



# nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community February, 2007

## Chair Notes

**N**ova is 39 years old. Or is Nova 39 years young? What makes an organization or the people in it, old or young? Are we young as long as we are open to new ideas? The old are expected to be set in their ways. Why? The old are more experienced. They should be better able to handle change. The old, however, seem to resist change when compared with the young. If Nova wants to forward Jesus' kingdom on earth don't we have to be open to new ideas? Can we stand the discomfort of these new ideas?

How can the Almighty possibly speak to us? In my teens, I was a great fan of Star Trek. Captain Kirk and crew would go across the galaxy bumping into people of vastly superior intelligence and power. There were always great problems in communicating with these folks. The failure to communicate or understand would frequently put the Star Trek crew in great peril. I wouldn't compare God to the multi-colored aliens on Star Trek but the question of how we talk to a superior being is an intriguing one. Even if we were all completely open to new ideas communication would be very difficult. The superior being has to find a way to get very new and different information into our much more limited minds. With all of our preconceived notions and prejudices, it's a wonder one would even try!

Our faith tells us that God did more than try. Jesus, the son of God, became man. Jesus could only tell us so much, however. The rest would have to come from the Spirit. My new year's resolution is to start each day with a prayer to be open to any bit of knowledge or inspiration from the Spirit that I can get. This is a resolution that will take all 365 days of the year to just make a start.

Our next general meeting will be February 11, 2007. We will have a pot luck which will start at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30. We will announce the location shortly. Please send me your agenda items. Nova was created 39 years ago as a church of new ideas. Do we still have new ideas? Are we young at heart, still? Come to the general meeting with your new ideas. Even if you don't have new ideas come to the general meeting. Who knows what kind of inspiration we might get. The Spirit could work through any one of us. There are only us chickens to run things. Only old goats stay home. I'll see you at the meeting.

**Shalom**

*~ John Tarrant*

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<b>NOTE EMAIL!!</b> <a href="mailto:mdpinho@verizon.net">mdpinho@verizon.net</a>		
The NOVA Catholic Community Invites You To Celebrate The Eucharistic Liturgy With Us Every Sunday In Arlington, Virginia.		
<b>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.</b>		
<b>[Lacey Woods]</b> Liturgies begin at 9:30 am—Gather at 9:15 am [Lacey Woods]		
<b>[Kenmore]</b> Liturgy begins at 10:15 am—Gather at 10:00 am [Kenmore]		

# November Birthdays, etc.

- 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 (Warren's daughter)  
Amy Kyleen Lute
- 17 Josette Ferguson
- 19 Josh White
- 20 Linda Rosenberg
- 24 Amy Bailey  
Pat Connelly
- 26 Lynn Christofferson
- 27 Catherine Schmidt
- 28 Mary Grace

When it is your turn to plan a liturgy please contact the presiding priest at least 4 weeks ahead of the event. You can call him, email him or visit with him or take him out for lunch or supper. Realize that some of our priests are very busy and may not respond to your invitation to communicate, if that is the case so be it.

Contact the music group at least two weeks ahead of your liturgical event and provide them with suggestions for a theme or work with them on a selection. You can always call Linda or Tim for further information.

If you find that the presiding priest is not listed in the NOVA directory (some do not want to be listed) contact John Mooney for personal contact information.

After the liturgy you may wish to treat the priest to a lunch or coffee and indicate your appreciation for the job well done.

Read the Liturgy planning handbook for more information.

~John Veldhuis

## Newsletter Deadline is February 18 ....

## Year C — Cycle 1

# Liturgies

### FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON

Barbara Formoso

### MARCH MUSIC LIAISON ...

Gloria Mog

#### February 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan -- Anne Passin

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8

Psalms 138:1-5, 7-8

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

Luke 5:1-11

#### March 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Francis DiSpigno, OFM - Michelottis

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 27:1, 7-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1

Luke 9:28-36

#### February 11 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna -- Peggy Becker

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalms 1:1-4, 6

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Luke 6:17, 20-26

#### March 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Quinn Conners, O.Carm. - Heinzens

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Psalms 103:1-4, 6-8, 11

1st Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

#### February 18 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Nangle, OFM -- Kate Doherty

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

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

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

#### March 18 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Jim Scullion, OFM – Ormando-Kanes

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 34:2-7

2nd Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

#### February 21 -- Ash Wednesday — Fast

John Tarrant & Peggy Becker

Joel 2:12-18

Psalms 51:3-6, 12-14, 17

2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

See  
address  
note

#### March 25 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Ray Kemp – Jeanne Clarkson

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126:1-6

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

#### February 25 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Jim Scullion, OFM -- Marie Keefe

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Psalms 91:1-2, 10-15

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

Ash Wednesday Service at the home of  
John Tarrant, 7036 Williamsburg Blvd.,  
Arlington....

7:30 pm

Call (703) 237-9728 for directions

# Liturgy Information, news . . .

## Liturgy Tip Lighting of the Peace Candle

Last summer the Nova Women's Group began a "peace awareness" plan for the community which included lighting a special candle for peace at the beginning of liturgy and reading the names of those who have died in Iraq during the past week. The practice has continued and planners are now asked to designate someone to light the peace candle and to read the list. The community is asked to remember them and to pray for peace in our world. The Music Group will then usually lead an ending chant. You can find the lists by googling "Iraq casualties". One site that gives a little more personal info is: [www.antiwar.com/casualties/list.php](http://www.antiwar.com/casualties/list.php) To make a stronger connection with the serviceperson it's good to give their rank and age and where they're from – e.g. Lance Corporal Ryan McCaughn, 19, Manchester, NH.

~ Gloria Mog

## Liturgy Tip Prayers of the Faithful

Following the community response to the homily, all are asked to shift back to prayerful contemplation as we place our petitions and feelings of gratitude before God. These personal statements often represent some of our deepest worries and needs as well as the relief that may have come from good fortune or other causes to celebrate. These prayers are best kept short and simple so that there is space for all who wish to be heard as well as providing a clear segue into the next very central part of the Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer. Some may be tempted to use this time to give details of tragedies that have befallen someone, medical updates, exciting plans in the making, etc. Others may still have ideas they wish to share from the dialogue homily time. News or important community updates should be shared at announcement time. Unspoken dialogue thoughts . . . well, there is always another day OR write them up and send them to Marie for the newsletter. Let's keep this time prayerful and focused.

~ Gloria Mog

## Liturgy Tip The Internet as Liturgy Resource

Let's say you have the 28<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Ordinary Time and we are in the C cycle, the readings are not speaking to you, there is no obvious theme that calls to you and you can't imagine what you're going to do with this liturgy. Don't despair, the wild and wonderful internet is there to serve you. Simply google "28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time -C" and up pops a plethora of ideas, themes, interpretations, suggestions for homilies, songs, clip art, environment, etc. You will be amazed, perhaps even overwhelmed, at the amount of resources that are available to you to plan a liturgy at the click of the mouse. Even if you're pretty clear what you'd like to do with the liturgy, these resources will help round it out and enliven it for you.

~ Gloria Mog

[Editor's Note: We are currently in Year C—Cycle 1]



**You  
Are  
Invited**

**Lenten Liturgy  
Planning Meeting**

Believe it or not Ash Wednesday is just around the corner - Feb. 21st.

The Michelottis are hosting a meeting of the Lenten liturgy planners to decide on an overall theme for Lent and to discuss ideas for the worship environment, music, and so forth. The lent planning meeting will be on Friday February 2 at 6:30 PM starting with a potluck supper. Kopp & Cece will provide drinks and dessert. Participants are invited to bring a main course, salad, or some other type of munchies. Call 703-241-0789 to let Kopp & Cece know if you plan to come. Please try to make it whether you see your shadow or not!

*Everyone is invited. . . .*

# Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

*News from Sister Adriana via the Millers....*

Dear Carolyn, Ted and NOVA:

It is with great joy that I greet you and wish you the many blessings of Christmas. May Jesus find a warm place in your hearts and make His home with you. Thank you for praying for us here in South Sudan. Yes, the war goes on in Darfur and the President is resisting the petition of the UN and of the people. Let us pray that God may touch his heart and turn it to see the cries of the people.

I have been in Leer-Upper Nile for six months and communication has been very limited due to lack of facilities and means. The Nuer people are very happy with our presence. We were in Leer eight years ago when the mission was burned and everyone had to flee due to the war. Now, thanks be to God, the peace agreement was signed and a partial peace is in South Sudan. There are great numbers of returnees coming back to Leer and to the places they left during the war. Little by little people are getting settled and the local governments are doing their part in giving land to the people. The road from Beniu (Unity State) to Adok port is under construction, and we hope that this road will open the way for communication and other kinds of development. Unity State is one of the regions in South Sudan which has oil and Asian oil companies, mostly Chinese, are investing here. Let us hope that the resources and richness of the land be equitably distributed that the people may have access to basic human needs.

The Nuer people are very open and eager to learn. They thirst for the Word of God. They want to be educated. Wherever we go to visit the Christian communities, everyone asks us to teach them. Here in Nuerland and in most of South Sudan, the Christian faith has been kept alive and active by the Catechists, lay people who have kept Jesus alive. In this six months we are learning the Nuer language, which is very beautiful. We, as Comboni Sisters, want to work with the local education office to see how we can support education for primary and secondary schools. We have permission to open a radio station so that the population can have access to education through this means. I will be involved in training local teachers. Can you imagine that the school teachers themselves have not completed primary education! The school

here is a building which has been destroyed and there is absolutely nothing left. Children have to bring their own stools or empty oil tins to sit on. There are about 800 students from 1st to 7th grades. And all are eager to learn. Carolyn and Ted, if NOVA can, please continue to support us for the cause of education here in Leer.

A Big Hug — Con Carino,

~*Adriana*

## **GRACE – A MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH INNER DIALOGUE-GROUP DISCUSSION**

Our spiritual language often seems to be sprinkled with the word “Grace”. The word doesn’t come up in the gospel quotations of Jesus; yet it also was the cornerstone for a major schism in Christianity and ultimately the theological foundation of a major Christian denomination. Was it just a silly fight about Semantics? Why did people get so worked up? Could this simple word be a radical concept at the heart of the Christian message or is it just some “airy-fairy” word that clerics like to toss into conversations? Why have we named girl children “Grace”?

Come to our video presentation on “Grace” by Fr. Michael Himes, theologian and professor at Boston College. It will be held on **Saturday, January 27 at 7:30 pm**. These presentations and the subsequent discussion sessions are good for both inner contemplation as well as group discussion. The sessions are informative for those who are not sure about certain elements of our Christian faith, and they are opportunities to ask questions as well as to discuss and explore the evolutions of our ideas and beliefs. The video is not only useful to teach something (yes, many already know some of these things), but it can also be a platform for focusing our own spirituality as well as the life of the NOVA community. Sharing our responses, our questions and our concerns about these issues will expand and strengthen the health of the NOVA community. Come, take a plunge!

We do not yet have a host for this session, but will announce the location at liturgy and through The NOVA discussion posting. You are welcome to borrow previous videos of this series. Please call **Peggy Becker** 703 913-1330, or see her at liturgy.

# Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

## Darfur

On December 10, 2006 hundreds of people (including Marie Pinho and me) stood together to protest the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. A sea of blue hats (handed out to all the participants to represent the peacekeepers) flooded Massachusetts Ave in front of the Sudanese Embassy. Since 2003, the Janjaweed, backed by the Sudanese Government, has been targeting ethnic African groups (such as the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa), killing more than 450,000 people, displacing more than 2.5 million, and raping thousands of girls. In 2004 the US Congress unanimously passed a resolution declaring the situation in Darfur 'genocide', but has continually failed to take the necessary action to end it. This is a complicated issue, but it's clear that we can't continue being hypocrites by saying "Never Again" and then watching it happen again and again (Rwanda and Cambodia). We, as individuals and a caring community, have the power to make a difference. I encourage everyone to stay up to date on this issue by signing up to receive email updates at [darfur-dailynews@savedarfur.org](mailto:darfur-dailynews@savedarfur.org). Living close to DC means that we have the honor to represent thousands of other caring people that live too far away at protests that are currently taking place weekly in front of the Sudanese Embassy.

~ Mali Kane



Mali and friend, Nicole Milner

## Sacred Circles: A Celebration of Women's Spirituality 2007

is being presented by the Cathedral College of Washington National Cathedral on February 16-17. The program brings together leading speakers on women's spirituality from all over the country and offers a wonderful mix of learning, prayer, music and dance. For more information:

[www.cathedral.org/cathedral/sacredcircles2007](http://www.cathedral.org/cathedral/sacredcircles2007).

# MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO END THE WAR!

Saturday, January 27, 2007

Assemble 11:00AM on the Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets

March kicks off at 1:00PM

Visit [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org) for further resources and updates on the January 27-29 mobilization. **Together we can end this war!**



*Do you see an angel?*

# Important Dates & Activities

## Save the Date

### Nova Community's 40th Anniversary Celebration

January 12, 2008

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. - Presider  
Celebrants: Everyone



## Nova General Meeting

February 11, 2007

5:30 pm – Pot Luck

6:30 pm – Meeting

Location to be announced

**Save the Date!**

From John Veldhuis. . .

Have you seen our new website?

Check it out. . .

[www.cbufoundation.org/](http://www.cbufoundation.org/)

## Pax Adult Education Spring Program

### New Dimensions on Community and Liturgy

- March 18, Rev. Jerry Hall, SJ - Liturgy
- April 15, Bill D'Antonio - IEC's
- May 6, Monica Appleby and Dene Peterson - ElderSpirit Co-housing. (Lay Community Living- Former Glenmary Sisters and authors of the Book *Mountain Sisters*)

Details will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

*Many Thanks for my 'Blessing' at Nova Liturgy and your cards and prayers. I'm happy to report that the pace-maker is working and I am feeling like my old self again.*



~Anne Houck



# Important Dates & Activities



With the guidance of Jenny Carroll, a Social Worker in Arlington Schools, Nova members participated in making Christmas celebrations easier for 12 families, including over 30 children. Teams of 3 volunteers signed up for each family and then provided a Giant Food gift card, a Target gift card, and stockings for the children filled with treasures, toys, books and lots of joy! Thanks to everyone!

Oakridge Elementary School  
Jennifer Carroll  
1414 S. 24th St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

September 19th, 2006

Dear NOVA Catholic Community,

The donations that you have generously provided last school year and the beginning of this school year are deeply appreciated by the families who were in need. The family who received the clothing, rental assistance, and furniture were in dire straits and the donations were exactly what they needed. The father of that family has since received an operation to fix one of his eyes and has started working again. Another family who received rental assistance was able to maintain their home and the child still attends Oakridge ES. Thank you once again for the donations that kept families in their homes and maintain the ability to provide for their children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carroll  
School Social Worker.

[Editor's Note: Jenny resubmitted this letter as your editor lost it originally—pls forgive.]

## Wrecking Ball Rescheduled

Maybe Christ House might remain open perhaps through the end of February, I think. It's wonderful to be able to be so specific and definite about Catholic Charities' plans for renovating the shelter. The latest thinking/ speculating is that the transition from operation to demolition will take place at the end of February. This means that we have one more chance to cook in the old kitchen – Monday, February 19, coincidentally, Presidents Day. The culinary action starts at 4:00 PM. If you would like to help prepare the meal for the homeless and the hungry, call Kopp Michelotti at 730-241-0789 for details and directions.

~*Kopp Michelotti*

# Gil Donahue

## April 5, 1921 – November 27, 2006

**Dear Sonja, Victoria, Moira, Chris, and the Nova Family:**

This is being written on the Great Southern Ocean as Anna and I sail from Adelaide in South Australia to Hobart in Tasmania, I want to say how saddened I was to learn of the passing of your dear husband and father, father of the Nova community, and my dear friend Gil. While Gil's passing is, at the moment, a tremendous loss, I know he has not really departed. He is with us all, just in a transformed way to which we must now accustom ourselves.

I know how important Gil has been to you, as he has been, immeasurably so, to me and all the Nova community. I have known him and your whole family since 1967, a year before the founding of the Nova community, when we were basking in the short but electrifying experience of "The People" and, in the wake of Cardinal O'Boyle's harsh suppression of the group, trying to figure out how to start the Nova community "across the river" in a way that would deal properly with our spiritual ambitions as well as the ecclesiastical setting. Gil, together with you, Sonja, was in many respects the backbone of this larger-than-life happening.

I want to describe two important characteristics that I see in Gil - characteristics that I want to emulate. The first is constancy. You could see it in his face and especially in that unique smile of his that spoke millions of words of reliable constancy and fervent attention to the people about him. He was constant in his beliefs, his loyalties, his family, and his friendships. You could always count on Gil. I believe his smiling constancy was the result of a deeply developed love. I think he has really loved all of us so much that we have difficulty in seeing how much light there really was in those

lamps that were his eyes. The initial temptation at a time like this is to think of what Gil did; but as I now reflect on who he is and has been, I want simply to be aware of how he loved and the way he defused his love. I want to honor it and spread it.

The second characteristic I want to remember in Gil is his enormous love of the Catholic tradition. Our Nova community, during much of its history, has focused on a liberal and progressive attitude toward what the church can be and should become. Gil was an important part of those discussions. But at a more significant level, a much deeper lever, Gil simply loved the great Catholic tradition. He loved its intellectual force, its doctrinal intrigue, its sociological postures, and its liturgical presence. He loved anything at all that was ingredient in that tradition. He served that tradition extremely well in many ways, but especially by stimulating people to think and by providing them with the resources they needed to expand their knowledge. In this way, he enabled the vitality of the tradition he loved so much. I want to honor and spread Gil's expansive love of the Catholic tradition.

I join my heart and soul with the heart and soul of you, his immediate family as well as his Nova family. I am confident we will all discover the finest of consolations when we join our hearts and minds and souls with the soul of Gil, who means so much to all of us.

With much love,  
~Warren Reich



# Gil Donahue

My friend Gil Donahue has died. Here are some words of remembrance for Gil's family.

On two occasions during the 1970s, I had a Federal Government position in which I was able to hire Gil. First at the Department of Labor and later, when I returned to FMCS. For about ten years, Gil and I worked together. We had some adventures, some exhilarating successes, some challenges, only a few disappointments, and always, a good working relationship. Rose and I met Gil and Sonia when we returned to Virginia in 1969 with our five sons. For the first 18 months, I was on leave of absence from FMCS working as assistant director of a newly formed, grant funded organization attempting to peacefully resolve issues involving civil rights and Vietnam War protest. In the early 1970s, I was hired by the Department of Labor to head a newly created office providing advice and training to state and local governments and unions of their employees on how to engage in peaceful relationships. While hiring staff, Gil mentioned how unhappy he was with his job at HUD. When I learned that Gil had been an industrial relations librarian at two universities, I realized how helpful he could be in my new office. The rest is history.

After that, all of the Donahues, including Gil, thanked me for rescuing him from an unhappy job. They continued to do that after Gil moved to FMCS with me. Honesty requires me to admit that some of the 'thank yous' were significantly over the top. On the theory that no one gets thanked enough, I never encouraged any Donahue not to thank me.



As in most employment relationships, benefits flow in both directions. I benefited, and I continue to benefit today, from one very significant thing that Gil pushed me into.

One of my roles at DOL was giving speeches around the country on the rapidly changing labor relations in public employment. Early on the job, I gave a speech at the University of Oregon Law School. When I finished, the dean and the student editor of the law journal asked me if I had spoken from a text because they wanted my re-



marks in their journal. I told them I had used notes and they asked if I would submit an article for their journal, based on my remarks. Being polite, I said I would consider doing so. Actually, I felt I was much too busy to devote time to writing.

When I returned to D.C., I held a staff meeting in which I mentioned the invitation only to suggest that our work was being valued. When the meeting ended, Gil stayed behind to urge me to consider writing for the journal. His argument was compelling: That does need to write about innovative work they did. That we were doing innovative work. That it was a mistake to leave the writing exclusively to the academics. Still, I insisted that I was too busy.

During the next few weeks, Gil raised the matter repeatedly. Finally, he suggested that the two young law students we had on staff that summer could do the footnotes and help with the research on state laws. He added that he had already talked with them and they were very interested. The students later told me that Gil had told them that I would likely acknowledge their work in the article. It had become clear to me that my resistance was in vain. I wrote the article.

It was published in the Oregon Law Review, Fall 1971 as "Governmental Response to Public Unionism and the Recognition of Employee Rights: Trends and Alternatives for Resolving Issues." It was twenty pages long, lots of footnotes and a thank-you to the two law students.

Thirty-five years later, my bibliography lists 141 papers and articles, plus 78 family and kids stories. The Oregon Law Review article, that Gil insistently instigated, is number 7 on the 141 list. Thanks Gil. I would not have done it without your gentle urging.

Affectionately, to all the Donahues who have thanked me enough.

*~Jerry Barrett*

# Thank you, NOVA ...

Dear Friend of Amanecer,  
Greetings and best wishes for a Blessed Christmas! This will be our first Christmas without Sister Stephanie who loved so much to visit the houses of Amanecer and share the joy of our children before the crib as well as with their Christmas gifts. I came across a few lines written a long time ago that express the happiness that shown on her face as she stood with the children on Christmas Eve before the manger.

Life holds no sweeter thing than this:

To teach a little child the tale most told on earth  
And watch the wonder deepen in his eyes  
The while you tell him of the Christ Child's birth;  
The while you tell of shepherds and a song,  
Of gentle, drowsy beasts and fragrant hay,  
On which that starlit night in Bethlehem  
God's tiny Son and His young Mother lay.

We recently celebrated a beautiful custom here in Bolivia of having our loved ones who died become very present during the feasts of All Saints and All Souls (November 1st and 2nd). A table is arranged with all kinds of things that the person liked: flowers, food, candies, Coca Cola, special breads made in a variety of forms. This is done with special attention during the first year of the person's passing. This custom took on special meaning for us as a table was prepared in Sayari-cuy for Sr. Stephanie as she spent most of her time there. Her photo, which hung behind the display and showed her giving a child bread and milk, brought her presence close to all. From the afternoon of the 1st until the morning of the 2nd the children of the different houses and ex-residents of the Program came to sing and pray with the woman who gave them a home in her heart.



*Sr Stephanie, RIP*

Many believe that the dead come back to visit the home where this table is prepared thus some breads are made in the form of horses to carry the soul if it tires on

its journey. Others are formed into ladders to aid the soul in its climb to heaven. The breads and candies on the table are shared with those who come to remember and pray for the soul of the deceased.

Our shelter, Madre de Dios, currently serves many young children. So many come from broken and/or alcoholic families where they were battered and never knew whether or not food would be available. They also lived in constant fear of what might happen when parents returned to their one room home. Tatiana, Silvia and Hernán came from such a family. The first time they came to us at 8, 6 and 3 years of age they had already been in another home for their protection. The father had convinced the authorities he could take care of them and so they returned to live with him. In a very short time the neighbours denounced that the children were neglected, hungry and even left alone for days. That is when they came to live with us. After months of adjusting, the children were happy and beginning to thrive. Once again the father convinced the authorities that he was now ready to care for them (because he had painted the room) and should have his children back. The authorities were new and inexperienced and without further investigation reunited them. Tatiana took our phone number for security and a few days later called desperately for help because the father was drunk and they feared what he might do on returning to their room. We immediately called those same authorities to rescue Tatiana, Silvia and Hernán and they returned to the shelter that evening.

The broken promises of this irresponsible father and the lack of thoroughness on the part of the public authorities who returned these children twice to him have left them emotionally scarred, each time more profoundly which is manifested in their instability, nightmares and the sadness on their faces. We stand at times between the children and their abusive parents and sometimes defending them before authorities.

Without you we could not be here for the many children and adolescents who have no one else. We thank you with grateful hearts for the many ways you support us. As I close this letter I can hear strains of Christmas music being practiced for the Nativity play and joyful laughter of other children playing. May each of you, our friends, share in this joy and in the abundance of God's love this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Gratefully in Jesus, our Saviour,

/s/ Srs. Mary Elko & Carol Donohue &  
Hector Fernandez

# Thank you, from NOVA ...

## For St. Clements ...

From January to March St. Clements Episcopal Church in Alexandria functions as an emergency overflow winter shelter for Carpenter's Shelter. Every other Monday 2 Nova volunteers are on duty: welcoming the guests, helping them get comfortable for the night, remaining in the church sanctuary with the guests for the night and bidding them a good day in the morning: 7pm-7am

## A big thanks to:

Clyde Christofferson/Jason Powell: January 15  
Arthur Rosenberg/Eric Carroll: January 29  
Tim White/Jerry Barrett: February 5  
Ted Miller/Glen Passin: February 19  
Joe Bonsignore/Anna Reich: March 12



*A symphony of Thanks to our NOVATONES who work continuously to inspire us in our spiritual lives through the creative music they regularly share with us.*

**THANK YOU**

To the Womens Ordination Conference  
[www.womensordination.org](http://www.womensordination.org) •  
(703) 352-1006 •  
[woc@womensordination.org](mailto:woc@womensordination.org) for their spirit and ongoing work towards women's ordination and a renewed priesthood.

## Gunston Food Distribution

As always every single Thursday evening Nova volunteers staff the AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center) food distribution at Gunston Recreation Center in Arlington. They pick up perishable items at the AFAC warehouse, using the AFAC van if necessary, and proceed to Gunston to unload. The volunteers distribute bags of non-perishable items (delivered to the Rec Center earlier by AFAC), eggs, milk, and whatever they picked up at the warehouse...as well as cereal donated weekly by Nova members. Twice a month Eric Carroll buys vegetables: carrots, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, grapes, oranges, .... and brings them to be distributed. (Nova Social Justice budget provides the funds for the vegetables). THANKS TO THE FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

Rosemarie/Joe Annunziata, Jerry Barrett, Syd Boyne, Cackley family, Jenny Carroll, Cathy Goldschmidt, Peter Goldschmidt, Emily Houck, Amy Kyleen Lute, Cece/Kopp Michelotti, Ted Miller, Marcelline Niemann, Ormando-Kane family, Glen Passin, Marie Pinho, Kathy Scheimer, Mike Timpane+ family, Marie-Claire Walters (Tom/Margaret's granddaughter), Tim White. Always happy to break in new volunteers!

# Christmas — Epiphany





February, 2007



## Nova Calendar...

### JANUARY

- 1/27 11 am or 1 pm      **March on Washington, page 6**
- 1/27 7:30                **Adult formation, page 5, place tba.**

### FEBRUARY

- 2/2 6:30 pm              **Lenten Planning, at Michelottis, everyone welcome**
- 2/11 5:30 pm             **Nova General Meeting**
- 2/16-17                    **Sacred Circles at Natl Cathedral, page 6**
- 2/19                        **Christ House, call Kopp, page 8**

### 2008

- 1/12/2008                **Nova's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**