



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community February, 2006

Chair Notes

W

hat was the best highlight of our January Nova Nite:

- the flowing fountain of chocolate?
- the multiple liqueurs?
- the turnout of so many folks?
- the chairs did not wear fishnet stockings?
- more than the above?

Those who attended know it was: Brian, Carolyn, & Gen Schmitt and Mikaela Ormando-Kane. Their ease in being among us and their willingness to talk with us either individually or to the whole community really made a difference in our understanding of what faces young people and their families and the support they both need and can contribute. Hearing Brian's schedule as he chose to pursue both affirmation and confirmation gets at the very core of what we need to think about as we tailor religious education for teens and consider their well-being. Carolyn and Gen's assistance and participation in Arthur Schmitt's funeral reminds us of the capabilities young people bring our community. It is a toss-up for me whether Mikaela's most valuable contributions were her suggestions of some innovations we can make or her ability to bring the loquacious group of adults to order when John, Marcelline, and I so roundly failed.

We hope that whenever you are with us you continue to give voice, and that goes for all our youth. We are all NOVA.

I would like to extend that thought to those folks who often do not get a say because time is limited or because we may forget to call on you or because, like me, your best thoughts come after you have left our gathering. I urge you to find ways to communicate them to the whole community because we are in need of the entire panoply of points of view. If you aren't comfortable talking in front of a group, put it in writing—we have lots of different mechanisms for sharing the written word.

I am hopeful the questionnaire at the beginning of these notes made you wish you had been with us because Meg Tucillo outdid herself as hostess (thank you, Meg!) and because of the energy and remarkably candid sharing that took place as we talked. A lot of very practical suggestions were generated and our task will be to organize them and decide how to share them with you.

Kopp has kindly transferred the flip charts into English and bunched them into categories so we can take a look at them.

Some concrete actions that are moving ahead because of volunteers are: The new website is now available and has a public area and a password-protected members area. Ken Chaison has volunteered to be point person for media outreach and Gloria has offered to write up a description of NOVA that could have multiple uses. John Maussert-Mooney in conjunction with the parents is launching a community-supported, family-based education program for children. Rose and Meg T are moving forward to provide support during liturgy for families with little kids in the form of activities led by a child care provider.

Of equal importance for me were the examples that people spoke about drawn from their own experience. They trigger other ways of thinking or insight to small acts that had deep personal impact. One person mentioned she had never felt welcomed or part of any religious community until a couple at NOVA took her to lunch. Another mentioned her daughter's experience joining a new church and being assigned a mentor to help her family become part of the congregation. For some the difficulty of becoming part of a small, tight-knit community is still vivid. Another's experience of an intimate, know-you-by-name community of 500 prods our stereotypes and reassures.

Marcelline, John, and I share a view of what chairs can do: it is to reflect to the community the aggregate of what we observe and what is shared with us. The next steps, then, become ours as a whole community. As I look back over the last year, I see a community inclusive of the Padre Cadre that has listened deeply and respectfully and called one another to imagine ourselves into the daring love and compassion of Jesus. There is agreement that what has sustained each of us at NOVA is community, liturgy, and service and that is a gift we wish to make available to others. Appreciation for what we have includes a commitment to give sustenance to current NOVA folk and to infuse the community with vitality through our interaction and outreach to others. I cannot think of a better way to be entering 2006.

Blessings in abundance,

~Marie

NOVA Catholic Community

Message Line		703-852-7907
Chairpersons	Marcelline Niemann	703-354-9124
	Marie Keefe	301-229-2016
	John Tarrant	703-237-9728
Treasurer	Joe Formoso	703-503-9731
Coordinator, Community Life	Nancy Veldhuis	703-750-1670
Community Life Ministers	Sonja Donahue	7 03-824-1246
	Joe Annunziata	703-560-8688
	Meg Sullivan	703-319-9090
Liturgy Coordinators	Rosemarie Annunziata	703-533-3818
	Gloria Mog	703-522-1812
	Anne Passin	703-538-6545
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mausert-Mooney	703-425-1639
Music Coordinator	Tom Clarkson	703-560-2096
	Victoria Robinson	703-237-0008
Social Action	Dianne Carroll	703-536-2616
	Ken Showalter	703-534-1965
Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti	703-241-0789
Facilities	Glen Passin	703-538-6545
Archivist	Gil Donahue	703-998-7377
Newsletter Editor	Marie Pinho	703-569-6080
NOTE EMAIL!!	mdpinho@verizon.net	

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

Note: Our Liturgy is usually celebrated at Kenmore Middle School, Arlington Blvd. and Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA. However, we are actively exploring other facilities. If you have not attended Nova for awhile or are new to us, please confirm with any of the people listed above.

Liturgy begins at 10:15 am—Gather at 10:00 am

newsletter deadline

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Sunday, February 19

Birthdays, etc February

- 2 Bonnie Lowrey
- 4 Joan Gurian
- 5 Nicola Mariscal
- 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 (daughter)
Amy Kyleen Sullivan
- 17 Josette Ferguson
- 19 Josh White
- 20 Linda Rosenberg
- 24 Amy Bailey
Pat Connelly
- 26 Lynn Christofferson
- 27 Catherine Schmidt
- 28 Mary Grace



Liturgies

FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON

Barbara Formoso

February 5 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan – Kate Doherty
 Job 7:1-4, 6-7
 Psalm 147:1-6
 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
 Mark 1:29-39

February 12- 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna – Marie Keefe
 Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
 Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
 1 Corinthians 10:31--11:1
 Mark 1:40-45

February 19 – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sidney Griffith, ST – Dianne Carroll, Cathy Showalter
 Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25
 Psalm 41:2-5, 13-14
 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
 Mark 2:1-12

February 26 – 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jim Scullion, OFM – Peggy Meyer, Peggy Becker
 Hosea 2:15-17, 21-22
 Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
 Mark 2:18-22



Nice scarves...

FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON

Gloria Mog

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

Joe Kenna – John Tarrant, Marceline Niemann
 Joel 2:12-18
 Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17
 2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Location & time
 to be determined.
 Stay tuned...

March 5 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Ken Himes, OFM -- Timpanes
 Genesis 9:8-15
 Psalm 25:4-9
 1st Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:12-15

March 12, 2006 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Bill Callahan – Gloria Mog
 Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
 Psalm 116:10, 15-19
 Romans 8:31-34
 Mark 9:2-10

March 19, 2006 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Jim Scullion, OFM – Walt Landry
 Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19:8-11
 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
 John 2:13-25

March 26, 2006 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Francis DiSpigno, OFM -- Goldschmidts
 Second Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-23
 Psalm 137:1-6
 Ephesians 2:4-10
 John 3:14-21

NOVA Nite

February 26 6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Potluck - Please bring your signature salad, main dish or dessert.

Place - To be announced
(when we receive an offer we can't refuse.)

Lenten Planning Meeting – Feb. 19th

The planning meeting for the Lenten/ Easter Week liturgies will be held after Mass on **Sunday, February 19th** **Gloria & David Mog's house, 5104 N. 3rd St.** (5 mins. from Kenmore).

It will be a pot-luck brunch followed by planning for the overall theme for Lent, symbols, environment, music, etc. All planners who have Lenten or Easter week liturgies are asked to come as well as anyone who would be willing to help with Lent. Please let Gloria Mog know (703-522-1812) if you are able to come.

WANTED: Planner(s) for Palm Sunday, April 9. Please let Gloria Mog know if you able to help plan this liturgy.

**Open House of Faith (OHOF)
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
February 7**

On February 7, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church will be hosting an Open House of Faith (OHOF). This is part of an effort by the local Boy and Girl Scouts to promote interfaith understanding among the Scouts. They can earn a badge by attending three or more OHOF's hosted by different faith groups.

But the OHOF's are not just for Scouts. They're for the general public, and they can serve as a vehicle for promoting ecumenical and interfaith understanding among adults as well. I'm hoping that the Arlington Interfaith Council will help us publicize this event among the faith communities that belong to the Council. We'd like to invite members of these communities to attend our OHOF and to consider hosting an OHOF of their own in the future.

For time of the event or additional information, contact Janice Lent
Parish Ecumenical/Interfaith Representative
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Jlent0322@aol.com

NEWS: Fr. Bill Byron, SJ to speak at local VOTF-Northern Virginia

Fr. Bill Byron, SJ, former pastor of Holy Trinity in Georgetown, former President of Catholic University, and currently faculty member at Loyola College, and author of a recent publication called *A Book of Quiet Prayer: For All Seasons, Stages, Moods, and Circumstances of Life*--his reflections prompted by the post-September 11 experience. He wrote a piece in 2004 for the Jesuit Leadership called *Structural Adjustments, For a Church Working Its Way Through Crisis*. He will share his thoughts on how the Church structure might be adjusted to deal with the clergy sexual abuse crisis--now two years later.

Meeting will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 2700 South 19th Street, Arlington.....7:00 pm.

News/Announcements

Cookin' With Gas



Yes, but it's got to be at the Christ House kitchen on **Monday February 20.**

To comply with Alexandria health department rules, NOVA can no longer fix meatloaf and scalloped potatoes for the hungry clients at the Christ House shelter. Instead, we will buy prepared foods (probably at Costco) and fix everything in the Christ House kitchen. Our new menu has not yet been set and we plan to experiment with different things over the next few months. If you have suggestions about nourishing, reasonably priced foods that can be bought in large quantities and easily prepared, please contact me at koppmich@yahoo.com, 703-241-0789. Some of the kitchen crew will start preparations about 3:00 PM on the 20th. If you would like to help in the kitchen, contact me for information and directions.

Thanks.

Kopp Michelotti

NOVA Business Cards

Ken Chaison has created a MS Word file with the format for updated NOVA business cards, (includes the **new public website address** and the **new NOVA message phone number**.)

You can print your own cards, if you have card stock (Avery form 5371 or 8371) available.

If you would like a copy, please email Ken at kenchaison@yahoo.com.

We would like to distribute these cards to people who ask "What's Nova?" and invite them to come to liturgy.

Website Update

The old NOVA website is in the process of being merged into the new website <http://nova.novacommunity.org>. All of the documents are being moved to the new site and the plan is to deactivate the old website. The new website will soon be listed with popular search engines.

Per the requirements we gave the webmaster, there are both public and private sides to the new website. Everyone in the world can already read the public pages. The "**Members**" section requires an ID and password.

A username and password has been created for each NOVA member currently on the listserv. The new usernames can be used immediately. The format involves your last name as follows...

- username: [lastname] (don't include brackets)
- password: nova-[username] (without brackets)

There are a few exceptions to the format, where there is more than one person with the same last name on the email discussion list. I will contact each of the known exceptions, individually, to inform them of their usernames.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to change/update his/her personal password by clicking on "my account" once s/he is logged in. This will prevent unauthorized use of your account.

If you have problems logging on to the website, you can contact our webmaster, arthur.rowan@gmail.com or me at (301) 571-8180 or kenchaison@yahoo.com

~Ken Chaison

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron."

[Dwight Eisenhower]

News/Announcements.....(cont'd)

REPORT: Politics and Spirituality Seeking a Public Integrity January 14-16, 2006

I attended this wonder-full conference in Washington DC at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and feel totally inadequate to provide a summary or sense of this inspiring event. But this is a try.

This conference was a huge success, drawing 1790 people from 49 states and 6 foreign countries. It was so successful, that they announced plans to have another one on the west coast (September 2006, details to be announced). This was the first time that Fr. Richard Rohr (Center for Action and Contemplation) and Rev. Jim Wallis (Sojourners) jointly sponsored a conference. Anne Lamott was also a speaker. E J Dionne (Washington Post) moderated a panel with the 3 speakers.

I plan on getting their video when it is available, and maybe we can view it together as a group. That would be ideal. In the meantime, these are some of the highlights:

1. There was a large banner with a quotation from Isaiah at the front of the ballroom and present at all times. It read *"We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ..."*
2. The convenor opened the conference with the words: "If you have come to Washington DC you have come to the Imperial City."
3. The opening prayer service included a procession with large icons of inspiring, faith-filled persons who desired truth and justice, and were willing to die for their beliefs (people such as Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mohandas Ghandi, St. Isidore de Seville, Bishop Oscar Romero, the four American churchwomen who were martyred in El Salvador in 1980, Simone Weil, Cesar Chavez, and, of course, Jesus).
4. Sunday's liturgy was a St Thomas Mass. Although started in Finland by Lutherans to attract sinners and doubters, it seemed to be pretty mainline Catholic, but a spiritually, powerful and uplifting liturgy.
5. Monday's energizing procession to the Capitol for public witness and prayer, the two-day event brought hope that there are in fact many people of faith who truly desire to live by Jesus' example. More than 1,000 people were at this procession.

A friend of mine who also attended, generously shared her notes with me. The following are some of the wonderful quotes from the weekend....you'll hear more when we get the video.

RICHARD ROHR

If you preach the gospel so you preach every issue in every age EXCEPT your own, you do not preach the gospel. We have to learn to preach the gospel in our own time.

The icon is the image of the human face. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses - in our own time Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Bishop Desmond Tutu. Where is our own face?

If you don't know how to read poetry, you don't know how to reach scripture - like poetry it has meaning on 10 levels.

Enter the participatory fire - to grow spiritually pursue God's action in the public area

Authentic spirituality is personal. Moses had a spiritual experience at the burning bush - right after he heard the I AM of God, he heard God's call to free the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

Enslavement is to have the inability to imagine an alternative to the present way of doing things - it is to be paralyzed. The worthiness road is a lie -spirituality is not about making ourselves more worthy - we can't do that. Spirituality is about knowing we are loved by God.

We need to give up our Santa Claus image of God - as the one who brings presents for good little kids and punishes the bad kids.

Ideology is about Dogmas, Exclusions, Inflated Ego
Integrity is about Surrender ..Loving

The Gospel is Corporate Work (not about individuals)

It is not possible to separate religion and politics.

(Continued on page 7)

News/Announcements.....(cont'd)

(Richard Rohr...Continued from page 6)

We need self-critical politics and self-critical religion. If religion is not self-critical it will worship the status quo as God-given.

We need Political Holiness - politics with Integrity and Wholeness

Jesus's starting point is NOT sin. He did not found a religion of SIN CONTROL - but we see in some churches a giant system of Sin Management

In Jesus the beginning point is suffering. -in the Incarnation - you can receive others in their pain. You cannot do this in your head - you get this on a cellular level

And it is about community. "If you go to heaven alone, it ain't heaven"

Prayer is where all of you is there - body, mind and spirit. Splitting is a survival mechanism. Draw from the deeper well - trust that stream. And speak from this place about the social economic issues of our day.

Great religion leads you to your true self.

In our churches we are enslaved - how can we imagine a different way of doing church.

We can't do this alone - Individualism is a lie. Individual salvation is a lie.

Politics without spirituality is corrupt and vice-versa.

Q. -Do we need a Moses to be our agent of change?
A - Most historical movements have a figure that exemplifies the integration. We can't imagine it, it seems, until we see someone who holds the center - who personifies the integration.. **Transformed people can help transform others.**

Faith is for the BIG STUFF. (Churches make faith for the little stuff and focus on minutia. This is an unconscious diversionary tactic. The world is starving and we waste time on small stuff.)

But we need to stop picking bodies out of the river and go upstream to see who is throwing them in.

JIM WALLIS

To move as human beings, this is the hardest thing to do in an inhuman world.

We were told growing up that the Beatitudes were for a different dispensation, they are about how we'll live in heaven. NO. The Beatitudes are the Magna Carta of the Kingdom of God. ... They are coming back.

ISAIAH - you get whole and balanced by reaching out to the poor. Save money from the self-help books you buy. Bono is telling us to see what God is working on now. God is waiting for us to turn around the supertanker of indifference.

We can't choose our neighbors anymore. We can't have the benefits of globalization without the responsibility of globalization.

Here on Capitol Hill Congress has cut services for the poor and cut taxes for the wealthy. How do we change this logic? Wet finger politicians - they all have a wet finger out to see which way the wind is blowing. Don't replace one wet finger politician with another - Change the Wind!

Will Katrina wash away the public denial of the number of poor and the still persistent relationship between poverty and race. We have twisted priorities. We would say *I shop and therefore I am*. **Katrina should be a teachable moment, but we need good teachers.**

Christianity leads us to moral conclusions. But it is 2/3rd about the process. How do you do it? What is the tenor of the conversation? It can't be contentious. Don't seek to humiliate the enemy. Teach the process of forgiveness and understanding.

We have become overly righteous about our positions. Humiliate a person - and every action creates an opposite reaction. Don't force/dominate/humiliate the enemy.

Jim Wallis - I'm hopeful about how the conversation is changing. The Democrats need to offer a serious moral alternative. Martin Luther King never did endorse a candidate, he asked candidates to endorse his agenda.

You work with the political system you have.

Everyday a poverty tsunami is killing 30,000 children worldwide. There is a need for revival in the air, if we have the courage to preach it.

Congratulations

TO: Emma Violand-Sánchez

Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) announced Emma’s appointment to the NVCC Board, representing Arlington County.

They noted that Emma has spent the last 25 years as a supervisor for The English for Speakers of Other Languages and the High Intensity Language Training Office for the Arlington County Public Schools. She supervises over 275 employees in the coordination of staff and curriculum development, parent education, registration, placement and counseling services for language minority students. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown, George Washington and George Mason Universities as well as Catholic University in La Paz, Bolivia.



Emma holding a picture of her aunt, a true heroine and major inspiration for Emma who planned the January 22nd liturgy.

In addition to numerous articles, she has published four books, including Learning Styles in the ESL/EFL Classroom and the forthcoming The Learning Centered Classroom. She is the recipient of doctorate of education degrees from George Washington University and the University of Arkansas and received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Radford University.

Northern Virginia Community College is the largest institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the second largest community college in the nation, with an enrollment of 64,000 students.

TO: Josette Ferguson



On January 4, in Charlotte NC, Josette became a US citizen!! She’s also having a birthday this month.



Hmmm, what will she do next month?

TO: Peter Henriot, SJ

phenriot@jesuits.org.zm www.jctr.org.zm

... for his body of work in Zambia. Peter directs the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Lusaka, Zambia, cooperates with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of the Zambian Bishops Conference, and is in charge of a local language mission station outside of Lusaka. Originally from the United States of America, he has lived in Zambia for the past twelve years. Before that, he served for many years at the Center of Concern in Washington, D.C. A political scientist, he also teaches courses in the "Social Teaching of the Church" at the diocesan major seminary in Lusaka.

He writes
“I have a wonderful opportunity here to write a weekly column for the main independent newspaper in Zambia. Check: www.postzambia.com Thank God for continued good health and good work and good spirits. Blessings for all!”



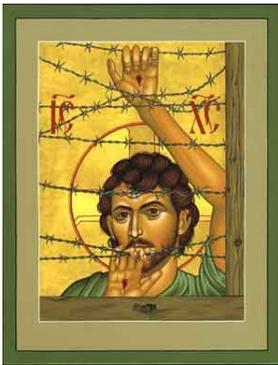
~Pete



In Martin Luther King, America -- and the world -- discovered that the age of the Biblical prophets was not over. He spoke like one, he acted like one, he suffered like one, and he died like one in 1968, changing the moral landscape of the United States. Almost single handedly many times, he confronted the racism and the deceitfulness of American politics and practice, always with the Scriptures as his justification and rationale. When he linked racism with militarism, and also opposed the Vietnam War, he lost much of the support of his own people. Martin Luther King represents many things for us, but one of them is the cost of insisting on the big picture, which Jesus called the Reign of God. He was arrested and put in jail at least 85 times by the very government which later proclaimed a national holiday in his honor.

CAC website: http://www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/politics/post-conf/DC_post-conf.html

Sojourners: http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=special.display&item=060116_conference



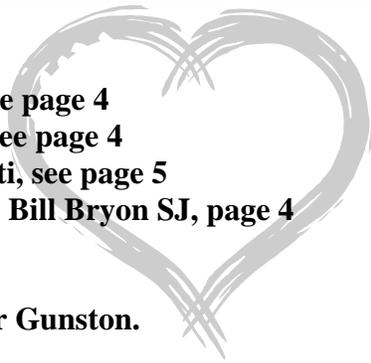
Jesus, whom many of us call the Christ, basically did two things publicly: preached and healed, preached and healed, and the preaching often merely explained the healing. Yet this very healing of the suffering of the world was actually considered subversive, most especially by religion itself. Jesus' beginning point was not sin, but suffering and its healing: "He said, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and what you have seen, the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and good news is proclaimed to the poor, and happy is the one who is not shocked by this'". (Matthew 11:4-5). Yet we have been shocked by it for over twenty centuries. [R. Rohr]

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb 7 Open House of Faith, St. Charles Borromeo, see page 4
Sunday, Feb 19 Brunch, Lenten Liturgy Planning, The Mogs, see page 4
Monday, Feb 20 Christ House, 3:00 pm, contact Kopp Michelotti, see page 5
Tuesday, Feb 21 Voice of The Faithful of Northern Virginia, Fr. Bill Bryon SJ, page 4
Sunday Feb 25 NovaNite – 6:00 pm....place 4

Every Sunday.....Please bring at least one box of cereal to liturgy for Gunston.

Every DayPractice acts of compassion.



6027 Ticonderoga Court
Burke, VA 22015-3372



NOVA

February, 2006

