrysalis and for my position is an ongoing issue. We requested but did not receive any money from the Department of Correction last year, and we realize now that we probably will not ever receive any state support. Though Chrysalis is inclusive of all faiths, state funding of faith based programs has been challenged in court in several states this year. While this is a disappointing development at one level, we are thankful to have the freedom of curriculum that we do have right now. The “umbrella organization” for Chrysalis, A Sacred Place, continues to receive contributions from individuals and churches, and con-

tributes to my position. I am responsible to raise the remainder of the funds needed. We all continue to trust that “what God wants, God pays for,” and that we will have the resources we need. Your support is part of our assurance that this life transforming work will go on.

- I am in the process of moving the finances of Isaiah Prison Ministry from St. James Church in Preston, CT back to my home church, St. John’s in Niantic. Since Gregg retired last summer, it has become more and more apparent that it would be helpful for me to be closer to home, to drive less, and to be able to go to church with him again from time to time. St. James was such a loving, supportive parish family in which to grow as a new priest, and the friends there will always be a part of me. However, their pastor moved on to another ministry last spring, and they are in the process of finding a new priest, so it is a good time for me to make this transition. The prison ministry will continue to be my primary work, and I may help out with worship at St. John’s on special occasions.
- Finally, the Diocesan Prison Ministry Committee, *Faith Behind Bars*, continues to grow with the personal encouragement of our new Assisting Bishop, Laura Ahrens. We sponsored a successful Diocesan Prison Ministry Forum last April to nurture present prison volunteers and to recruit new ones. We have seen so many positive outcomes from that program that we are organizing a second Forum for this spring. Also, I continue to serve on the Design Team for *Epiphany – Mentoring for Ex-Offenders*, a group that has developed and piloted an effective model for faith communities wishing to work with people leaving prison. I have recently joined a statewide group that is looking at the issues facing women upon their release. Sitting in the meeting last week I realized that I have been involved in this work long enough to have some strong views on what needs to be done. It will be interesting to see what may be possible through this group.

So the work continues in many forms – and I continue to be thankful for your encouragement and support.

With love and thanks to you all,

~Valerie

Thank you, to NOVA. . .



On behalf of Bethany House, I would to extend our warmest thanks for your support of our organization and our clients. As we close out our fiscal year and look back at the year just ended, it is apparent how much we have to be thankful for and just how much we owe thanks to you for walking alongside us.

Bethany House, and interdenominational ministry founded 28 years ago, provides abused women and children with shelter and supportive services to overcome the trauma of abuse and develop life skills for healthy, independent living. We remain committed to maintaining the highest degree of compassion and care in our shelters, and know that we could not do so without your assistance and prayers. Helping those most vulnerable among us truly is a community effort. We would be hard pressed to care for the women and children in our shelters with the financial support, Christmas presents, Easter baskets, used cars and the list goes on and one, that you provide. It is with heartfelt appreciation that I thank you for your commitment to Bethany House.

This past year, Bethany House provided assistance to 265 families needing emergency help, totaling 575 individuals (265 women and 310 children). Through our Hotline, we were able to assist more than 230 families

with crisis counseling, safety planning, and referrals to food, clothing, immigration resources, and legal services. Within our own shelters, we provided safe housing to 34 families, including 43 children, for periods of one month to one year.

Throughout their stay, our clients received counseling, food, clothing, life skills, job training, and much more. Due to your generosity, we were also able to give used cars to two families to assist with their transportation difficulties. (One of our moms was spending 6 hours every day commuting between the shelter, daycare and her job!)

May the Lord continue to bless you as you seek to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:36).

Sincerely,
/s/ Catherine Hassinger, Executive Director

Our Father in Heaven

Jesus' prayer does not begin with us or our needs—not even our confessions or our big dreams for the kingdom (though all of these are important and will follow). The prayer begins with a transcendent God beyond the boundaries of this world, whose name is so hallowed that it is not even mentioned. Instead of a name for God, we are given a characteristic of God.

God is Father—our Father.

Shane Claiborne and
Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove
*“Becoming the Answer to our Prayers:
Prayer for Ordinary Radicals”*

All Souls Day at Arlington Cemetery



On All Souls Day at Arlington Cemetery, we went to sites where family and friends of NOVA are interred. Stories were told and prayers were offered at each location. Click on the links, below, to view videos taken by Ken Chaisen. (These are 'private' videos on Google and cannot be found by searching the web.

Grover & Nancy Stock
<http://tinyurl.com/65ydrj>

Louis Mendez
<http://tinyurl.com/5o5mlq>

Dean Houck
<http://tinyurl.com/5foj7y>

Pat Clark (Brother of Carolyn Miller)
<http://tinyurl.com/673qja>

Mary Frances Havenstein (Friend of Ken Chaison)
<http://tinyurl.com/5swqcx>



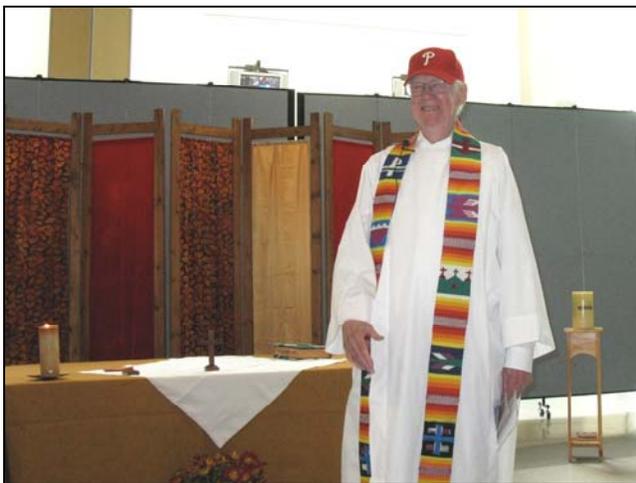
Recently at NOVA . . .

Au Revoir, Fr. Josy

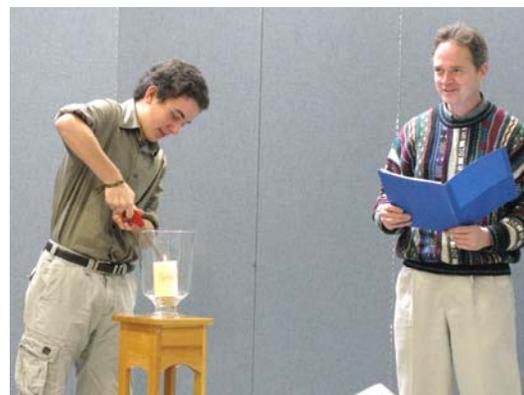
Fr Josy is leaving us for India. We hope this is temporary and he will return *to celebrate with us again. . .*



Hmm, why is Fr Haughey smiling?



Peace for Iraq and Afghanistan





HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

*In Your presence, O God, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving
We begin with the simple things of our days:*

*Fresh air to breathe,
Cool water to drink,
The taste of food,
The protection of houses and clothes,
The comforts of home.*

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

We bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that we have known:

*Our mothers' arms,
The strength of our fathers,
The playmates of our childhood,
The wonderful stories brought to us from the lives of many who
talked of days
gone by when fairies and giants and diverse kinds of magic
held sway;
The tears we have shed, the tears we have seen;
The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with its
reminder that life
is good.*

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

~Howard Thurman



December, 2008



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

Tuesday, December 2 – 60th Anniversary United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, page 9

Saturday, December 6 –**Advent Day of Reflection** at the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA., page 5

Sunday, December 7 – Co-partners/ Campesinas Christmas Sale, pre/aft liturgy, page 8

“ “ -- Immigration Talk & Brunch, 12 noon, page 5

Sunday, December 14 – Mali Kane’s slideshow, lunch, page 7

“ “ -- **Special Collection at liturgy**, page 9

Monday, December 15 – Christ House Christmas Dinner, page 7

Sunday, December 28 – Newsletter Deadline, page 2

Saturday, January 10 – Social Justice Meeting, 5:30 pm, page 8

January 19-20, “*Rebirthing America – Rebirthing King’s Dream*”, page 14

April 29-30, **Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, DC**, page 14

May 15-17, **Intentional Eucharistic Communities Conference**, registration info at

<http://intentionaleucharisticcommunities.org>