



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community February, 2005

Chair Notes

TURN, TURN, TURN!

It seems like it was just Christmas and I turned around and it was New Years, and I turned around and students were headed back to school. I turned and the Lenten planners have already met and five sessions are scheduled for planning Holy Thursday; Ash Wednesday is right around the corner and our next NOVA Nite is on February 12. (Let's not forget Saint Valentines Day!)

The music of the '60s and '70s is rattling around in my head and I am reminded of the "Byrds," singing Turn! Turn! Turn! (Music-Pete Seeger) The words, derived from Ecclesiastes, begin...

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven...*

There is a lot of music with "Turn" or "Turning" in the title. Each time Katie leaves town, I swallow hard and am reminded of someone singing Turn Around....

*Where are you going my little one, little one
Where are you going my baby my own
Turn around and you're two
Turn around and you're four
Turn around and you're a young girl
Going out of the door*

I came upon the words to a song I do not know, by the group, "Newsboys" from Queensland, Australia.

Their song is, Where You Belong/Turn Your Eyes On Jesus and the lyrics are...

When you're dull from all that glitters,
when you're thoughts have a hollow ring,
when you can't escape from the feeling you're getting it wrong...
All your foolproof plans seem foolish,
all your status is status quo,
all you really need to know is where you belong.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in his wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.*

*I was used to the cold for so long that couldn't feel anything.
And I shivered and stared like a beggar who won't lift his hands.*

*I was numb until he touched me.
I was deaf until he heard.
I was senseless 'til I met the one who understands.*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in his wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.*

I could not help thinking that this song describes the experience of Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John that we read about in Matthew's Gospel and discussed in dialog on January 23. Perhaps they were "dull" from what they were doing, their thoughts had a "hollow ring" and they could not "escape from the feeling" that they were "getting it wrong." I can empathize with 'getting it wrong.' I've been in that boat.

"...all you really need to know is where you belong." That would seem to be what all of us need and is something that changes, perhaps as we 'grow in wisdom and grace.'

That wisdom may come through reflection, alone and with others. I'm looking forward to Lent as a time for our reflection, so that I retain a sense of where I belong, while I'm constantly turning.

~Ken Chaison

P.S. Easter is only 8 weeks away, as I write this.

Birthdays, etc

February



2	Bonnie Lowrey
4	Joan Gurian
6	Fernando Mercado
7	Stephanie Visokay
11	Charlie Boyne
	Ray Kemp
12	Monica Rosenberg
	Fernando Mercado Violand
14	Jan Tarasovic
15	Justin Mog
	Anna Reich
	Amy Kyleen Sullivan
17	Josette Ferguson
19	Josh White
20	Linda Rosenberg
24	Amy Bailey
	Pat Connelly
26	Lynne Christofferson
27	Catherine Schmidt
28	Mary Grace

NOVA Catholic Community

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	Joe Annunziata	703-560-8688
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	Gloria Mog	703-522-1812
	Anne Passin	703- 538-6545
Padre Cadre Coordinator	David Mog	703-522-1812
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The NOVA Catholic Community Invites You To Celebrate The Eucharistic Liturgy With Us Every Sunday In Arlington, Virginia at Kenmore Elementary School, Arlington Blvd & Glen Carlyn, Arlington Va.

Liturgies begin at 10:15 am.

***newsletter deadline
Sunday, February 20
Please...***

Liturgies

FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON

Barbara Formosa

February 6 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna - Goldschmidts
Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalm 112:4-9
I Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

**February 9 - Ash Wednesday FAST +
Paraliturgy—Anne Passin**
7:30 pm at Meg Tucillo's home:
2532 N. Ridgeview Rd.
Arlington, VA

February 13 - 1st Sunday of Lent *

Joe Nangle, OFM - Gloria Mog
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17
Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Matthew 4:1-11

February 20 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Joseph Rozansky OFM—J Tarrant & J Clarkson
Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
II Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

February 27 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

Bill Callahan - Betsy Pugin, Marcelline Niemann
Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42



see page 5
for
pot-luck at
Gloria's

MARCH MUSIC LIAISON

Gloria Mog

March 6 - 4th Sunday of Lent

Joe Kenna - Heinzens
I Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

March 13 - 5th Sunday of Lent

Joe Nangle, OFM - Amy Kyleen Lute, Mollie Kane, +
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

March 20 - Passion (Palm) Sunday

Ted Keating, SM - Mary Gilmartin
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14--27:66 or 27:11-54

March 24 - Holy Thursday...Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper — NOT AT KENMORE

Gather at 6:45, Liturgy at 7:00 pm
Quinn Connors. O. Carm - Social Justice Group
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

March 25 - Good Friday, Fast+ KENMORE. . 8:00 pm

Doug McNeill - Meg Tucillo
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Isaiah 52:13--53:12
Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1--19:42

March 27 - Easter Sunday GOODWIN HOUSE — 10:00 am

Joe Kenna - J Mausert-Mooney, Tim White
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4, or I Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Liturgy Tip

Creating Sacred Space

There is a ritual that takes place before the liturgy each Sunday. What may seem like a purely physical task—transporting materials and arranging screens, altar and chairs—is also the work of creating sacred space. Unlike congregations based in a church building, we arrive each week to a room or park that is not dedicated to community celebration and worship. So there is the continual call to mark the place in which we gather as holy ground.

The ritual actually begins during the planning meeting when liturgy planners discuss ways in which the environment can enhance the theme and deepen our sense of community. Creating sacred space asks for decisions regarding linens, screens, candles, cross, symbols, and the arrangement of chairs and altar. The work asks for some thoughtfulness and offers an opportunity for creativity. As is true of community life in general, it may take a village to create sacred space. Help is always available for both the decision making and the physical set up. Cathy Showalter, who serves on the Liturgy Committee, offers her time and considerable talent to liturgy planners, who only need to ask for her assistance. And community members can also be available on Sunday to pitch in with transporting materials and arranging the space.

~Anne Passin

NOVA Nite!

February 12 at 5:30 pm

Happy New Year and NOVA Anniversary!
Pot-Luck & Short Meeting
Discussion with Joe Nangle re: Eucharist
Anne Lee Room at Goodwin House
4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311

Love Frees

The Lenten Planning Team has chosen the theme, “Love frees”, from the last line of Meister Eckhart’s poem, “Love Does That”. The group talked about the darkness of our current time – at home and abroad – and the need to stay in conscious awareness of the Divine presence in our lives. It is increasingly easy to become dispirited and despairing, to go inward and to no longer feel either the presence of God or the love that surrounds us in family, community, and personal connections around the globe. And so it is the kind word, the bringing of the pear, the willingness to look into one another’s eyes that brings us back to the eternal truths. The community is asked to reflect on our own burdens and the heavy loads of others and to be willing to be both the burro who receives and the monk who gives the essentials: compassion and kindness. Liturgies will have a reflective tone during Lent: we will enter in silence, be mindful of the Divine presence among us, sing the Kiss of Peace to one another, and refresh and renew ourselves in the Eucharistic Feast. Joan Chittister’s Lenten Reflection book, *“In the Light of the Messengers”*, will be available for Nova households. Joan’s book contains Eckhart’s poem. Special thanks to Ted Keating for bringing us the inspiration of this poem:

Love Does That

**All day long a little burro labors, sometimes
with heavy loads on her back and sometimes
just with worries
about things that bother only
burros.**

**And worries, as we know, can be more
exhausting
than physical labor.**

**Once in a while a kind monk comes
to her stable and brings
a pear, but more
than that,**

**he looks into the burro’s eyes and touches her
ears**

**and for a few seconds the burro is free
and even seems to laugh,**

**because love does
that.**

Love frees.

January 22, 2005

Dear NOVA Friends,

Two Sundays ago, after the dialogue, and rather to my surprise, I realized that I had said a form of good-bye to my beloved NOVA. Looking back over the last couple of years, I am aware that each time I had spoken up in the dialogue, I was saying the same thing using different words: the connection to the Divine comes in many different forms and traditions. That recurring statement has been prompted by my explorations over the last two and a half years of an alternative path of spirituality while at the same time maintaining my involvement with the NOVA community. I have discovered that the forms of celebrating life and connection to the spirit in my new path are a tremendous source of power and joy for me. I meet monthly with a small circle of women to celebrate the Full Moon, I join different local drumming circles whenever I can and I have found a haven at Four Quarters Farm Interfaith Sanctuary for Earth Religions in Pennsylvania where I can retreat several times a year. The community at the Farm is dedicated to creating a Circle of Standing Stones ("a work of generations") and I find the Stones and the rituals surrounding them a powerful anchor for my spiritual life.

NOVA has been an important part of my life and the life of our family for over 23 years. I have been loved, supported, challenged, and celebrated during all that time and feel a deep love and gratitude for NOVA as a community and as a group of individuals. Also, I have truly found nothing but profound joy in being a part of the remarkable group of people who comprise the Music Group and I will miss them terribly and the music we made together. The liturgy itself, however, the center of the community's spiritual life, has ceased to be meaningful for me in the ways that I need it to be. Recognizing that it is the beating heart of NOVA and its members, I now feel that it is time for me to leave the wonderful Catholic community that is NOVA. You will always be a huge part of who I am and I will be delighted to return for visits with all of you who have loved me and whom I have loved so deeply all these years.

With a heart overflowing with love and gratitude, I remain

Your friend,

~Barbara Formoso

NOTE:

The Nova Music Group invites all interested community members to a Pot-Luck Brunch and Blessing Ceremony for Barb after the February 13th liturgy (1st Sunday in Lent) at the home of David and Gloria Mog (5 minutes from Kenmore).

Please let Gloria or David know if you are planning to come.

WomenCircles Retreat – *Pathfinding*

Gloria Mog and colleague, Dava Giuli, will be leading a retreat for women the week-end of April 22-24 at Harmony Farm in northern Maryland. The theme of the retreat will be on discovering more about your personal/spiritual path in life, learning to declare and embody your own truth and set the course for your Lifepath. Brochures will be available at Sunday liturgies. For more info, call Gloria at 703-550-4164 or www.thestonehouse.ws.

Save the date.....

The date for Liturgy Workshop is May 14th, 1:30-5:00 p.m. More info to follow.....

From a Grateful Community

Blessings and thanks to Betsy Pugin, who has given her time and talent over the past two years to the work of creating sacred space for the NOVA Community. Betsy has served on the Liturgy Committee focusing primarily on the environment. She is now hearing other calls for her gifts and is no longer able to serve in a formal role. Her thoughtfulness has raised our awareness of meaningful ways in which we could enhance our liturgical environment. Betsy's generosity has blessed us with lectionary covers (in seasonal colors) as well as beautiful Communion plates, which she purchased for NOVA on her trip to Turkey. Betsy, we are deeply grateful.

MOSAIC HARMONY WINTER CONCERTS:

JOIN US on

Saturday, Feb 5 * 7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 6 * 2:30pm

at the Unitarian church at
2709 Hunter Mill Rd.

Oakton, VA 22124

Concert benefits MoHa's outreach & community-service programs

Good music...Good energy...

Good message...

Good company

85-voice gospel choir & live band

CDs & refreshments available

Adults \$15 * Seniors \$10 *

Students 12-17: \$10 *

Children under 12: free

For Tickets, see Victoria on Sunday, with check
(Mosaic Harmony) or call to reserve-- 703 - 237 - 6826
(Victoria's bus'n phone)**Lenten Meditation...**

Within the NOVA Community there has been some interest expressed in forming a meditation group. This type of practice is near and dear to my heart, so I just wanted to float the idea to see about enthusiasm and availability. There are many forms of group meditation/prayer. To start, one possibility might be an expanded version of what I facilitated during Advent, which included a reading, some sharing and contemplative silence. If the group desires, we might include a discussion/educational piece at the beginning.

There are also the practical considerations of time, frequency, and place. My workdays tend to run into the evening so it's difficult for me to meet on a regular basis during the week. A few people have mentioned Saturday morning perhaps 9 a.m. and that works for me generally two Saturdays out of three right now. I anticipate, however, that once a group is launched, others could facilitate as well. As for place, that might depend on our number.

So please let me know if you are interested. I would also welcome additional ideas/thoughts about this possibility. In peace and with a prayer,

~Anne Passin

NOVA NEEDS.....**Dear NOVA,**

The adopted family's baby has a continuing need for diapers (currently 15 lbs.) and wipes. When you shop for Gunston food, please keep this in mind and bring on Sundays. Thanks!!!

~Tim White

The Magical Pinata

What: A very popular, hit play, which includes our own talented Ilse Yath-Cruces.

Where: in the Studio Theatre at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave, Bethesda, MD (Off Old Georgetown Rd)

When: January 22 – February 6; Saturdays & Sundays at 1 and 3 pm.

tickets = \$10. order at 301-280-1660 or visit box office at 4908 Auburn Ave in Bethesda

Very important: It's important to order tickets asap as this show sells out early and quick! If you want more info, contact Ilse at (202) 244-4645

Note: Shuttle service available from Bethesda Metro to theatre. (public parking garage available in area, also)

To NOVA, at Christmas ...

from Drew Christensen...

America House
106 West 56th Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Friends,

Those who have heard my homilies know I enjoy poetry. Over the years, I have read poetry with friends, especially Dolores Leckey and Charlie Costello, a much loved Jesuit who died this fall. Let me share with you a Christmas poem from the 16th century English Jesuit martyr, Robert Southwell. It is called ...

A Child My Choice.

*Let folly praise that fancy loves, I praise and love that
Child
Whose heart no thought, Whose tongue no word,
Whose hand no deed defiled.
I praise him most, I love him best, all praise and love is
His;
While Him I love, in Him I live, and cannot live amiss.
Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, man's
most desired light.
He mine gift, I His debt, thus each to other due,
First friend he was, best friend He is, all times will try
Him true.
Though young, yet wise, though small, yet strong,
though man, yet God He is.
His knowledge rules, His strength defends, His love
doth cherish all;
His birth our joy, His life our light, His death our end
of thrall.
Alas! He weeps, He sighs, He pants, yet do His angels
sing;
Out of his tears, His sighs and throbs, doth bud a joyful
spring.
Almighty Babe, Whose tender arms can force all foes to
fly,
Correct my faults, protect my life, direct me when I die!*

This Christmas season when so many seem determined to celebrate "the Holidays" with no mention of Christmas, I hope Southwell helps inspire your celebration of the feast.

This year marks a turning point for me. After fourteen years working with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on international affairs, I am ending my formal association with the conference. I expect I'll still be consulting and collaborating on various projects,

but I am resigning my role as counselor for international affairs. My work at the magazine has been taking more time, and holding a second job is no longer possible. I anticipate, though, that I will continue my involvement with the Holy Land and the Christians of the Middle East as a journalist and editor. A long article on the Christians of the Middle East is already scheduled to appear in The National Catholic Reporter in late January.

Last spring Bill Bole, Bob Hennemeyer and I published our study *Forgiveness in International Politics: An Alternative Road to Peace* (USCCB). It was launched at a Woodstock Center forum and was the fruit of symposia held at the center in the late 90s. I also rejoined the environmental theology circuit, giving the Golden Lecture, with climatologist Mike McCracken, at Yale's Thomas More House and responding to another climate-change specialist at Notre Dame this fall. This coming May we'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the ecumenical umbrella group that provides support for the bishops' environment program.

In February, the Vatican published the report of the International Catholic-Mennonite Dialogue on which I had served, and in July I participated again in the Bridgefolk meeting, the national Catholic-Mennonite gathering and the allied Martyrs' Conference. I also joined the Catholic-Orthodox Jewish dialogue in New York. I have been a part of the dialogue with Reform and Conservative Jews for many years.

I continue to participate in discussions over just war and pacifism. In June I debated Jim Johnson (Rutgers) as part of an NEH seminar at the US Naval Academy on the presumption against the use of force in contemporary Catholic social teaching. I also wrote two, well-received columns for America on just-war topics. Next year I will give a panel presentation at a theological convention on related issues, and I am assisting in planning two similar conferences next year sponsored by Notre Dame's Kroc Institute and the bishops' conference.

I return home to W. Newbury for Christmas. Mom is well, though her strength varies from day to day and week to week. The big family news is that Julie gave birth in September to her first son and third child, Philip Michael; and Anna has announced her engagement, with a wedding scheduled for August.

I wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and New Year. I will remember you all in my masses during the Christmas season.

In the Lord,

~Drew

To NOVA, at Christmas ...

from Peter Henriot ...

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Dear Family and Friends:

Greetings and blessings for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Zambia is very much a "football country" – that is, how the national team does in playing the national sport sets quite a tone for the country. (Note for non-Zambians: "football" here is "soccer"!) So a few weeks ago when we lost a very close match in a pan-African trophy final, the whole country went into depression. The losing plays were analysed again and again, and blame was cast upon individual players, coaches, the fans, even the President of the country!

But the day after this sad national even, I saw something that told me much about the character of the Zambian people and reminded me of a quality so notable – and so likeable - in so many diverse ways in this country. I was outside the capital, Lusaka, and passed a small football field where two teams of youngsters were vigorously contesting, not a Pan-African regional final, but an equally important neighbourhood match. The depression of the previous day had been forgotten, or at least set aside, and life was continuing with real hope...

That quality I note is resilience, the ability to bounce back after some problem, a spirit of buoyancy, the unwillingness to completely give in the face of great difficulties or hardships. To be honest, not all Zambians display this quality at all times – I don't want to be romantically unrealistic! – but enough of it is shown to be remarked, indeed, to be remarkable. It's a strength that can be a foundation for a brighter future for a country that certainly needs, indeed, deserves, a brighter future, and not simply in football matches!

I see that resilience in the young man I know who is living with AIDS – we refer to such people as PWLA, "person living with AIDS," not a person dying of AIDS – who is involved in sensitisation programmes to overcome stigma in a country where up to 20% are infected and 100% are affected with the pandemic. I see that resilience in the students who walk ten to fifteen kilometers back and forth to school each day, rain or shine, to get a chance at an education that can mean something to themselves, their families, and their country. I see that resilience in the mother with her baby strapped on her back, who sits on the side of the road near my office, selling tomatoes to earn enough to feed the other children at home that day. And I see that resilience in my own colleagues at the JCTR who daily keep up the

seemingly endless and sometimes hopeless struggle advocacy for basic human rights for all citizens, for decent wages for workers and for cancellation of Zambia's debt.

That quality of the Zambian people amazes me and gives me hope, and that is why I wanted to share it with you, my family and friends, in this annual Christmas letter, 2004 edition. I surely need that hope these days of global fear and post-USA election trauma, and I suspect that you do too....

As I move into my 17th year here in Zambia-Malawi Jesuit Province I pray that I can be resilient too. Good things call me to that. In 2005, we Jesuits will celebrate the 100 anniversary of ministry to the people of Zambia. Reading some history of the first Jesuits to arrive here amazes me and really challenges me – how did they manage without e-mail? (Certainly better than I do with it!) And today our Province is growing with young Zambians and Malawians - a true blessing for the future. Please pray with me for vocations and for perseverance!

The work at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) continues to be good. We are entering into a three-year strategic plan (2005-2007) with great desires to match the Inspiring words of our multiple and complex log frames (!). I'm encouraged by the competence and dedication of the one young Jesuit and nine lay people who make up our team (plus several part timers and interns). We have some new office space, especially a conference room that hosts our own meetings and seminars and also the sessions of others. Our many programmes go on "promoting faith and justice in a variety of ways advocating for social justice, integrity of creation, sustainable development, respect for the poor, political rights, etc. -- all within the value framework of the church's social teaching. Never a dull moment! Check our website for the latest and for good archives: www.jctr.org.zm

Pastoral work in my outstation of Kabangwe keeps me close to the people, a real blessing. Besides some leadership training sessions this past year, we also embarked on two small agricultural projects: a field of maize, to sell for capital to be saved for a future new church building; and some planting of trees that provide both food and medicinal products. The people carry these projects forward themselves -- agricultural skills are not my strong points, despite the many years weeding in my Dad's vegetable garden back in Tacoma!

Zambia celebrated its 40th Anniversary of Independence on 24 October -- a happy occasion for remembrance and rededication. Plenty of problems, to be sure, but forty years of peace make us the envy of our African neighbours! Please pray with me that that peace continues and is joined with real justice and development for all the people and all the land!

You all are in my thoughts, prayers and love.

~Pete Henriot, S.J.

To NOVA, at Christmas ...

from Michael Schultheis ...

Dear Family and Friends – Christmas 2004,

Thanksgiving Day seems appropriate to begin a Christmas letter ... and I am hopeful that it will get into the post early enough to reach you before the New Year. The last three Christmases I have been a few days with family in the Pacific Northwest (eastern Washington) - with some 20 Xmases in Africa. The white Christmas Days were special... no, snow drifts and closed highways have not convinced me to remain in Africa this year, although when I left Portland on 6 January ... it was snowing at the airport, the plane was delayed for de-icing, and later that morning the airport was closed for three days! In October I was away on University promotion work in Europe and Canada/USA and found a week for some time with family and friends. My return was set by a fundraising event in Toronto with the Ghanaian Community on 30 October. Election Day found me on a flight to Ghana! Yes, I was disappointed that the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfewitsch nest was returned to office, but the majority of those who voted thought otherwise ... maybe just as well, that these ideologues must clean their mess in Iraq, address the deficit, and rebuild some of the international coalitions they have dismantled.

As I mentioned last year. Advent and Christmas invite a "rummaging" through the year, just as Mother would rummage through the closet looking for the missing sock or sweater... probably finding other forgotten items too. St Ignatius encouraged early Jesuits to do the same, to "rummage" through the day and the year, to spend time with the lights and shadows of our lives, to recognize that God touches us in small events - and then, give thanks, at times ask forgiveness; always ask for healing and courage, to begin tomorrow with renewed hope. My "rummaging" through the year finds many moments to savour —early July, when we welcomed 115 new students (incl. 11 in night school) and 80 returning students for the enrolment of 195 – still not enough to pay all the bills, but promising and a sign that the University is well underway. They write exams in early Dec and return in early Jan for the second semester.

Other bright spots: a growing number of contacts abroad - communities of friends among Ghanaians abroad (Netherlands, Canada (Toronto and Halifax), England, the USA) are becoming associates, as we begin to develop ways of supporting them and they, of supporting us. Also, we are becoming known at home and abroad – some Universities are beginning to partner in strengthening our programs in Computer Science, in

Economics & Business Administration, in Religious Studies ... and in helping as we look to introduce new faculties — Health Sciences, Education, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences — and to develop projects related to these faculties - research on migration, on AIDS, on Natural Resources/Water Management, on good governance and conflict resolution. There are many encouraging moments. As for the shadow side - well, the finances are meagre ... but we are hopeful, for slowly we are building a support base among Ghanaian communities, mainly through the dioceses and parishes. The pockets of most are not deep, but families are generous when they can be and when they see results – some business firms too are helping, encouraged by these first steps -- the baby is born, the infant shows promise!

And the coming year? The Advent liturgy invites us to remain hopeful — to work as if all depends on us, to trust as if all depends on God! In the midst of the shadows, separations and grieving, the passing of loved ones, the poverty, the wars and refugees - Middle East, Iraq, Sudan, Burundi/Rwanda - there are ever lights and signs of hope: the many women and men who give and do not count the cost, who nourish dreams and build peace, who reach out to comfort the sick and to assist the needy, wherever they find themselves - and they are many. As last year, my focus remains the Catholic University - consolidating these first beginnings and starting to build the permanent site. The brick arid mortar must be Ghanaian, but if in your "rummaging" you happen on a "gold bar," a silver dollar, a few euros or some extra cedis that are looking for a home and can be spared for this Project, it can safely be sent to the Oregon Jesuits at Box 86010, Portland OR 97206. They will acknowledge and forward, but send me a note to ensure that it is not missed along the way. With this a final Wish—for Peace, for Hope, for Joy in your "rummaging," with Blessings of the Christmas Season and the New Year...

For you and your family and friends!

/s/ Fr. Mike Schultheis SJ
 President, Catholic Univ of Ghana
 Box 363, Sunyani (B/A), GHANA
 Tel. 233.61-26038 mobile. 024-735681
 Email: mjschult@africaonline.com.gh

*Peace and hello from this far side.
 Blessings and Best wishes for the coming
 year!...Fr. Mike.*

Thank You, NOVA ...

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 Cochabamba • Bolivia

Dear friends of the Nova Catholic Community, thank you for your interest in people of Bolivia and to join efforts to extent the Kingdom of God. We received from Dr. Emma Violand the check of \$US 2000.-. Thank you very much for your generous gift, which will meet the increasing needs of children in the area in which we are serving.

If it is Gods will, we plan to expand our mission by taking over a child care center established by an American family. Jerry and Shirley Margrave. This childcare center serves children whose parents are in jail. The Margraves are leaving Cochabamba and want to hand over their children into another project with the same vision. Currently this childcare center serves 25 children from 6 months to 4 years old. This new project would expand our service to 100 children. We are looking for a separate location because of space limitations we have now. Some of these babies and little children who live with their parents in jail need special attention and care. At the school centre we are preparing for a secondary level as a joint venture with the educational authorities. The space that the day nursery will not use would then be available for the four grades at the secondary level. We are seriously thinking in offering a schedule for young people who need to work to finance their studies or to contribute to their families. The medical station is going through some changes. We are looking forward to do much more prevention and education in order to avoid Aids, "Mal de Chagas" and other diseases. It is important to teach responsibility and family planning to prevent-early pregnancy. Sometimes kids of 13 or 14 years are expecting already their fist child.

MIKUNIY is still producing healthy and 100 natural products based on Andean crops like quinoa and amaranto for children and people interested in good nutrition. Next year we are hoping to export.

God bless you.

We are looking forward to keep in contact.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rudolf Band Saavedra, Executive Director

from Kenmore....

Dear NOVA Community

Thank you all very much for being so thoughtful. We've enjoyed all the goodies from the basket.

Wishing everyone a happy and peace-filled New Year.....

*Sincerely,
 Mary Stump
 Stephanie Brown
 Jeannette Hall*



REMEMBER CHRIST HOUST.....

Meat Loaf Sunday is February 20.

Bring meatloaves and/or scalloped potatoes to liturgy or to Kopp Michelotti's home by 1:00 pm Monday, the actual day of service.

from Joe Nangle's Homily notes during Advent...and remains relevant....

Awaken to the Signs and Wonders...

Today's theme is very appropriate viz a viz today's Gospel.... We are instructed to see – “awaken to the signs and wonders” of Christ's coming.... Gustavo.

- I. So where are these signs and wonders today? Let me list several in rapid fire order
1. From the institutional Church:
 - Bishop Mensengo (Congo) holding out hope for peace even as Tuwandans invade;
 - Bishop Sabah (Palestinian) Keeping on Keeping on.
 - Bishop Dowling of South Africa – condoms
 2. Nobel Peace Laureate:
 - Wangari Maathai speaking words of hope with a clip of her being carried on a stretcher after receiving a sever beating.
 3. Isabel's Parents – no reason not to hpe during the war.
 4. Olga Valencia's last Christmas greeting - that there be peace in our world
 5. Communities that make space for Hope.
- II. That leads to another dimension of the signs and wonders theme of Nova in Advent and this Gospel. The poor have the Good News preached to them. How can we be good news to the poor? Many ways and we all know may of them. Let me suggest a couple:

Being Americans..

- Who do not need for our country to be Number 1.
- Who do not believe that might makes right.
- Who know that consumerism is not the goal of life.
- Who believe that curtailing freedom cannot ensure our freedom.
- Who hold that every life is precious – American and Iraqi , unborn and aged.

Being in the world – followers of Jesus who happen to be Americans and not Americans who happen to be Christians.



February, 2005

NOVA



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