



nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community January, 2008

Happy 40th New Year!

Another Epiphany. A manifestation of the Divine Spirit breathing in our midst. With John the Baptist we spent advent leaning into the pressures of our life and that of the universe while we eagerly awaited the Coming that is now Here. Sort of like our personality, our own spirit, here but still unfolding to its full potential/reality. Our spirit quickens when we find the edge that cuts through the tensions around and within us, the edge that gives us direction. We heard our leaning must be patient and without hostility that divides us and hinders our view of the Kingdom. Even our music was prophetic – asking, “Do you see? Do you hear? Do you believe? Do you care?”

This immaculately conceived reality of one’s spirit is a shoot on which we ask the Spirit of Emmanuel to come to rest, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the breath of Yahweh who prepares your way before you. Nova has also spent 40 years unfolding and unpacking that original breath of a proposal to the diocese to form “a worshipping community, including permission and encouragement for our celebration of Sunday Mass together while we study how the liturgy and our lives can be more fully directed to worship of God and to Christ’s service of God in the world.”

In the last 10 months or so Nova has also formed more than 16 committees to prepare for our anniversary – agapes, liturgy, publicity, youth involvement, social justice, recording/recalling history, invitations, registrations, music, roundtable discussion, peace covenant, entertainment, and Nova film. Even the retreat in September focused on who we are and images of where we came from in getting ready for celebrating our 40th and where we are going. Future focus is shedding light on knowing and doing more that enhances our place in the creativity of the Universe that is hands on, concerned about women, children and the marginalized (especially immigrants these days) in a green way with prayer and thoughtful discussion. For Social Justice this focus recently brought Care of the Earth, Immigration, Domestic Poverty, International Economic Development, and Peace into our field of vision. It feels like the buds have been there all along as a Nova focus and are now blooming in greater display and impact.

Looking towards the future is challenging. Even more challenging is living in the present moment. If we learn to live deeply this one moment of our life, we can learn to live all the other moments of our lives. Enlightenment, peace and joy will not be granted by

(Continued on page 4)

January

Birthdays, etc.

Message Line		703-852-7907
Chairpersons	Eric Carroll	703-536-2616
	John Veldhuis	703-750-1670
	Nancy Veldhuis	703-750-1670
Treasurer	Joe Formoso	703-503-9731
Religious Ed. Coordinator	John Mooney	703-425-1639
Coordinator, Community Life	Cece Michelotti	703-241-0789
Liturgy Coordinators	Gloria Mog	703-522-1812
	Anne Passin	703-538-6545
Padre Cadre Coordinator	John Mooney	703-425-1639
Music Coordinators	Tom Clarkson	703-560-2096
	Victoria Robinson	703-237-0008
Peace & Justice Coordinators	Dianne Carroll	703-536-2616
	Marie Keefe	301-229-2016
Christ House Coordinator	Kopp Michelotti	703-241-0789
Facilities	Glen Passin	703-538-6545
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. Beginning Memorial Day Week-end up to our Fall Retreat weekend, we celebrate at Lacey Woods Park, George Mason Drive near Washington Blvd, unless otherwise noted.

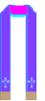
[Lacey Woods]
Liturgies begin at 9:30 am—Gather at 9:15 am

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

Liturgy Info:

For inclusive Readings and Music Selections go to nova.novacommunity.org, member section, Liturgy Info. Give all music selections to the Music Liaison one week ahead.

- 2 Marie Pinho
- 5 Michaela Kane
Jenny Tuccillo
- 6 Kahlil Gibran
Joan of Arc
- 8 Paul Visokay
- 9 Dominic Monti (Ordination)
- 11 Cathy Annunziata
Whalen-Peck Anniversary
- 14 Andrew Mausert-Mooney
Brenda McCormick **(RIP)**
- 15 Glen Passin
- 16 Larry Goldschmidt
Aaron Whalen-Peck
- 18 Clare Guzzo Robert (Ordination)
- 19 Jim McCormick
- 23 Kirsten Carroll
Walter Landry
- 26 Pat Reinhart
- 31 Mike Marron



**Newsletter Deadline
is January 27....**

Year A — Cycle II

Liturgies

JANUARY MUSIC LIAISON Barbara Formoso

January 1 – Mary, Mother of God –
No liturgy at Nova

January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord
Bill Callahan – Archer & Jim Heinzen
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 12 – Baptism of the Lord
Nova's 40th Anniversary Celebration
4:00 p.m. – John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Quinn Connors, Ken Himes – A Passin, et.al.
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

January 20 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jim Scullion, OFM – Cackley Family
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
1Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

January 27 – 3rd Sun. in Ordinary Time
Joe Nangle, OFM – Affirmandi, Kate Doherty,
Gloria Mog
Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthew 4:12-23 or 12-17

FEBRUARY MUSIC LIAISON Barbara Formoso

February 3 – 4th Sun. in Ordinary Time
Quinn Connors, O.Carm. – Dianne Carroll
Zeph: 2:3, 3:12-13
Psalm 146:6-10
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matt 5:1-12

February 6 – Ash Wednesday
Jeanne Clarkson – 7:30 p.m., Place TBA
Joel 2:12-18
Psalm 51:3-17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matt 6: 1-6, 16-18

February 10 – 1st Sunday of Lent
Joe Nangle, OFM – Victoria Robinson
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm 51:3-6, 12-17
Romans 5:12-19
Matt 4: 1-11

February 17 – 2nd Sunday of Lent
Joe Kenna – Gloria Mog
Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-22
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matt 17:1-9

February 24 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
Joe Nangle, OFM – Carmela & Mikaela Kane,
Tim White
Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Help Wanted . . .

(Chair Notes continued from page 1)

someone else. The well is within us. If we dig deeply in the present moment, the water will spring forth (as told to us by Thich Nhat Hanh). Let us enjoy the present moment of our 40th for it is a well worth digging, one that holds a promise of the future that includes all.

May you find Peace and spread Justice in this New Year,

~ Eric

St Clements

hypothermia shelter is opening soon. For many years Nova volunteers have been assisting at the overflow winter shelter at St Clements church on Quaker Lane in Alexandria every other Monday in January, February, and March. 2 volunteers arrive at 7 in the sanctuary and stay until 7 in the morning. The guests come from Carpenters Shelter when they are full. St Clements made the commitment years ago to do this, offering the church and sanctuary. The guests have been happy to come as it is quiet. If anyone new would like to help this year I am happy to team you up with a veteran. Here is the schedule so far!! There are 2 volunteers for the night. Please let me know as soon as you can what is good for you...and if you are new each of those signed up is a pro...

Jan. 7: Joe B, _____ Clyde(back up)
January 21: Jerry, _____
Feb 4: Clyde, _____
February 18: Eric, _____
March 3: _____, _____

Thanks, thanks!!! xxoo dianne

Gunston volunteers for January

Every Thursday volunteers distribute food from the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to clients at the Gunston Recreation Center in Arlington. Nova folks bring boxes of cereal each Sunday to add to the distribution so each family can have a box of cereal. So if you are local don't forget to bring a box of cereal to church. And if you would like to help with the distribution please contact Dianne Carroll, diacarroll@comcast.net or 703-536-2616

January 3 Cecilia
January 10 Lani, Eric, MarieClaire
January 17 Kopp, Cece, Marie P
January 24 Glen, Syd
January 31 Tim, Jerry, Lani
February ???

The more, the merrier....



***Light
For
Las
Huertas***

Nova has set a goal of raising \$1,000 to run power lines to 15 homes in a village in El Salvador. On the four Sundays of Advent Nova members have invested in "Light for Las Huertas" as a social action Christmas gift. For each \$10 donation, contributors received a special card and a light was placed on the tree. Of course, we could always use more money.

Help Wanted . . .

Intentional Eucharistic Communities Network

The IEC Network established a website after the 2001 Conference, namely, www.geocities.com/iecommunity

For personal reasons, the original web-mistress is unable to continue to manage this website.

Would there be anyone with this technical skill within our IECs who would be willing to assume the role of web-master/mistress?

The website would be an invaluable tool for communication for IEC - 2009 if we could find a volunteer to take this position.

Anyone who may be interested, or would have questions about the website please contact Ellen Radday for more information. eradday@verizon.net
Thank you.

IRAQ Casualty Toll	
US Military Deaths	3,896
Suicides	132
Civilian Deaths	78,743—85,813
American Wounded	28,661
" " Returned to Service	15,832

As of 12/20/2007



NOVA is praying for ...

Fr Sidney Griffith's mother had very major surgery and is at home in Gaithersburg under the care of hospice doctors and nurses. She would appreciate a card (mention that you are part of the Nova Community). Visits are also welcomed.

Mrs. Griffith lives at
#17 DeSellum Ave
Gaithersburg, Md 20877
301-948-9232

Fr Sidney is presently the chair of his department (Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures) at Catholic U which keeps him busy working and traveling (said he was thinking of retiring before this recent job change). He is well and happy to hear from Nova folks.

+

Susan Jelinek asked us for prayers in thanksgiving for her friend's son's return from duty in Iraq and her daughter's safe journey home from college...

+

Patti Wise asked that you keep her and her family in your prayers. Her mom died last week. She was 95 and died peacefully with her husband (Patti's dad) next to her. This will be a difficult transition for her dad as they had been married for 69 years. She described them as so close that they "practically breathed for each other." Patti, husband Greg and children Sarah/Jonathan were in Nova late 80's/early 90's, and are now living in Wisconsin. If you would like a card could be sent to:

Patti Wise
402 Amey Drive
Baraboo, WI 53913

or email to wisefamily@charter.net

+

Ken Chaison's uncle Bob has overcome adversity (surgery, heart attack, amputation, etc) again; he is home now and doing very well. Thank God for the power of prayer.

+

Grace Birch and **Sonja Donahue** are residing in separate nursing homes. They could use your calls, prayers, visits and good cheer, particularly at this time of year.

NOVA Liturgies, Cycle A, 2007-2008

Date	Liturgy	Planners	Celebrant
Dec. 2, 2007	1st Sunday, Advent	John Tarrant	Quinn Conners, O.Carm.
Dec. 9	2nd Sunday, Advent	Jeanne Clarkson	Bill Callahan
Dec. 16	3rd Sunday, Advent	Susan Jelinek Linda Rosenberg Kathy Scheimer	John Haughey, SJ
Dec. 23	4th Sunday, Advent	Teddy Ahrens Christoffersons	John Langan, SJ
Dec. 25	Christmas 10:00am	Peggy Becker, Marie Pinho	Aiden Shea, OSB
Dec. 30	Octave, Christmas, HolyFam.	No liturgy at NOVA	
Jan. 1	Mary, Mother of God	No liturgy at NOVA	
Jan. 6, 2008	Epiphany	Archer & Jim Heinzen	Bill Callahan
Jan. 12, Sat.	1st Sunday, after Epiphany NOVAs 40th Anniv	Anne Passin, et.al.	Quinn Conners, O. Carm. Ken Himes, OFM, homilist
Jan. 20	2nd Sun. Ordinary Time	Cackley family	Jim Scullion, OFM
Jan. 27	3rd Sun. Ord. Time	Kate Doherty, Gloria Mog Affirmandi	Joe Nangle, OFM
Feb. 3	4th Sun. Ord. Time	Dianne Carroll	Quinn Conners, O.Carm.
Feb. 6	Ash Wednesday	Jeanne Clarkson	Jeanne Clarkson
Feb. 10	1st Sunday, Lent	Victoria Robinson	Joe Nangle, OFM
Feb. 17	2nd Sun. Lent	Gloria Mog	Joe Kenna
Feb. 24	3rd Sun. Lent	Carmela & Mikaela Kane Tim White	Joe Nangle, OFM
Mar. 2	4th Sun. Lent	Peggy Meyer +?	Jim Scullion, OFM
Mar. 9	5th Sun. Lent	Cece & Kopp Michelotti Rose Barrett	Jim Coriden
Mar. 16	Palm Sunday	Mike Timpane	Bill Callahan
Mar. 20	Holy Thursday	Dianne Carroll	Joe Kenna
Mar. 21	Good Friday	Meg Tucillo	Meg Tucillo
Mar. 22, Sat.	Easter Vigil	Helen Michie Tim White Victoria Robinson	Quinn Conners, O.Carm.

NOVA Liturgies, Cycle A, 2007-2008

Date	Liturgy	Planners	Celebrant
Mar. 30	2nd Sun. after Easter	Meg Sullivan, John Mooney	Jim Hug, SJ
Apr. 6	3rd Sun. Easter	Cathy & Larry Goldschmidt	Bill Callahan
Apr. 13	4th Sun. Easter	Dianne Carroll Social Justice team	Jim Scullion, OFM
Apr. 20	5th Sun. Easter	Amy & Charlie Bailey	John Haughey, SJ
Apr. 27	6th Sun. Easter	Alicia & Phil Cackley	Joe Nangle, OFM
May. 4	7th Sun. Easter	Mike & Betsy Marron	Quinn Conners, O.Carm.
May. 11	Pentecost	Linda Rosenberg Susan Jelinek Kathy Scheimer	Joe Kenna
May. 18	Trinity Sunday	Barbara & Joe Formoso	Joe Nangle, OFM
May. 25, 2008	8th Sun. Ordinary Time	Affirmation Sunday Kate Doherty	Joe Nangle, OFM
Jun. 1	9th Sun. Ord. Time	Clyde Christofferson	John Haughey, SJ
Jun. 8	10th	Carolyn & Ted Miller	Bill Callahan
Jun. 15	11th	Emma Violand, Jim Webber	Joe Kenna
Jun. 22	12th	Anne Passin	Joe Kenna
Jun. 29	13th	Meg Sullivan, John Mooney	Jim Scullion, OFM
Jul. 6	14th Sun. Ord. Time	Meg Tuccillo	
Jul. 13	15th	David Mog	
Jul. 20	16th	Peggy Meyer +?	
Jul. 27	17th	Victoria Robinson	
Aug. 3.	18th Sun. Ord. Time	Marie Pinho, John Tarrant	
Aug. 10	19th	Walt Landry, Mike Timpane	
Aug. 17	20th	Anne Passin	
Aug. 24	21st	Tim White	
Aug. 31	22nd	Amy & Charlie Bailey	
Sept. 7	23rd Sun. Ord. Time	Helen Michie	
Sept. 14	24th	Cece Kopp Michelotti	
Sept. 21	25th	Kate Doherty	
Sept. 28	26th	Cathy & Larry Goldschmidt	
Oct. 5	Sun. Ord. Time	Barbara & Joe Formoso	
Oct. 12	28th	David & Gloria Mog	
Oct. 19	29th	Dianne Carroll	
Oct. 26	30th	Jeanne Clarkson	

Continued on page 8.

Liturgies—Announcements

NOVA Liturgies, Cycle A, 2007-2008

Date	Liturgy	Planners
Nov. 2	All Souls	Victoria Robinson
Nov. 9	32nd. Sun. Ord. Time	Clyde Christofferson
Nov. 16	33rd	Nancy & John Veldhuis
Nov. 23	Christ the King	Michael & Joe Kane

*Nova Community's 40th
Anniversary Celebration*

January 11-13

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

Early Anniversary Greetings to Everyone

It is less than a month until the festivities begin. Folks are coming from Connecticut, Texas, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia. There are those registered who have been with Nova for 1 year and 40 years and all in between.

I hope you have already registered for the times that you can be with the community for this joyous celebration. If you want to register for these events (there is still room left for you - 134 are registered now/200 is max):

Friday, January 11 – Pot Luck & Musical Memories

7 PM - home of Meg Tuccillo, 2532 N Ridgeview Rd. Arlington 703-522-3213

Saturday January 12 - Main Celebration

NOVA at 40 Giving Thanks For The Work To Be Done

John Calvin Presbyterian Church 6531 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003

4 PM - Liturgical Celebration,

Quinn Connors, O.Carm., Presider Ken Himes, OFM, Homilist

6 PM – Reception, Dinner, Gala (reservations required)

Sunday – Brunch & Round Table

Beyond 40 Years: A Challenge to Nova 10 AM – 1 PM

Kenmore Middle School, Arlington

Reflections and Discussion with Nova's Padre Cadre

Please Register at: <http://www.nova40th.info>

Or email diacarroll@comcast.net phone: 703-536-2616

Announcements . . .

Please Wear Chair Crosses at 40th

Former and current Chairs of Nova are asked to wear the crosses they received at their Investiture to the Liturgy and Dinner/Reception on the 12th. If you did not receive a cross or have lost or misplaced yours, feel free to improvise with a ribbon cross – or not - as the spirit moves you. We think the crosses could make a powerful statement about how many people have taken a leadership position in Nova over the 40 years.

~Gloria Mog

Lenten Liturgy Team Meeting – Jan. 27th

Everyone who is planning a liturgy during the Lenten season – Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday – is asked to attend a pot-luck brunch and planning meeting at the home of Gloria Mog on Sunday, January 27th immediately after liturgy.

Please print your readings off the Nova website/members section — documents/Cycle A Readings – nova.novacommunity.org. Bring them to the meeting and let's see what emerges for this year's Lenten theme. Lent begins very early this year on February 6th, so let the planning begin!

MY IMPATIENT ADVENT PRAYER

I thank you, dear Lord, that You and the Kin-dom are present in our lives right now. I'm so grateful to have learned how much you love us all and want us to live in close relationship with you, other people and all of Your creation. I rejoice in the love and friendship I experience every day. I have everything I need, and so much more. You have blessed me with a life that is filled with the abundant blessings of Your Kingdom.

Yet, even though you have asked us to be patient as we await your coming, I WILL NOT be patient while waiting for an end to the violence, injustice and suffering in this world. We members of the one human family, which you create and love, have been mistreating each other and all your creation in horrible ways for far too long !. I cannot be content when so many of our sisters and brothers on this earth are NOT experiencing the joy of the Kin-dom.

- I want the War in Iraq and all other wars to end NOW. I want every hungry person to have enough food TODAY, and tomorrow and every day for the rest of their lives.
- I want the epidemics like HIV/AIDS to be stopped TODAY, and every victim cared for.
- I want all the others who suffer from mental illness to have the excellent psychiatric care and support of family and friends that I have been blessed with - RIGHT NOW, and from now on.
- I want every person who has experienced any kind of abuse to be safe from any further violence and relieved of their continuing pain NOW and FOREVERMORE.

My list could go on and on, but I know that you are already well-aware of the cries of every creature in pain at every moment. Surely You, with Your great love for all, are more eager than any of us for the day when all violence and injustice will come to an end and all people will live in peace. This has been Your dream from the beginning. Throughout the days of the scriptures, You called Your people to change their ways and follow You to the Promised Land. You sent Your Son to suffer greatly in order to make the Kin-dom of Peace and Justice possible by means of His teachings, His example and His sacrifice. You enable us to carry on His work until the promises are all fulfilled. PLEASE GRANT THAT I MAY NEVER FAIL TO DO MY PART Let us never be so patient that we lose sight of the urgency of releasing each person and creature from their pain and suffering.

So, with deepest gratitude for every blessing of the Kingdom and your constant presence among us in the present day, my most fervent prayer must always be:
THY KINGDOM COME, LORD. THY KINGDOM COME
A.S.A.P. !!!

~Peggy Meyer

Announcements . . .

LARCUM: Ecumenism in Virginia

For a number of years now Lutherans, Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Virginia have been meeting annually to prepare the way for Christian unity. Last year United Methodists became part of the program, and the name changed from "LARC" to "LARCUM".

The program is sponsored by the bishops of the various churches, and includes an annual conference held in a different area of the commonwealth each year. The conference is a day and a half program consisting of successive sessions in each of the participating churches. Each session usually has a liturgical or prayer service and one of a series of talks presented by a speaker from one of the church traditions.

When the LARC conference was held in Northern Virginia in 2002, Joe Annunziata and I went. Archbishop Lipscomb of Mobile, Alabama was the featured speaker and the topic for the conference and his series of talks was "The Gift of Authority". This year the conference was again in Northern Virginia, on November 30th and December 1st. Prof. Ted Campbell of Southern Methodist University gave three talks on "The Gospel: The Heart of Christian Unity". Dr. Campbell teaches church history at SMU and has been active in the United Methodist organization. Fr. Gerald Fogarty, S.J. of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville gave an initial talk describing the struggles of the ecumenical movement in Virginia, since the Jamestown settlement.

After his first talk I asked Dr. Campbell if he knew Charlie Curran, who is also at SMU. He said, yes, he did, and would give him my regards. Charlie was an early NOVA celebrant, and describes his journey ending at SMU in his book *Loyal Dissent* (Georgetown University Press, 2006).

Bishop (now Emeritus) Walter Sullivan of the Diocese of Richmond, an original supporter of NOVA, participated in both the 2002 and 2007 conferences, and was an original signatory of the LARC

covenant. When I spoke to him he reminded me that we had given him the "NOVA Cane" (when he presided at a NOVA liturgy many years ago), and wished the community well. I remember the occasion. My son, now 36, was also present but was only a toddler.

The last sessions on Saturday were at St. Charles Borromeo, whose pastor is Gerry Creedon, also a long time NOVA supporter. At these sessions we broke into groups of six or seven for small group discussion of Ted Campbell's talk on "The Gospel and the Ecumenical Movement." The lady at my left had been a Catholic but felt called to the ministry, an option not open to her. She is now pastor of Trinity United Methodist in McLean. I told her about similar experiences of women within NOVA, one of whom is now an Episcopal priest and the other a United Church of Christ minister.

In our small groups each of us gave some background, and I described NOVA, its origins in the Diocese of Virginia, and its operation as a lay led liturgical community. A priest from Fredericksburg was also at our table, and was surprised that he had never heard of us. Now he has. He is responsible for ecumenical affairs in the Arlington Diocese, and is on the LARCUM planning group.

Another woman at our table was pastor of St. Mary's Lutheran Church at Mt. Jackson. It turns out that her husband oversees the food service at Shrinemont, and we commiserated about the difficulties of changing the menus to provide some small measure of variety. I did put in a word in favor of change, however. I know some of my NOVA colleagues may be comfortable in the culinary rut that is Shrinemont, but I couldn't resist the opportunity.

~Clyde Christofferson

[Ed. Note: You can get program info at [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/larcum2007email\(1\).pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/larcum2007email(1).pdf) or at <http://tinyurl.com/yqgekx>]

Announcements . . .

The following peace statement was drafted by Peggy Meyer, Marie Keefe, and Mary Grace for Nova's consideration. It was made available to the Community at the fall retreat and pre-sented to the Community at the November General Meeting. After discussion the Community decided that the statement was a great start. It would be taken up by the Peace and Social Justice Committee working group focussing on peace for a final statement shaped more specifically to a Nova Community commitment. As one member at the general meeting described the statement, it is a "work in progress". If you would like to provide comments or work with the group to finalize the statement, please contact Marie Keefe on the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

Thank you, Nancy

PEACE COVENANT of The NOVA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

We, the members of the NOVA Catholic Community, are committed to following the example and teachings of Jesus Christ who says to us,

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” [in 14:27]

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” [Mt 5:9]

We pray for this peace in our own hearts that we may be instruments of peace in our families, our communities and throughout the world.

The Peace of Christ is grounded in love. We endeavor to do all things with a love that:

- recognizes the infinite value of every human being, regarding no person as less than ourselves
- is toward all people, including our enemies and those who disagree with us
- participates in no form of violence, but overcomes evil with good action
- seeks reconciliation and healing through understanding, forgiveness and acceptance of differences
- reverences and cares for the earth and all that God has created
- seeks to live simply and give from our substance so that all people's needs may be met
- offers solidarity and support to victims of violence and injustice

We are determined not to close our eyes to the pain in the world. Therefore, we will address and confront the systemic violence that causes so much of the suffering.

We covenant to work individually and in community to build, upon a foundation of such love, the promised Kin-dom of Peace, Justice and Joy made possible by the example, teachings and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Events, Meetings —

Following in the Footsteps of Jesus *An Overview of Catholic Social Teaching*

Sponsored by Parish Social Ministry of
**Church of the Nativity Parish, St. Mary of Sorrows Parish
and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington**

Noted speakers will help us explore the main ideas that are found in the Church's documents on Catholic social teaching. Each session will provide an opportunity for discussion and a question and answer period.

This 8-session series was developed in response to the results of a survey in June at Nativity and St. Mary of Sorrows parishes. Guest speakers will be encouraged to include a broad range of issues reflecting the concerns of parishioners as expressed in the survey.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE Tuesday Evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

* *At St. Mary of Sorrows Church* + *At Church of the Nativity*
5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015

- * January 15, 2008 ***“Call to Family, Community, and Participation”***
Joan Rosenhauer, Coordinator, Special Projects, Department
of Social Development and World Peace, USCCB

- + February 12, 2008 ***“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”***
Donna Grimes, Education Specialist, Catholic Campaign for Human Dev., USCCB

- + March 25, 2008 ***“Rights and Responsibilities”***
Walt Grazer, Grazer and Associates, LLC, formerly a USCCB policy advisor on human rights

- + April 8, 2008 ***“Care for God’s Creation”***
Speaker to be determined

- + April 29, 2008 ***“Solidarity”***
Speaker to be determined

For information contact: Anne Murphy, Catholic Charities, 703-841-3831; Joe Pettit, Nativity, 703-455-4937; or Pat Seiler, St. Mary's, 703-978-4141, x18



Thank you, NOVA —

from Sister Adriana in South Sudan, 11/26/07

With great joy and gratitude, I want to greet you and NOVA and wish you peace and health. Here is some of what has been happening over the past year and a half since I came to Leer. I have been teaching English to adults. There is great thirst for education at all levels. Also, we have been very busy with other activities.

Groups of widows have approached us and asked for our help and money to buy materials to make bricks. Our community accepted and the 17 women have prepared more than 1,000 bricks for us to use in local constructions. We hope that little by little they may be able to get work orders from others and continue in the business, and thereby become self-sufficient. They work very hard and must walk many kilometers to cattle camps to collect cow dung and to the river for sand. The process is very long but they persevere.

Thanks be to God that the local authorities have given us land for a church and the excavations have already begun. Construction material is hard to find and most must be ordered from Khartoum and then we have to figure out ways to get it to Leer. God will help us! Some development has been taking place in Leer recently. A road is under construction and we hope that products will come to Leer from Juba and other places. A company is installing antennae for mobile phones and, God willing, within a few months electricity will be installed.

Last week we visited two Christian communities: Dhor Nyal and Thomyor, which are very isolated. The river has grown and the water was high. The people provided for us sisters and the priest a canoe to cross, but the youth all had to swim across. We spent three days with the people, prayed and helped the families. The Catechists in this area of Western Upper Nile have been very active and faithful in teaching the Catholic faith. Despite the sufferings and destruction of the war [which lasted for 50 years, by the way], you can see the dynamic faith and joy of the people. The youth choirs are getting ready for Christmas. May God bless us all as we prepare for Jesus coming.

A big hug, con carino,

~Adriana

Dear NOVA,

Thank you for the framed print of Galatians 5:22-23 that we received for our wedding. We have it hangin in our kitchen and it is a lovely reminder of our "family" in the DC area. We are settling into our new lives and adjusting to our new surroundings and being married. Steffin is working hard at Constellation Energy and I am still job hunting. Recently I just gave a lecture on Victorian Mourning Practices at the Smithtown Historical Society in Long Island.

We actually have a spare bedroom so if any of you are ever in the Boston area, we would love to host you!

Our new contact information:

Katherine Chaison & Steffin Spears

2006 Village Road W

Norwood, MA 02062

781.269.5899

katherinechaison@yahoo.com

Love,

~Katie & Steffin

From **Action Africa** . . .

We thank you for your generosity and support towards our medical programs in Nigeria. Your financial donations to Action Africa each month has brought and is still bringing plenty of blessings. As you may well know our programs are also now been implemented in Sierra Leone. The needs there are enormous but we are resolved to make lasting difference in the lives of needy children and families.

Thousands are benefiting from the free medical clinics. Your generosity inspires us to keep going forward, and we thank you for that.

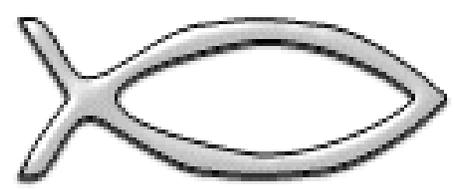
Last month's doings . . .



Ella and Elena



♪ Pax Amor, Christi ♪



Do you See, Do you Care?



♪ Happy Adoption Day, for sure . . . ♪



Prayer for Strength and Wisdom

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which [friendship](#) brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

~Edgar A. Guest





January, 2008



NOVA Calendar

Every Thursday.... Food distribution at Gunston, see page 4
Every Sunday ... Cereal boxes brought to liturgy for Gunston

January 7, ... overnight stay (if necessary) at St. Clements, page 4

January 11-13, Nova Anniversary, remember?

Tuesday, January 15 – Call to Family, Community... St Mary's, page 12

January 21, ... overnight stay (if necessary) at St. Clements, page 4

Sunday, January 27, after Liturgy, Lenten Liturgy Planning, page 9

Save Dates –

February 4, 18, March 3 Overnight stay at St. Clements, see page 4

February 12 ... Option for Poor & Vulnerable, Ch. Of Nativity, Burke, page 12

February 18 ... Christ House, Nova returns to Hit menu!!! See next newsletter

March 25, April 8, etc – Diocesan Catholic Social Justice Teaching Lectures, page 12