


nova notes
Newsletter of the NOVA Community Dec-Jan, 2007

Chair Notes

The Gnostic axiom, “As above, so below”, probably never comes closer to the Christian faith teaching than at this time of the year.

Two young people are going to be counted in a pre-email world. She is a very young woman, many believe only sixteen years of age and very pregnant.

Bethlehem is crowded with all kinds of people from all parts of the country.... all arriving to be counted as well. There are no hotels, motels, or inns which are not completely booked. Only a cave, used as a stinking stable is left.

It really does not matter what time of year or what is the exact place this wondrous event took place. What matters is that a child is born but not just any child. This child is the Son of God. He, God, came to us in human form to be like us, feeling the same feelings and pain and all other feelings we experience. He was like us but did not sin. He brought God’s perfection down to us. As above, so below.

Christ’s birth opened up our realization that we, who are formed in God’s image, carry within in us the “Spark of God’s Love”. What we do to turn this spark of love into the bright Light of the Love of Christ is what is important.

It is very easy to get caught up into the trappings of the season and lose sight of the Christmas which is at the heart of celebration. Let us not forget that this event turned the world upside down. No longer was God “out there”. He is now among us, in us, and with us. That is the real reason for the celebration of Christ’s Mass.

May the peace and joy of the season dwell within your heart.

~John V.



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

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

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

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

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

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 Anniversary
Peter Mandaville
Anya Perez-Lopez
Tonya Perez-Lopez
- 21 Peter Mele
Mendez Wedding Anniversary
Warren Reich
- 25 **Jesus**
- 26 Lila Powell
Kathy Perez-Lopez
- 28 Judy Christofferson
- 29 Jerry Barrett
- 31 Joel Mog



**Newsletter Deadline is
 January 13**



Liturgies

DECEMBER MUSIC LIAISON ... Linda Rosenberg

December 3 -- 1st Sunday of Advent

Jim Scullion, OFM -- L Rosenberg/K Scheimer
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
1st Thessalonians 3:12--4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

December 10 -- 2nd Sunday of Advent

Bill Callahan -- John Tarrant & Peggy Becker
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 17 -- 3rd Sunday of Advent

Jim Hug, SJ -- Ken Chaison
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

December 24 -- Vigil Mass for Christmas

John Langan, SJ -- Cackleys
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

December 31 -- The Holy Family

No Liturgy at Kenmore

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

NOVA members are invited to join the PAX community at 8:45 am at St. Luke Orthodox Church hall, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean Va.

JANUARY MUSIC LIAISON ... Barbara Formoso

January 7 -- Baptism of the Lord

Francis DiSpigno, OFM -- Marie Pinho
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

January 14 -- 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time NOVA'S 39th Anniversary

TBD -- Jim & Archer Heinzen
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-12

39!

January 21 -- 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Jim Scullion, OFM -- Goldschmidts
Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

January 28 -- 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

Jim Scullion, OFM -- D. Carroll & the Social Justice Team
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17
1 Corinthians 12:31--13:13 or 13:4-13
Luke 4:21-30



Angels helping the planners during the Advent season, include —

- * the Goldschmidts,
- * Cathy Showalter, and
- * Tim White

February, 2007

FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON ...
Barbara Formoso

February 4 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan -- Anne Passin

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8

Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

Luke 5:1-11

February 11 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna -- Peggy Becker

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Luke 6:17, 20-26

February 18 – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

TBD -- Kate Doherty

1st Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

February 21 -- Ash Wednesday — Fast

John Tarrant & Peggy Becker

Joel 2:12-18

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-14, 17 **Location to**

2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**be
announced**

**February 25 – 1st Sunday of
Lent**

Jim Scullion, OFM -- Marie Keefe

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

January

Birthdays, etc.

2 Marie Pinho

5 Michaela Kane

Jenny Tuccillo

6 Kahlil Gibran

Joan of Arc

8 Paul Visokay

9 **Dominic Monti (Ordination)** 

11 Cathy Annunziata

Whalen-Peck Anniversary

14 Andrew Mausert-Mooney

Brenda McCormick (RIP)

15 Glen Passin

16 Larry Goldschmidt

Aaron Whalen-Peck

18 **Clare Guzzo Robert (Ordination)** 

19 Jim McCormick

23 Kirsten Carroll

Walter Landry

26 Pat Reinhart

31 Mike Marron

Liturgical Year C — Cycle 1

2007 — DRAFT

DATE		PLANNERS	PRESIDER
Dec 3:	1st Sunday Advent	Linda Rosenberg	Jim Scullion, OFM
Dec 10:	2nd Sunday Advent	J Tarrant/P Becker	Bill Callahan
Dec 17:	3rd Sunday Advent	K Chaison/M Gillmarten	Jim Hug, SJ
Dec 24:	Christmas Vigil	Cackleys	John Langan, SJ
Dec 31:	Holy Family	No Liturgy because the school is closed	PAX
Jan 7:	Epiphany	Marie Pinho	Francis DiSpigno, OFM
Jan 14:	2nd Ordinary	Heinzens	tbd
Jan 21:	3rd Ordinary	Goldschmidts	Jim Scullion, OFM
Jan 28:	4th Ordinary	D. Carroll/Social Justice Team	Jim Scullion, OFM
Feb 4:	5th Ordinary	Anne Passin	Bill Callahan
Feb 11:	6th Ordinary	Peggy Becker	Joe Kenna
Feb 18:	7th Ordinary	Kate Doherty	Joe Nangle, OFM
Feb 21:	Ash Wednesday	J Tarrant/P Becker	
Feb 25:	1st Sunday Lent	Marie Keefe	Jim Scullion, OFM
Mar 4:	2nd Sunday Lent	Michelottis	
Mar 11:	3rd Sunday Lent	Heinzens	
Mar 18:	4th Sunday Lent	Orlando Kanos	
Mar 25:	5th Sunday Lent	Jeanne Clarkson	
Apr 1:	Palm Sunday	Timpanes	
Apr 5:	Holy Thursday	Holy Thursday Team	
Apr 6:	Good Friday.	Meg Tucillo	
Apr 8:	Easter	G Mog/H Michie/T White	
Apr 15:	2nd Sunday Easter	R Barrett /M Niemann	
Apr 22:	3rd Sunday Easter	D. Carroll/Social Justice Team	
Apr 29:	4th Sunday Easter	Michelottis	
May 6:	5th Sunday Easter	Betsy & Mike Marron	
May 13:	6th Sunday Easter	Kate Doherty	
May 20:	Ascension (7th of Easter)	Ascension	
May 27:	Pentecost	Linda Rosenberg	

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Liturgical Year C — Cycle 1

2007 (draft)

DATE

PLANNERS

Jun 3:	Holy Trinity	Helen Michie
Jun 10:	Body And Blood Of Christ	Jeanne Clarkson
Jun 17:	11th Sunday Ordinary Time	Emma Violand
Jun 24:	St John the Baptist	Marie Pinho/JohnTarrant
Jul 1:	13th Sunday Ordinary Time	Peggy Meyer
Jul 8:	14th Sunday Ordinary Time	Victoria Robinson
Jul 15:	15th Sunday Ordinary Time	Anne Passin
Jul 22:	16th Sunday Ordinary Time	Christoffersons
Jul 29:	17th Sunday Ordinary Time	Gloria Mog
Aug 5:	18th Sunday Ordinary Time	Victoria Robinson
Aug 12:	19th Sunday Ordinary Time	Helen Michie
Aug 19:	20th Sunday Ordinary Time	Tim White
Aug 26:	21st Sunday Ordinary Time	Meg Tuccillo
Sep 2:	22nd Sunday Ordinary Time	David Mog
Sep 9:	23rd Sunday Ordinary Time	Marie Keefe
Sep 16:	24th Sunday Ordinary Time	RETREAT
Sep 23:	25th Sunday Ordinary Time	Catherine Loveless-Schmitt
Sep 30:	26th Sunday Ordinary Time	Goldschmidts
Oct 7:	27th Sunday Ordinary Time	Barbara & Joe Formoso
Oct 14:	28th Sunday Ordinary Time	Ormando Kane
Oct 21:	29th Sunday Ordinary Time	Annunziatas
Oct 28:	30th Sunday Ordinary Time	D. Carroll/Social Justice Team
Nov 4:	31st Sunday Ordinary Time	J Mooney/M Sullivan/K Scheimer
Nov 11:	32nd Sunday Ordinary Time	Nancy and John Veldhuis
Nov 18:	33rd Sunday Ordinary Time	Christoffersons
Nov 25:	Christ The King	Peggy Meyer

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 3 after liturgy, The Quixote Center and Co-Partners for Campesinas will have hand-crafted gifts for sale: pottery, cards, textiles, sorpresas. December 10 after liturgy, the wonderful baskets from Educate the Girls will be on sale.

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>

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](#). 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 entrepreneur 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>.

(Continued on next page)

Ministry of Money Report . . .

A Giving Sampler (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

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

Support for Bishop Fresen: After the Call to Action meeting, Marjorie Maguire talked to some people about giving money to Bishop Patricia Fresen instead of the institutional Church. Patricia, who was a Dominican nun in South Africa for 45 years before she was ordained and forced to leave her order, has no pension from the Dominicans or the Church (as far as known). She is 65 years old.

She has been working for three years in Germany on a home health care visitation team. If she works for five years, she will get a pension of 120 euros per month. Because she got some honoraria here (a day of seminars and talks at Macalaster College and the Call to Action meeting), she has almost enough to buy out her 5th year (about \$1900) which she has to do by the end of November. Then she only has to work for one more year to get the pension of 120 euros. I was horrified to think that at her age and with her talents (multiple advanced degrees, professor in a RC seminaries in Rome and South Africa) and service to the Church she has to be worrying about this. A couple of people expressed to me that they would like to give her some money. Maybe you were among them. Anyway, Marjorie wrote to Ruth Steinert Foote in Cincinnati because I knew that Patricia is supposed to go back to her house, after trips to Seattle and Vancouver, before Patricia flies back to Germany. I wanted to know if people could send contributions for Patricia to Ruth's house. Below you will find Ruth's response:

You can indeed send money here. She will be back for one day before going back to Germany. If anyone would like to have a donation be tax deductible, they can make a check out to Greater Cincinnati Women-Church and the money can be transferred to an account for Patricia. If the tax deduction is not needed, just make a check out to her. My numbers are 513-771-0629 - home and 513-604-0170 - cell
Ruth's address is: Ruth Steinert Foote
985 Forest Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45246
E-mail: RHSteinert@aol.com

~Bernie Byrne

Holiday Shopping (more....)

Holy Cross Abbey Products

Phone: 540 955 9494 or 540 955 9440 . . .
fax 540 955 4006 email fraters@hcava.org
<https://www.monasteryfruitcake.org/products.asp>

mail Monastery Bakery
901 Cool Spring Lane
Berryville VA 22611

Fruitcakes . . . \$22.00 net weight: 36 ounces (2 pounds, 4 ounces) / 1.021 kilograms

A fruitcake from the Trappist monks for those who appreciate quality products, made from an old fashioned recipe, using choice fruits and nut meats in a brandy- laced batter.

Our cakes are sealed in cellophane and packaged in a reusable decorative tin, and are available throughout the year.

The monks of Holy Cross Abbey unconditionally guarantee that our fruitcake is the best you'll ever eat or we will cheerfully refund your money.

ingredients:

cherries (color added), pineapple, unbleached flour, raisins, walnuts, whole eggs, pecans, dates, sugar, brandy, wine, papaya, butter, lemon and orange peel, all-vegetable shortening (soybean and cottonseed oils), honey, pineapple juice, non-fat dry milk, water, fine flavorings and spices, salt, baking powder, calcium propionate and sulfur dioxide added as a preservative.

Creamed Honey . . . \$17 for four flavors

Our monastery honey is a natural product of the finest clover honey creamed (crystallized) to a consistency of a spread like butter or margarine.

It's a wholesome sweetener for coffee, tea and hot cereal, and is also great on bread, toast, pancakes, bagels, waffles, and more.

There are two assortments of creamed honey flavors.

CH1 contains one four ounce tub each, Natural, Cinnamon, Brandy, Almond.

CH2 contains one four ounce tub each, Natural, Cinnamon, Lemon, Raspberry.

Fraters . . . \$17 for a box of six

Fraters are slices of our world famous fruitcake smothered in rich dark chocolate - a gourmand's delight for lovers of fruitcake and chocolate.

Enjoy these for a superlative dessert or a special snack.

There are six fraters per box, with each weighing 2.6 ounces (average).

Monastery Truffles . . . \$17 per box net weight: 12 ounces (340.5 grams)

Imagine a soft rich mixture of the finest chocolate and heavy whipping cream accentuated with amaretto, espresso, blackberry puree and other special flavors. The delicious 18 pieces come packaged in an elegant two-layer gift box with a silver stretch tie.

Monastery Truffles are produced with our friends and benefactors of DeFluri's Fine Chocolates of Martinsburg, West Virginia, using the same high standards as all other monastery bakery products.

ingredients:

sugar, milk, cocoa butter, chocolate liquor, cream, natural and artificial flavors, invert sugar, cranberries, cranberry juice from concentrate, part. hydrog. sunflower oil, palm kernel and part. hydrog. palm oils, cocoa, whey, non-fat milk, lecithen and sorbitan monostearate emulsifiers, pure vanilla, vanillin, potassium sorbate, red 3 and 40, yellow 6 lake, yellow 5, corn syrup, confectioner's glaze, salt.

These truffles are made in a facility that uses peanuts, nutmeats, and wheat flour.

Directions: from Washington DC (60 miles)

Travel west on Route 7 across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Make a right turn immediately after crossing the Shenandoah River onto Route 603 (Castleman's Road). After one mile turn right on Cool Spring Lane.

General Meeting Notes (Nov 4) . . .

From our treasurer: Eighteen households are making regular contributions to cover community operating costs and social justice financial commitments.

Facilities/location: The facilities committee considered a number of possible locations when our future space at Kenmore was in question. None of the possibilities held out a clear advantage over our current location without significant changes in Mass schedule. For some time, the community has been on the look out for a location which we could rent from a social action/ justice organization, or project, which could benefit from the Community's rental of their space on Sunday's when not in use. We continue to be interested in that possibility if the opportunity presents itself. Otherwise, no specific effort will be made to continue to an active search.

Children/Youth Education: The education of our children continues to be a community challenge. The excellent program that we used last year had one drawback that created an obstacle for some who participated, i.e. religious instruction at home. Work continues on the development of a program that will engage our youngest members. For our affirmation age members, Kate Doherty volunteered to contact them and their parents and to work with them to create their Affirmation program. Please stand ready to help once Kate identifies the support that she will need from the Community. The community also decided to hire a baby sitter when required for our very youngest members during liturgy so their parents can more freely participate. Details to follow.

Adult Education Program: Peggy Becker has the Mystery of Faith series well under way. It is built upon 30 minute videos by Michael Himes (Ken's brother) followed by a community discussion on the topics of Tradition, Incarnation, Church, Grace, Reconciliation, Baptism, Eucharist, Sacraments of Vocation, and Salvation. Please note the newsletter calendar for this month's date and location.

Liturgy: A summary of the latest liturgy committee meeting was provided in November's newsletter. Respect for community members' needs and respect for the sacred space and time were some of the themes from the gathering. A question was raised about moving the dialogue to the end of the liturgy. Those who want to linger after Mass and discuss the topics further

could. The prevailing thought of the general meeting participants was that the decision should be left to the planners. (Chair note: It is up to each member of the community to observe the 11 a.m. time to conclude the dialogue homily while at Kenmore and 10:15 a.m. in the Park. In the event that you would like to continue the dialogue beyond the time allowed during the liturgy, during community announcements please consider inviting others to join you after the liturgy.)

40th Anniversary Celebration: Gloria Mog and Clyde Christofferson had previously agreed to help coordinate the celebration. Jim Furlong invited the community to share pictures, videos, etc. that might help show a visual timeline of Nova's history. Jerry Barrett and Dianne and Eric Carroll will also be part of the anniversary celebration-planning group. The 40th anniversary will be an opportunity for rejuvenation and inspiration for the future.

Highlights:

We shared our experience of the strengths of the Nova Community to enable us to live out the Gospel message over the next five to ten years:

Challenge and support to live out the gospel

Place of inspiration

Tight Knit

Strong Faith

Alive and Vibrant

A place to belong

Nurturing and accepting

A place to learn to live the gospel

Diversity of thinking

Caring community in crisis

Blessing of the Padre Cadre/Two way

Commitment

A place to share ideas

Fellowship

Joyful

Feel connected to many projects

Feel connected to the global church

Participation rather than passive attendance

Opportunity to do good

We are church

(Continued on next page)

General Meeting Notes (Nov 4)continued.

(Continued from page 10)

What challenges will the community face over the next five years?

- Shrinking and aging community, less energy, less money
- Need for rejuvenation, for new life
- May face going out of existence
- Possibility of being able to handle fewer projects
- Caution that we don't become too inward focus
- Social action in proportion to our energy and resources
- Meeting increased needs for expanded membership
- Wearing ourselves out by worrying about the above
- Need to nurture our strengths
- Keep being who we say we are.

Although community members at the meeting generally didn't think it was a common concern, others had previously expressed a need to actively attract new members. Among those gathered the thinking ran along these lines. We attract new members by being authentically ourselves, a community focused on the Eucharistic celebration and dedication to social justice. If we are living out the gospel with this as our focus, how do people experience us in the world, in a way that would attract others to the community? Each Nova member is then like an apostle. Each one of us came to Nova because someone else invited us to the community.

One member added that forty years ago Nova filled a need that was not being met in parishes and now more parishes recognize the need to offer more meaningful liturgies and alternatives for their members. How we relate to the larger church was also raised as a challenge along with attracting new members to the Padre Cadre. Participants also expressed an interest in looking into another national conference of intentional communities as a forum to discuss some of these common issues.

The meeting closed with a challenge, God does not ask us to be successful. God does ask us to be faithful.

~*Nancy Veldhuis*

Recently at NOVA ...



Tom & Teddi Ahrens



Patrick & Clare Robert

Reflection on dialogue from the November 5 liturgy, celebrated by Jim Scullion: Listen with the Ear of Your Heart

The Bible is not our answer book. It opens up dialogue. Dialogue helps me hear what I may not of heard with my head. Dialogue helps me to hear challenges that I may hear more with my heart.

~*Nancy Veldhuis*

NOVA Annual Social Justice Meeting

We gather yearly in discernment about how to live out NOVA's commitment to social justice as embodied in 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 (adapted from Gil Donohue writings).

Reviewing our 2006 commitments and criteria for adopting social action programs. In 2006, NOVA supported 8 international efforts, 18 (17 local) domestic projects, and 6 advocacy programs through funding (\$41,000.00 total budget) and volunteer efforts. We have also been responsive to emergency needs through special collections. As we reviewed our finances, we could see the miracle of commitment in action as we always find a way to fund the needs brought to the community.

However we also are aware that, as individuals and as a community, we need to re-assess, to get in touch with giving from our substance, and to be prayerfully deliberate. We remind folks that financial assistance up to \$300 is available at the discretion of the chairs and also ask respect for our criteria by consulting with them before taking up any second collections.

Choosing our 2007 social actions:

All 2006 projects have been re-funded with the exception of two. These two successes enable us to take on a new project without additional funds! Barrios Unidos gang prevention and intervention program has received funding support and the Family-in-Need has graduated 3 of their children and the remaining 2 are living with their dad who has a steady job.

Quest for Peace at the Quixote Center: We commit to the work of Bill Callahan's group and John XXIII Institute in Nicaragua. A UN development agency has called the institute the most effective NGO in Nicaragua. The institute's plan is to speed the integrated development of 19 towns and villages over the next 5 years by first developing the community's capacity to work together and to help itself, then progressing to wells, latrines, child and adult education, periodic medical services, and economic development. (\$200 monthly).

Helping the Working Poor: NOVA has witnessed the growing economic gap as the food lines increase at Gunston and affordable housing diminishes. At times we have become the last ditch effort for families on the brink of losing their housing and becoming homeless. After meeting with Jenny Carroll, a social worker in Arlington Public Schools, we have come up with a three-pronged effort to help these families. We plan to do this for a year and then assess whether advocacy, legislation or other efforts are needed.

Homeless Prevention. Currently rents are being raised and housing units are being closed down for renovation. When any unexpected expense occurs for families living at the poverty level, their ability to pay the rent is jeopardized. Jenny Carroll who works with these families, makes sure all avenues for government or NGO assistance are sought in the 5-day window for payment before large fines are levied, but on occasion the \$400-500 that will keep a family from being homeless is unavailable. We propose to have a fund available for crisis rent relief circumstances. Jenny and Emma will develop giving and assessment criteria. As we need to have this money available immediately with no lag time, we will take up a special collection on December 10 with the hopes of having \$1000 at hand and then will begin regularized monthly support (\$200 recommended) in January.

Making Christmas giving possible. We have about a dozen families that will not be able to give Christmas gifts to their children. We will have a sign up sheet for those willing to help through donations of food or gift cards.

Dunn Loring-type Event. A committee is looking into holding an event next year where we bring gently used or new items that families can receive for a token entry donation to a sponsoring church or organization.

(Continued on page 13)

Social Justice Meeting (cont'd) . . .

(Continued from page 12)

Ministry of Money: Tim White and interested partners are investigating bringing to us conscientious efforts of spirituality and money. This program came out of the Church of the Savior efforts.

Giving Sampler: We've compiled some suggestions to trigger thinking about deepening our giving efforts during the holidays. They appear in this newsletter.

Next Steps in December:

December 3 liturgy:

- sign up for Family Christmas Giving
- gift sales for Quixote Center and Co-partners for Campesinas

December 10 liturgy:

- collection for Homeless Prevention Fund
- gift sales of baskets for Educate the Girls

Any time:

a meditation on giving:

I wish to appeal with simplicity and humility to all men and women without exception. I wish to ask them to be convinced of the seriousness of the present moment and of each person's responsibility, and to implement change-by the way they live as individuals and families, by the use of their resources, by contributing to economic and political decisions, and by personal commitment to national and international undertakings.

~ Pope John Paul II

~Marie Keefe.



November 12, 2006—Baltimore, MD
Outside of Bishops Conference

May I become at all times, both now and forever

- * A protector for those without protection
- * A guide for those who have lost their way
- * A ship for those with oceans to cross
- * A bridge for those with rivers to cross
- * A sanctuary for those in danger
- * A lamp for those without light
- * A place of refuge for those who lack shelter
- * And a servant to all in need.

~ Tenzin Gyatso,
the 14th Dalai Lama

Treasurer's Report

NOVA Cash Flow CYs2004, 2005 and Jan-Sept 2006

INFLOWS	2004	2005	Sept. 2006
Collections	\$63,495.00	60,456.00	39,850.00
Retreat	4,661.00	5,574.00	4,964.00
Special Collections	6,805.00	1,445.00	3,430.00
TOTAL Collections	\$74,961.00	\$67,475.00	\$48,244.00
OUTFLOWS			
Administration	\$787.06	\$969.98	1,202.49
Agape	541.76	1,251.00	433.71
Celebrant	7,950.00	7,800.00	5,100.00
Com. Ministry	225.59	786.95	395.76
Education		212.95	27.47
Music		200.00	
Newsletter	1,430.22	1,463.83	308.34
Rent	11,799.61	12,873.84	6,577.00
Retreat	2,440.00	7,001.96	5,668.86
TOTAL Social Action	43,960.26	38,310.00	30,036.42
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$69,134.50	\$70,870.51	\$49,750.05
OVERALL TOTAL	\$5,826.50	-\$3,395.51	-\$1,506.05

During 2004, collections (not including special collections or other items like retreat) averaged \$1,160 with about 20 families contributing. Through September of 2006, collections have averaged about \$1,100 with 18 contributors.



Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

Economic Justice, Myth or Plan

On November 11 SALT, Social Action Linking Together, hosted a Legislative Conference at St. Mark Church in Vienna dealing with the Bishops' 20 year old Pastoral Letter.

Bishop Emeritus Walter Sullivan of Richmond gave the keynote address. He was an original committee member when the latter was drafted.

Responding to the ideas presented were panelists Del. Vincent Callahan, chief patron for the SALT initiative to raise the minimum wage and Sen. Colgan of Manassas.

Bishop Sullivan provided the overview of the pastoral letter which emphasized that economic justice revolves around a respect for the dignity of the person. It is important for the community to respect the powerlessness of the poor. The cycle of poverty is increased when a fair family wage is denied.

The Bishops' letter emphasized a call to family. Parish communities, comprised of families, were encouraged to consider the decisions that affect their lives. The letter said that one should hear, "the cries of the poor". Furthermore, it continued that one need not necessarily live in poverty, but examine what we do with the things we have. Church communities should have notable solidarity with the poor.

Traditionally, supporting labor organizations & the right to a living wage are evidences of this. Bishop Sullivan also explained that the way in which we treat the environment reveals the manner in which we are concerned about each other.

Del. Callahan responded that the State of Virginia has been reluctant to increase the minimum wage. However, the current political and economic climate, as well as social pressures, such as SALT, may help this goal to succeed. The Delegate urged all present to write to their representatives and the members of the subcommittee advocating this measure.

Sen. Colgan, first elected in 1975, noted that business lobbyists oppose an increase in the minimum wage. He mentioned that 40,000 homes in Virginia lack indoor plumbing. Funds have been directed to roads rather than to service the needs of the poor. The Senator con-

tinued to explain that caucus voting prevails in the Virginia legislature. This forum insists that the representative vote with the decision of the caucus rather than with his conscience or the mind set of his constituents. He emphasized that the most persuasive way to influence the legislature is with a hand written note.

Contributing to the event were the remarks of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins of the Hunter Mill District in Fairfax County. She highlighted the great need for affordable housing. Again the encouragement to correspond with elected officials was noted.

Sue Capers, Advocacy Director for the Coalition to End Homelessness in Virginia, was the final speaker. She reviewed the manner of increasing advocacy efforts promoting the Fair Wage Act in the next legislative session.

~ **Mary Ellen D'Agostino** and submitted
By Helen Gettys Michie

How Does Goodness Happen? .. Anyway

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.

If you do good, people may accuse you of selfish motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you may win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable.

Be honest and transparent anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People who really want help may attack you if you help them.

Help them anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt.

Give the world your best anyway.

Meditations From A Simple Path by Mother Teresa

[originally written by Dr. Keith Kent]

Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

**Nova Catholic Community
Social Justice Ministries
Letter Writing Campaigns 2006-2007
by**

"Remove our spiritual blindness that we may turn toward those who live without dignity and provide for them a share in your kingdom of abundance and peace" Theme Statement Nova Community Social Justice Liturgy October 29, 2006

Bread for the World and Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

The Nova Catholic Community has been writing letters to legislators for many years as part of our Covenant Church relationship with Bread for the World. Peggy Meyer has worked tirelessly over many years on a number of these letter writing campaigns. The Nova Catholic Community provides \$150 a year in financial support to Bread for the World. Nova also donated \$250 last year to the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, which has initiated several letter writing campaigns also coordinated by Peggy Meyer. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is an ecumenical organization which I originally encountered in the 1980's while I served as a Resource Development Officer for Lutheran Resources Commission. These BFTW and VA Interfaith Center letter writing campaigns are particularly significant because they aim to change public policy and funding for low income individuals and families, who are increasingly challenged here in the United States by high housing costs and low wages as they struggle to raise their children. The most recent BFTW letter writing campaign was important because it aimed to double the amount of development assistance given to families overseas.

SALT, Social Action Linking Together

SALT, Social Action Linking Together, is a Virginia Catholic Social Justice organization run by a dedicated group of volunteers. SALT held a conference on November 9, 2006 well attended by six Nova Community members and friends of Nova. Right now, the letter writing campaign that SALT is working on is to raise the minimum wage in the state of Virginia. to \$7.15 per hour. Virginia's Minimum Wage is currently \$5.15 hour and has been this low rate for over nine years. More than five other states have also raised their states' minimum wage putting more dollars into the pockets of low income families. There is also a national legislative initiative to raise the minimum wage in every state in the United States.

I believe that the Virginia Minimum Wage initiative can be successful in the 2007-2008 Virginia General Assembly for several reasons. First Bishop Loverde here

in the Diocese of Arlington wrote a letter supporting the Minimum Wage Initiative Secondly, the recent election of Senator James Webb indicates to me that there is more awareness on the part of Virginians about the needs of struggling low income families. But a great deal still needs to be done to find co-sponsors for this bill, to contact State Senators and House of Delegate Representatives, and to encourage as many people as possible to sign the Raise the Minimum Wage Petition.

What I Learned at the SALT Conference that Applies to Letter Writing Campaigns.

1. SALT suggests that personal letters, preferably handwritten, be used in letter writing campaigns

2. Whenever possible personalize the letter, and if time permits try to personally contact the legislator you are writing to and meet with him or her. This is best done before the Virginia Legislature goes into session or at Town Meetings when the legislators are back here in Northern Virginia.

3. Nova Community members can also work with Catholic Churches near them to encourage SALT minimum wage letter writing and petition signings. I'm planning to go to the Catholic Church near me after the Saturday evening Mass to encourage signatures. I've been given the name of a member of the parish and hope to work with him on a letter writing campaign.

4. We can get a much larger number of petitions signed and letters written if we write letters here at Nova and encourage other Catholics and other like minded friends and relations of other faiths to do the same throughout the state of Virginia Nova friends who have minimum wage initiatives in other US states can also do this.

Mother Teresa inspires us to work towards the common good in all our social action projects with this prayer found on previous page....

~Helen Gettys Michie

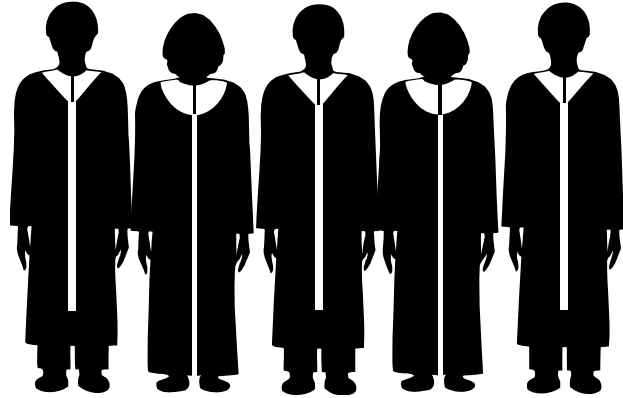
Important Dates & Activities

Adult Formation for 2006-07: Exploring The Mystery of Faith

For our third session of the Michael Himes' series, the topic will be Church.

Gather at Meg Tucillo's home on December 2 at 7:30 for snacks and beverages. (2532 N. Ridgeview Road, Arlington, VA 22207). After the 30 minute video, there will be a guided, spirited discussion. You are invited to bring an hors d'oeuvre, but if you can't, come anyway. You are welcome to invite friends as well. Each of the presentations is complete in itself, so that you are not "behind" if you have missed a previous one.

If you are able to host a future presentation, please contact Peggy Becker, 703 913-1330 or xoobrent@cox.net. To host you will need only a VHS player, a TV and seating for about 20-25.



The NOVA Community Chorus has a series of concerts coming up in early December.
[Northern Va Community College]

Handel's Messiah

Sunday Dec 3, 5:00 PM

Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NE

Sunday Dec 10 5:00 PM

Schlessinger Concert Hall, 3001 N Beauregard St, Alexandria Va

Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Under 18 free. See Larry Goldschmidt or Bill Meyer for tickets.

Selections from Handel's Messiah and songs of Aaron Copland

Friday Dec 8, 8:00 PM

Schlessinger Concert Hall
NVCC Alexandria Campus
3001N Beauregard St
Alexandria Va,



Important Dates & Activities



Waiting for Peace. Nova Grandmothers (and friends) stand, wait and pray outdoors, before each liturgy, each Sunday

More Fair Trade Shopping Opportunities

Novica.com

affiliated with National Geographic and acts as middleman for artists in places like Indonesia, Peru, and parts of Africa. High quality, reasonable prices.

WorldofGood.com

Lots of completely yummy and well-made gift items from jewelry to bags and baskets, and each comes with a tag that tells you what family or town in what part of the world made your item and how its sale benefits them.

www.marketplaceindia.org

I'll bet you love it for both clothing and home accessories. The Yoga Mat bag is nice and would make a great gift.

Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance

Is holding a sale on goods from Nicaraguan Artists. Take 10% off your total order drawn from this catalog. This includes a 10% discount on paintings and Nicaraguan pottery. But get your orders in now, this offer holds only until the new catalog is finished!

Thank You from Nova

Many thanks to Archer Heinzen and to Margaret Hayes for their donations to NOVA of off-white, 'top-layer' tablecloths for our altar. Margaret has also given us matching off-white (dinner-size) napkins (12 of them!) -- that can serve as multiple sets of communion napkins. We also have a new set of small, 'cocktail'-sized Fall-colored napkins that look great with our new mustard-gold altar cloth (thanks, Victoria).

Please handle with care & clean promptly. White/blush wine remains a better choice (than red wine) for laundering ease and keeping these liturgical "accessories" nice! Storage napkins go in middle cabinet, in under-shelf basket with the other communion napkins. The tablecloths can either be hung on hangers--with other white tablecloths on the rolling rack, or folded & shelved in bottom shelf of far-right cabinet (with other tablecloths), if there's room.

Thanks for your generosity, Archer & Margaret :-); thanks to everybody else for your cooperation!

P.S. Carmela Ormando-Kane has 'volunteered' her mom to wash (and do minor sewing) of our liturgical tablecloths/screen pieces. Who could imagine that, at age 38, NOVA might have an 'altar guild lady'!?

And where would we be without our long-time, creative crafter of beautiful things, Cathy Showalter, who's agreed to --among other tasks-- re-attach the NOVA peace-dove 'logo' from our now-yucky NOVA banner onto a new banner? We are, indeed, grateful in this Thanksgiving season!

~Victoria Robinson



Thank you, NOVA ...

From Valerie Dixon...

Dear Nova Friends,

From the newsletter I realize that you are meeting to discuss Outreach this weekend. I want to give you an update on things that have changed in Prison Ministry since we were together last spring.

I continue to teach 45 women in the Chrysalis Community at York on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We now have 120 graduates of the full 6-month curriculum, 90 of whom have been released. After 4 years our return rate is still 12%, as compared with the national rate of 65-75% -- so we continue to give thanks!

I also continue to coordinate the Prayer Partner volunteer program. This year our pool of volunteers has grown from 18-22 to 25-30 with 4 more in the application process. This number makes it possible for each Chrysalis woman in the core program to have her own Prayer Partner, which is a great blessing.

Our Graduate Coordinator continues to work with the 10-12 Graduates of the core curriculum who want to remain in the Community and work on a specific issue of personal growth and healing.

We are also hoping that the entire building when Chrysalis is housed can be designated for the Community. Our Graduate Coordinator to be ready to start interviewing Chrysalis candidates so that as beds in the unity become available, qualified, motivated women can be moved into them. The administration has agreed to this proposal in principle, but as always, implementation is slow.

We continue to have some great supplementary courses for women in Chrysalis and now in other areas of the prison as well, under the auspices of A Sacred Place, the nonprofit set up to provide spiritually based programming at the prison. Last year I supervised 3 volunteer teachers, and this year we have 6 – 3 for Houses of Healing, a yoga teacher, an arts and spirituality teacher, and a new poetry therapist.

Outside of York, I continue to work with the design team for Epiphany: Mentoring for Ex-

Offenders, the group that initiated a pilot mentoring project in Bridgeport in October 2005. Last month we had our first Epiphany Graduate, a young woman, dear to my heart, who came out of Chrysalis and so has experienced both support groups. Yesterday Danielle helped me give a presentation on prison ministry and told her story. It was a great moment for all of us, and I was so proud of this young woman! We are now in the process of finishing up the training manual based on our learnings with Danielle this year. We will then be ready to hold a training conference this spring for faith communities around the state who will then be prepared to sponsor other men and women as they are released.

Finally, the diocesan prison ministry group that I chair, Faith Behind Bars, managed to get out a brochure this fall – in time for the diocesan convention! – listing contact persons for a variety of prison programs around the state. It was a major work that we hope will raise awareness of prison ministry and generate more volunteers.

So there is much good news to report. However, funding continues to be an issue for me and for A Sacred Place. This is the last year of money from all of our “seed funding” sources. We now have successful, ongoing programs to support, not startups. We are searching out local patrons, and we had a second concert to benefit A Sacred Place last month. If it is possible for NOVA to support Isaiah Prison Ministry for another year, it would be a blessing.

I continue to love what I do more than anything I have ever done! In the year ahead I hope to further reduce my parish work so that I can focus more fully on the prison, including going to church with the women on Sundays.

Thank you for all you are doing for so many people – and thank you for all you have done for me.

Sending many blessings and much love to you all,

~Valerie Dixon

Thank you, NOVA (cont'd) ...

From Margaret Hayes . . .

Thank you, Nova, for your visits, cards, phone calls and magnificent food during the past summer and fall. I have recovered from the last procedure, and I've had no new fractures.

Before the Christmas season I will start physical therapy in an effort to regain some strength. Your love and prayers have been a great help getting through the discomfort.

I hope to see you all soon and again thank you.

Love and peace to you'

~Margaret Hayes

from local VOTF Affiliate . . .

Thanks from the heart . . .

Dear Friends in the NOVA Community,

Your funding of our efforts to heal the wounds of the clergy sexual abuse scandal in our church has made a real difference in what we could undertake.

Those of us on the Affiliate Leadership team especially thank you for your contributions, and we pray for abundant blessings upon your faith community.

Sincerely,
/s/ Bill Casey & Evelyn Mercantini &
team members.

From Nonviolent Peaceforce



Dear Nova Catholic Community,

Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution of \$400.00. Your support and willingness to help spread the word about the development of the Nonviolent Peaceforce are vital to this movement to create a better world for ourselves and for our children.

Eleven field team members completed training in September and have joined the existing teams there. Our teams are in constant demand to provide protective presence both within the communities where they have lived and worked for the past three years as well as with internally displaced people. There is no doubt that we are saving lives everyday.

As you know we do this work to provide effective protection and peacekeeping. The safety of our teams is paramount. We constantly monitor the balance between NP's ability to protect and the safety of our team members.

Progress continues in other areas of Nonviolent Peaceforce efforts to expand the work of civilians in peace work. The next training will take place in Nairobi, Kenya starting on November 15. This training will qualify people in basic skills to be considered for developing projects. A significant number of people have applied for this training opportunity. In late November, NP will tour in the United States showcasing photos from Sri Lanka speakers about the work of Nonviolent Peaceforce, and peace bonds for the holidays. Information about locations is available on the NP website. [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org]

During a time when it seems the world is awash in violence it is critical that we uphold the courageous and effective nonviolent work of our peacekeepers. Nonviolence works!

*I deeply appreciate your help.
/s/ Mel Duncan, Exec. Director*

*PS: Your regular gift is so very welcome as we struggle to meet the needs of so many suffering from conflict in our world.
Peace & All Good..
/s/ Patricia Keefe, Outreach Coordinator*

2006

Wonderful Counselor

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Prince of Peace

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

- To find the lost
- To heal the broken
- To feed the hungry
- To release the prisoner
- To rebuild the nations
- To bring peace among brothers and sisters
- To make music in the heart.

~ Howard Thurman



Dec-Jan, 2007



Nova Calendar...

Saturday, December 2.... 7:30pm, Meg Tucillo's home, page 17.

December 3 after liturgy, ***Post-Liturgy Hand-made Craft Buying Opportunities:***
Benefiting The Quixote Center and Co-Partners for Campesinas,
hand-crafted gifts for sale: pottery, cards, textiles, sorpresas.

December 3, after liturgy *and* Sale... Tarrants Christmas Open House, page 17

December 3 5:00pm ... Handels Messiah, Washington DC, page 17

December 8 8:00pm ... Selections from Handel and Copland, Alexandria, page 17

December 10 after liturgy, ***Post-Liturgy Hand-made Craft Buying Opportunities:***
Benefiting Educate the Girls (Africa), wonderful baskets will be on sale.

December 10 5:00pm ... Handels Messiah, Alexandria, page 17

Merry Christmas