

  
**nova notes**  
Newsletter of the NOVA Community March, 2007

**Chair Notes**

The soul should always stand ajar,  
Ready to welcome the ecstatic experience  
~Emily Dickinson

**L**ike many of my generation, Lent was a time solely focused on abstinence from meat, fasting, and penance. As a child in a Catholic elementary school, Lent was gloomy. It was also a time that we were given little purple mite boxes with a picture of Jesus in painful prayer at Gethsemane to take home. In addition to a daily reminder of how much Jesus had suffered for us, the mite boxes were to be used to collect the coins we had saved from denying ourselves candy during the weeks of Lent. At the end of Lent, the boxes were collected and the money was to go to the “poor”.

As I was coming of age, the Church was experiencing Vatican II. With it the Lenten emphasis was shifting. Rather than, “What are you going to give up for Lent?” the question became, “What are you going to take up for Lent?” I began to make a shift as well and I would try to think of an intentional spiritual practice that I could take up to deepen my connection to the God who remained such a mystery to me.

As an adult, Lent, like Christmas, has a way of sneaking up on me in the midst of an overscheduled life....I never feel quite prepared. But this year because I have to

spend more time thinking about Lent in preparation for these Chair Notes, I ran across the quote from Emily Dickinson and realized it is precisely my over scheduling that I need to “give up” for Lent. Leave time and space for my soul to stand ajar ... perhaps not for an ecstatic experience but at least to allow enough of an opening to more consciously experience God’s abundant grace at work in my life. Leave an opening to be able to more clearly discern what I am being called to “take up”.



My prayer for each of you during this season of Lent is that you make time for your soul to stand ajar as well, allowing it to be filled with the experience of God’s bountiful love. When the time

comes to celebrate Easter, who knows what surprises will have been in store for each of us.

**Namaste,**

~ Nancy

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

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

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

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

# March Birthdays, etc.

- 2 Helen Gettys Michie
- 3 Jessica Massey
- 6 Doug McNeill
- 7 John Tarrant
- 8 Cece Michelotti  
Peter Reich  
Kate Connelly  
Eric Robinson
- 9 John Iskander  
Amy Tarasovic  
Michael Kane
- 10 Joe Barrett
- 12 **Mary Chaison (RIP)**  
Timothy Chase  
Jonathan Taylor  
Jim Todaro
- 13 Mary Mele
- 14 Bill Meyer
- 19 Mali Kane
- 20 Kathi Scheimer
- 22 Charlie Gillmarten
- 25 Ilse Yath-Cruces
- 26 Charlie Bailey  
Mari Carmen Mariscal  
Brian Schmidt
- 28 Michael Iskander
- 31 John Taylor



**Newsletter Deadline is  
 March 25 ....**



## Year C — Cycle 1

# Liturgies

### MARCH MUSIC LIAISON

Gloria Mog

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

Francis DiSpigno, OFM - Michelottis  
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27:1, 7-9, 13-14  
Philippians 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1  
Luke 9:28-36

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

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. - Heinzens  
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15  
Psalm 103:1-4, 6-8, 11  
1st Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
Luke 13:1-9

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

Jim Scullion, OFM – Orlando-Kanes  
Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 34:2-7  
2nd Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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

Ray Kemp – Jeanne Clarkson  
Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126:1-6  
Philippians 3:8-14  
John 8:1-11

#### April 1 -- Passion (Palm) Sunday

Bill Callahan -- Timpanes  
Procession: Luke 19:28-40  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Luke 22:14--23:56 or 23:1-49



#### April 5 -- Holy Thursday

##### Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Location: Center of Spiritual Enlightenment**

**Reservation details TBA**

Joe Kenna – Holy Thursday Team  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-15

### APRIL MUSIC LIAISON

Gloria Mog

#### April 6 -- Good Friday

**At Kenmore — 8:00 pm**  
Isaiah 52:13--53:12  
Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1--19:42

#### April 8 -- Easter Sunday

##### At Goodwin House East (Baileys Xroads) — 10:00 am

Joe Nangle, OFM – G Mog, H Michie & T White  
Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4, or 1st Corinthians 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9

#### April 15 -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Jim Scullion, OFM – Rose Barrett & Marcelline Niemann  
Acts 5:12-16  
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19  
John 20:19-31

#### April 22 -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Francis DiSpigno, OFM – D. Carroll & Social Justice Team  
Acts 5:27-32, 40-41  
Psalm 30:2-6, 11-13  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

#### April 29 -- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Joe Kenna -- Michelottis  
Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Psalm 100:1-3, 5  
Revelation 7:9, 14-17  
John 10:27-30



# Liturgy Information, news . . .

## *Look Beyond... God Surprises*

Our theme for Lent reflects our observation that the gospels have the unexpected in common. We are called to look beyond the expected to discover the creative force of love that generated these surprises--that loved all of creation into existence. We are called to see:

- \* the love of the father for the prodigal son beyond the bounds of sibling fairness,
- \* the humanity of the adulteress beyond the societal transgression, and
- \* the nurturing of the fig tree beyond the practicality which demands it be cut down.

As we embark on our Lenten journey of renewing our connection with God, let us walk the surprising path of Jesus, which leads directly to those who are marginalized, unseen and unloved.



## **NOVA Adult Education**

Here are the next dates for further sessions of our Mystery of Faith video and discussion sessions:

Saturday, March 24 - Baptism - Heinzens

Saturday, April 28 - Eucharist - Location TBA

There are three more topics: "Vocation", "Trinity", and "Salvation". We will probably suspend the sessions for May but the remaining ones will be scheduled at some future time. I would appreciate feedback about future dates. Thank you so much to those who have helped out by hosting these sessions. Volunteers for future sessions will be most welcome. I am also hoping to explore other resources and ideas for our future Adult Formation. It would be great if any of you would be interested in presenting or facilitating a session or series designed to enhance our faith, knowledge and sense of community. Talk to Peggy Becker or one of the three "Chairs" about your thoughts.

*-Peggy Becker*

**Remember: Daylight Savings Time**

**Begins Sunday, March 11. . .**

**Spring forward**



# Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

**New Dimensions in Liturgy & Community**

PAX Community  
Adult Education  
Sundays, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting at  
St Luke Orthodox Church,  
McLean, VA

Light Refreshments Served  
Contact:  
Irene Navatta  
(540)349-9011  
insnavata@msn.com  
or  
Joanne Alfano  
joalfano@verizon.net

March 18: Jerry Hall, SJ,  
Washington Theological Union  
*Celebrating the Faith of Christ:  
Liturgy in an Intentional Community*

April 15: Dr. William D'Antonio, Author  
Fellow, Life Cycle Institute, Catholic University  
*Intentional Eucharistic Communities*

May 6: Monica Appleby, Author  
Director ElderSpirit Community Extension Project  
*Mountain Sisters:  
From Convent to Aging in Community...with Spirit*

## THOMAS & RUTH GRINNELL LENTEN SERIES 2007

At St Anthony's continuing... Our Lenten Series will open the door to new ways of experiencing and knowing God. This year's theme will highlight how art is an integral part of perceiving and celebrating the presence of God in our life. ***Beginning February 22nd, join us each Thursday*** from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in the Corpus Christi School Meeting Room- No. 17 (3305 Glen Carlyn Road in Falls Church).

- February 22    **"Our Mother and Visual Art"** – Mr. Patrick Birge, well-known sculptor and artist, will explore how Mary, as Jesus's perfect disciple, exemplifies the role of art and all it can do to enhance our celebration of God's presence in our lives.
- March 1        **"A Spiritual Walk with God through Rome"** – Fr. Tuck Grinnell, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish will recount his sabbatical experiences in Rome.
- March 8        **"Jessica Power: From Poetry to Prayer"** – Mrs. Delores Leckey, a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center, as well as a noted author and lecturer, will discuss the poetry of Jessica Power.
- March 15       **"Art as Prayer"** – A presentation by a Little Sister of Jesus, of the unique clay figures and icons long cherished in many hearts and pockets. Little Sister will also speak of her choice to be a hermit in ministry, just being "Jesus," poor and welcoming where she is.
- March 22       The unveiling of **"Star-Struck Waters,"** bold and free – a new painting and poetry by Mary Lou Sleevei. Now – pure and simple – the holy Spirit of Sophia, expressing an experience of spiritual Lightning. And her Star.
- March 29       **"The Passion in Art"** – Fr. Mark Lane, a well-known expert on liturgical art, will present the historical context and theological standpoint of works ranging from the "Passion of Christ in the Catacomb of Domitilla" to Marc Chagall's "White Crucifixion."

# Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

## WomenCircles Retreat Week-end

April 20-22, 2007

Friday 4:00 p.m. to Sunday 3:00 p.m.

Harmony Farm Retreat Center - Parkton,  
Maryland

*"It is the health of the soul that is the true purpose  
of the human experience."*

*-Gary Zukav, "The Seat of the Soul"*

Preserving and nurturing our natural spiritual essence is vital to feeling fully alive and connected to our life purpose. This retreat will focus on rekindling the Light within and clarifying your deeper spiritual longings. You are invited to honor, nurture, and tend the blessing of your soul-self. Together we will create a safe and spirit-filled community committed to supporting each one's journey to light, connection and meaning.

Gloria and dava offer a colorful palette of experiences in self-discovery, meditation, sacred stories, ritual, song and creative expression. The natural beauty and peaceful setting of Harmony Farm bestows its own wisdom, guidance and support to retreat participants. Please join us for an extraordinary experience.

*Our retreat will be held at Harmony Farm in the beautiful rolling hills of Maryland north of Baltimore, less than 2 hours from the DC area. Set on 102 acres of picturesque farmland overlooking woods, pastures and streams, the recently renovated retreat center has a spacious dining room, comfortable bedrooms (2-3 beds/room) and two large fireplaces. Food contributions and preparation will be shared by the group.*

*Fee: \$310 if registered by 3/20 - \$335 after. A \$100 deposit holds your reservation until 3/20 when the balance is due; no refunds after 4/9. Please call Gloria (703) 550-4164 with any questions.*

**Limited to 15 participants  
register early!**

**Envision peace**

**Pray for peace**

**Be peace**

**You are invited to be part of an Interfaith Peace Circle. Join with millions of other people around the world who are praying for peace. After a brief guided meditation, you will embrace a period of silence to listen for your own inner truth and guidance.**

**Thursdays 12:15 – 12:45 p.m.**

**March 1 to April 12**

**Western Presbyterian Church  
Corner of 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Virginia  
Avenue, NW**

**2 blocks from Foggy Bottom Metro**

**e-**

**mail: [peaceprayers@hotmail.com](mailto:peaceprayers@hotmail.com)  
202 835-8383**

## Interfaith Voices — on radio!

Maureen Fiedler from the Quixote Center who now has her radio show on WMAL 88.5 FM at 10:00 PM every Thursday for an hour.

She brings a renaissance world view to her interviews with renowned religious, political, and government leaders from around the world - the Diahn Rehm of faith broadcasting.

You can listen online via their website at

<http://interfaithradio.org/>

# Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

## Christian Peace Witness for Iraq March 16, 7 pm. Washington National Cathedral

On Friday March 16, thousands of Christians will share in an evening ecumenical worship service at the Washington National Cathedral, to pray for an end to the war in Iraq, to repent of our complicity with the invasion and occupation of Iraq and to renew our commitment to peacemaking.

This [Christian Peace Witness for Iraq](http://www.christianpeacewitness.org) stands in solidarity with sisters and brothers in other faith traditions and ask their prayers and support for our witness. The service will be followed by a candlelight procession to the White House, and a late night peace vigil.

YOU MUST GO TO THE WEBSITE TO [REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT](http://www.christianpeacewitness.org) at [www.christianpeacewitness.org](http://www.christianpeacewitness.org) (it's free) AND PRINT OUT YOUR TICKET!



Sewing Machines Needed.....

Does your old sewing machine need a new home? If so, I know

three Guatemalan women who could put it to use. Co-partners of Campesinas, a Nova-supported project in Central America, has been asked to bring five sewing machines on our next visit. We have two and the promise of a third. Can you help us find numbers four and five?

Thanks,

~Archer



Tom and Margaret are home in Arlington. They are getting Tom's care set up

here. They are not ready for company yet, but would be happy to know you are praying for them. You can mail a card to:

Tom & Margaret Hayes  
3800 Fairfax Dr. #602  
Arlington, VA 22203

## Church Mice

A Christian comic by Karl Zorowski



### Church Mice

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www.zorowski.com

# Important Dates & Activities

## Save the Date: January 12, 2008 *Nova's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

A brainstorming session was held at the General Meeting on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> to determine how the community would like to prepare for and celebrate Nova's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A wonderful array of ideas was put forth and there was a lot of energy around devoting this year to exploring the theme: **Nova: 1968-2008 – What is Our Mission/Challenge Now?** Among the many ideas proposed were:

- Produce a 20 min. DVD depicting the history of Nova, important events through the years, and the major components of our community life – liturgy, social action, community ministry, adult/children's education, etc.

- Focus the fall retreat on what is the mission of Nova 2008 and beyond.

- Host a mini-conference in the fall on the broader question of the future of Intentional Eucharistic Communities. Have speakers and invite regional IECs.

- Make a community commitment to 3-4 social action projects/activities that we can do together through the year to honor our commitment to being a social justice based community.

- Create a theatrical production for the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration. Include the young people in it.

- Create an e-book on Nova at Worship highlighting our liturgical celebrations, the Padre Cadre, memorable programs, homilies, photos.

- Provide some special recognition for the Padre Cadre and invite all former members of the Cadre.

- Include the female clergy that Nova helped support in the celebration.

- Seek publicity in the Washington area media for the event. Prepare a publicity packet to be sent out in the fall.

- Go through the Archives boxes and thin and organize them so they might be a more useful historical record for the community.

- Create a large map of the world with thumbnail photos depicting where Nova members current and past are working.

- Include the children and affirmandi in as many projects as appropriate.

- Solicit information from ex-Nova members, Nova "kids" as to what effect Nova has had on their lives and compile in some way.

Decisions made so far are that the main celebration will take place on the week-end of Jan 11-13, 2008. On Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a major liturgical celebration at 4:00 p.m. followed by a dinner and Program at St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. Quinn Connors will preside.

The following community members have signed up to help out in the following areas. We can use lots more volunteers, particularly in the "thinner" areas. Please let Gloria Mog know if you can help out with anything ([gloriamog@comcast.net](mailto:gloriamog@comcast.net)).

# Important Dates & Activities (2)

## Volunteers for 40<sup>th</sup> Year Activities

**Steering Committee:** Dianne Carroll, Gloria Mog, Meg Tuccillo

**Liturgy:** Teddi Ahrens, Peggy Becker, Tim White, Dianne Carroll, Cathy Showalter, Rosemarie Annunziata

**Dinner/Party:** Marie Pinho, Cathy Goldschmidt

**Publicity/Publications:** Ted Miller, Teddi Ahrens, Victoria Robinson

**Invitations:** Dianne Carroll

**History/Information Gathering:** Ted Miller, Bernie Byrne (finding lost sheep), Victoria Robinson

**Archives Organization:**

**Social Justice Projects:** Marie Keefe, Cathy Showalter, Dianne Carroll, Peggy Meyer (peace), Rosemarie Annunziata, Eric Carroll.

**The Nova Story DVD:** Jim Furlong, Marie Schum-Brady, Jim Todaro (?)

**Shrinemont Retreat on Mission of Nova in the Future:**

**Children/Youth Involvement:** Kate Doherty, Alicia Cackley, Marie Keefe, Rosemarie Annunziata

**Theatrical Production:**

**“Nova at Worship” e-book:** Clyde Christofferson

**Mini-Conference on IECs Role in the Church – Past and Future:** Joe Annunziata, Peggy Becker, John Birch, Kathy Scheimer, Cece Michelotti, Kopp Michelotti, John Tarrant.

**Creation of Global Map Visual on where Nova is working in the world:**

Please join us there is a lot to do. Call or email Gloria Mog and say how you would like to help: 703-522-1812, [gloriamog@comcast.net](mailto:gloriamog@comcast.net)

# Thank you, NOVA ...

From Oakridge Elementary School, Arlington VA

Dear Nova Catholic Community:

Thank you so much for adopting twelve families for our Secret Santa program! Many of our families find it difficult during the holiday season. Your generosity was so helpful during this time. The families were very appreciative of the stockings and gift cards. Each stocking ensured a personalized touch for the children.

Thank you again for your time and donations! I hope that our partnership will continue.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Jennifer Carroll, School Social Worker

*From Jean Mendez*

*Dear Nova*

*Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers and calls during this time when I'm trying to deal with my son Philip's health issues, and other family members surgeries.*

*Your support has been a great help to me.*

*God bless you,*

*~Jean*



2903 Mills Ave NE. Washington DC 20018

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

Dear Friends of Action Africa — Greetings!

For so many years, our friends and collaborators have been encouraged to support any initiatives to help the children and struggling families of Sierra Leone. Our sister organization, the Amen Foundation began to support the formation of church leaders and workers most of whom have returned to serve in the mission of healing and reconstruction of Sierra Leone.

A civil war lasting more than 10 years has left the country of Sierra Leone and its people devastated. The struggle for political power and the control for a region of diamond deposits in the country have left villages, schools, Churches, and farms destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of children became orphans, of whom more than 15,000 were conscripted and as many as 1.2 million people were amputated by fighting soldiers. Now the war is over, and there is relative peace. But the children and surviving families are yet to begin the healing process. In 2005, Action Africa undertook a maiden program to assist the children of Sierra Leone. Using our unique “Surround-a-Child” sponsorship approach, Action Africa engaged the services of a local Catholic nun who now collaborates with teams of teachers, medical personnel, parents and guardians and clergy in surrounding children with educational, nutritional, counseling, and emotional support so they have a change to grow into responsible adulthood.

In September of 2006, Action Africa launched a series of drives, soliciting assistance from parishes, hospitals and individuals for items such as books, computers and other school materials that are in great demand in schools as well as new and fairly used clothing, hospital materials and medical items for the people of Sierra Leone. Thanks to the generous contributions and donations from different Catholic communities, schools, hospitals, indigenous local communities, individuals, and the Action Africa team and volunteers in the area, the container was successfully loaded and is on its way to Sierra Leone where a team of Action Africa Volunteers are awaiting to welcome our love and friendship.

We continue to be grateful for your partnership in Action Africa's programs in Health, Education and Economic generativity. Continue your support for the children as we rejoice in watching them achieve their dreams. Please tell others about Action Africa.

/s/ **Bernadette F. Bangura, Program Director**

## Lent 2007

*Lord of all creation. Lord of heaven and earth,  
be Lord of all my hopes and dreams.  
Protect me from the trap of self-sufficiency and  
preserve me  
from even the hint of a suggestion that I  
can make my own grass grow,  
or bring the trees of my talents to life.  
But more than anything I ask you to preserve me  
from despair.  
No matter how dark the days, how deep  
the disappointment;  
no matter how humiliating the defeat  
or great the loss,  
you are always there to bring me back to life.  
That is springtime for me. That is hope forever green.  
That is truth unchangeable, love undying, leading,  
as you alone can lift and lead me  
to everlasting life.*

.....by **William J. Byron, SJ**  
from his book A Book of Quiet Prayer



March, 2007



**March Calendar**

<b>Thurs. 3/1</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>St. Anthony's Lenten Series, Fr. Tuck Grinnell, A Spiritual Walk with God through Rome", page 5</b>
<b>Thurs. 3/8</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>St. Anthony's. Dolores Leckey "Jessica Power: From Poetry to Prayer" , page 5</b>
<b>Thurs. 3/15</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>St. Anthony's. Little Sister of Jesus. "Art as Prayer", page 5</b>
<b>Sun. 3/18</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>PAX. Jerry Hall, SJ, Celebrating the Faith of Christ: Liturgy in Intentional Community, page 5</b>
<b>Thurs. 3/22</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>St. Anthony's. Mary Lou Sleevi, The unveiling of "Star-Struck Waters, page 5</b>
<b>Sat. 3/24</b>	<b>7:00 pm(?)</b>	<b>Nova Adult Formation, Baptism, page 4</b>
<b>Thurs. 3/29</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>"The Passion in Art" – Fr. Mark Lane, page 5</b>
<b>Thursdays in March</b>		<b>12:14 pm – 12:45 pm Interfaith Peace Circle, page 6</b>