

Chair Notes

This Epiphany period from Christmas to Lent finished appropriately with Isaiah's "See, I am doing something new!" It's not often we see "!" in our scriptures and so it gets our attention as did Joe Kenna's bubbling forth about "juicy" faith. He did so with a welling up of multiple aspects of an effective/affective faith – one that heals, says "YES", delivers, is contextual and affirming, is embedded in community (shared among individuals), one that is bold, risky, taking a gamble while trusting, persistent and resourceful. A faith that makes a way where there is none, a door where there is no door. This is no anemic faith that indicates, if we can't do it, we just have to live/deal with it.

This door opening is quite in contrast to the end of January where Tom Reese focused on Jonah in the whale. Jonah was afraid of success in being asked to preach to all hated nations, afraid they might actually convert. Bill Callahan led us further in confronting two wolves – one toxic and divisive with fear/anger and one welcoming with hope, truth, love, praise – and asking which one we feed.

And even in feeding the latter we heard from Quinn about Job's lament about the drudgery of life on earth which is ephemeral as breath and about the hope in God being delusional (opiate of the people) and not in touch with the realities of life. Is Jesus a trick on us? Quinn then looked at what Jesus Himself did, not stingy in His efforts but focused/intentional in seeing what could be done to listen to God's Spirit, to heal the world, to heal the spirit.

Quinn asked us what we do to touch God's Spirit so we can touch our own spirit and the world.

Jim Hug joined us once again and led/guided us in thought, word, action and emotion to look at those whom we exclude and the heavy realities confronting some of us – disease, unemployment – and seeing Jesus as one who enables others to touch God's Spirit and to heal and be healed in Spirit if not in body. Jesus was not here so much as a healer but

as an enabler – an enabler for us to gather deeper in the quiet within to be open to the power of the spirit. As we come out of this meeting with spirit and consciousness into our thoughts and actions hopefully we can retain that focus we found deep within.

Finishing this cycle of ordinary time with a "juicy" faith was very supportive of our February General Meeting. We discussed what new steps we might take in celebrating women's spirituality particularly as shown to us by ordained women as well as others in our midst. Hopefully Bridget Mary can join us when she returns in April and bring us up to date on where she is in her ministry. We also discussed Nova's listserv and sought what can be done to be more inclusive without being overwhelming. A work group was formed to see what specifically could be done to be most helpful.

Nova Community gave the go ahead for the September retreat to focus on "Music for Soulmaking" and did so early enough to allow adequate preparation. We finished by looking at the increasing costs for our "sacred" space and wondering about alternatives. We heard some pros and cons about current arrangements and discussed what we may be missing and what we don't want to lose in creating "sacred" space. All agreed that hearing each other in liturgy was a problem; standing up to speak was suggested and already proved quite helpful.

Re increased costs we were reminded of the need to review our own individual contributions to see if we each need to increase them, even if slightly. Does Social Justice and Liturgy need a COLA – a cost of living adjustment? a cost of celebrating adjustment?

Lent is now upon us and see, we are doing something new, with benevolence aforethought and much planning.

Namaste,

~Eric

NOVA Catholic Community
<http://nova.novacommunity.org>
 NOVA Photos <http://web.mac.com/dicarroll/Nova>

March Birthdays, etc.

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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

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

- 2 Helen Gettys Michie
- 3 Jessica Massey
- 7 John Tarrant
- 8 Cece Michelotti
- Peter Reich
- Kate Connelly
- Eric Robinson
- 9 John Iskander
- Marlene Shade
- 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 Kathy 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 22....2009**



Liturgies: Year B— Cycle I

For inclusive Readings and Music Selections go to nova.novacommunity.org, member section, Documents/Liturgy Info. Please give all music selections to the Music Liaison the Sunday before your liturgy.
LITURGIES AT KENMORE

MARCH MUSIC LIAISON Gloria Mog

Reminder: *During Lent, please arrive a little early and enter the meditative walk in silence.*

March 1 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Bill Callahan – Gloria Mog
Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1: 12-15

March 8 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Jim Coriden – Catherine Loveless, Carolyn & Gen Schmitt
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15-19
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

March 15 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Joe Kenna – Carmela Ormando
Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Psalm 19:8-11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

March 22 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Jim Hug, SJ – Kopp and Cece Michelotti
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Psalm 137:1-6
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

March 29 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. – Annunziatas
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

APRIL MUSIC LIAISON Gloria Mog

April 5 – Palm Sunday

Bill Callahan – Mike Timpane et al.
Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philemon 2:6-11
Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

April 9 – Holy Thursday

Quinn Connors, O.Carm. – Dianne Carroll et al.
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

April 10 – Good Friday

Meg Tuccillo
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 11 – Easter Vigil

Joe Kenna – Jeanne Clarkson, Marie Keefe
Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-14
Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5-11; Exodus 14:15-15:1
Psalm 30:2-13; Romans 6:3-11
Mark 16:1-7

April 19 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Bill Callahan – Clyde Christoffersc
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

April 26 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Bill Callahan – Larry and Cathy Goldschmidt
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48



Lenten Theme: *Let your heart speak*

The Lenten team has decided to focus our liturgies and reflections this year on discerning and cultivating the wisdom within. “Deep within, I will plant my law, not on stone, but in your heart.” In the end, it is not in the books or seminars or lengthy discussions that we will learn who God is for us, but rather in the searching of our heart. Thus, during Lent there will be a focus on listening, meditative prayer and song, silence and internal reflection. The labyrinth was chosen as a symbol of this “walk within”. It is a walking meditation that leads you round and round and ever deeper into the truth of your being. At the center one pauses for reflection and inspiration before finding one’s way back out into the world – renewed and often having experienced a deep sense of the Divine within.

Each Sunday we will begin by entering the liturgical space through a meditative walkway and arriving at the altar – the heart of our liturgical experience. Everyone will be asked to pause for a moment before taking their seats. Liturgies will take place in the round emphasizing the need to stay focused on what is central to your heart. Participants are asked to come a little early to leave time for the meditative walk and to prepare themselves in silence for the Lenten reflections.

Labyrinth Walk: Friday, March 20th



In keeping with our Lenten theme and symbol, Nova is invited to participate in a community labyrinth walk at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington at the corner of Arlington Blvd. and George Mason Drive. We will meet there at 7:30 p.m. for a brief orientation and then walk the labyrinth each at his/her own pace. The labyrinth is open that evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. People who are interested in meeting for dinner beforehand can gather at the nearby Crystal Thai Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. The Crystal Thai is in the Arlington Forest Shopping Center at Arlington Blvd. and Park St.

Additionally, there are open labyrinth walks at the Living Labyrinths for Peace Center, 57 N St., Washington, DC 20001 (about one mile from

Union Station). Walks are arranged by appointment with Sandra Wasko-Flood, 703-217-6706. Artist Sandra Wasko-Flood, a member of Comunitas, has created an interactive art labyrinth with glass light boxes. Check it out at www.labyrinthsforpeace.org. These sites may be under development, also check <http://www.livinglabyrinthsforpeace.org/events.html> for more info.



NOVA 2009 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Where: Kenmore Middle School
Time: 10:15 am
Presider: Bill Callahan

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Where: The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment (formerly the Woman's Club of Falls Church) 222 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, one block north of Route 7). Parking is available in the municipal lot between the State Theater and Rt. 7 and in the office condo lot next door. Please do not park in the State Theater lot.
Time: Gather between 6:30-6:45 pm. Liturgy begins at 7:00 pm.
Presider: Quinn Conners, O.Carm.

This is the one NOVA occasion where space is limited and an RSVP is required. Please call Cathy Goldschmidt at (703) 527-7447 cmgolds@comcast.net by April 4 to let us know how many will attend and to receive your meal assignment. Thanks!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Where: Kenmore Middle School—Black Box Theatre (near the main entrance)
Time: 8:00 pm
Presider: Meg Tuccillo



EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY APRIL 11

Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA 22124 (In the Chapel)
Time: Gather 7:15 p.m. Liturgy begins 7:30 pm
Presider: Joe Kenna

In keeping with past custom, there will be an agape following the Easter Vigil liturgy. Please bring finger food to share. Beverages will be provided.



IRAQ Casualty Toll

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

US Military Deaths	4,251
Suicides	176
Missing or Captured	1
Civilian Deaths**	30,723 — 273,378+
American Wounded	
(reported)	31,010
(estimated)	100,000+

**documented to 2/26/2009. This number may be seriously understated.

Afghanistan Casualties: 652
(Operation Enduring Freedom)
American Wounded (reported) **2,700**

Source:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>

More than 103 times as many people have been killed in these wars and occupations than in [all terrorist attacks in the world from 1993-2004](#). About 241 times as many people have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq than in the ghastly attacks of September 11, 2001.

Source:

www.unknownnews.net/casualties.html

NOVA is praying for ...



Joe Bonsignore ... is home from the hospital and recuperating very well. Please bring him your prayers, but not food.

+

Jim Furlong . . . is undergoing several health issues. He needs your love, prayers, and help. Check with Cece Michelotti if you can prepare a special meal (has restricted diet) or better, take him out to lunch! Also, he enjoys a good joke sent via email.

+

Nancy Veldhuis . . dad has passed away after a long and challenging illness. Nancy, her brother, their children and everyone associated with her dad would appreciate your prayers. [see page 7]

+

Warren Reich ... is really scheduled for surgery this time. This is planned to take place at the end of March. Let's pray that the procedure will be successful.

+

Sister Adriana . . . is celebrating her 25th anniversary as a missionary in Nairobi. We pray that God continues to use her gifts for at least 25 more years. [see page 13]

Lord, hear our prayer.

Who would Jesus bomb?

News . . .

Gunston volunteers needed



Nova volunteers distribute bags of non-perishable food, cereal provided by Nova, perishable (eggs, milk, meat, etc) items picked up at the Arlington Food

Assistance Center warehouse on the night of distribution and produce items every other week picked up by Eric Carroll at the produce markets downtown(funded by the Nova Peace & Justice budget). The distribution takes place at the Gunston Middle School Recreation Center in Arlington. Many volunteers have been active in this project for a dozen years and others are more recent. All love their work and would love to teach new Nova folks how it's done. So if you would like to volunteer: email Dianne Carroll diacarroll@comcast.net or call 703-536-2616

~Dianne

SCHEDULE:

March 5: Marie P, Ted/Carolyn Miller

March 12: Eric, Marie-Claire, Cathy G

March 19: Tim, Jerry, Matt Heckler
(student), Lani

March 26: Glen/Syd

April 2: Eric Marie Claire, Cathy G

April 9: Holy Thursday

Nova celebration Lani will help

April 16: Glen, Syd, Lani

April 23: Kopp/Cece Michelotti, Gloria,
Marie K

April 30: Marie P, Tim, Jerry, Lani

Obituary of Nancy's dad . . .

On Thursday, February 12, 2009. JOSEPH E. CARROLL, JR. of Alexandria, VA; beloved husband of the late Hilda K. Carroll; devoted father of Nancy C. Veldhuis and her husband John Veldhuis of Annandale, VA and Joseph E. Carroll, III and his wife Nancy H. Carroll of Waldorf, MD; loving grandfather of Gregory N. and Christian A. Swanberg, Joseph E. Carroll, IV and his wife Julie S. Carroll, Alicia S. Maxey, Michael W. Carroll; great-grandfather of Brittany Swanberg and Adam and Andrew Carroll, and brother to Cecilia O'Toole. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 25 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at MURPHY'S FUNERAL HOME, 4510 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 26 at St. Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 Cathedral Ln, Arlington, VA 22203. Interment will follow at the Quantico National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Palliative Care Service, Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) Foundation.

Gunston needs and numbers

To: NOVA cereal buyers;

Given the increased numbers at the food distribution at Gunston you might want to increase by 1 box or maybe there are folks out there who have been wanting to remember to bring the cereal - here is your reminder...

The Arlington Food Assistance Center client count for the week ending January 31, 2009 was 1,036 families. These consist of 1,895 adults and 1,240 children. There are currently 2,058 active client referrals. One year ago, the client count was 848 families. Two years ago, the client count was 692 families.

Recently at Gunston there were 67 clients - a large increase.

~Dianne

SECOND COLLECTIONS 2008

January 6, 2008

A student in the Hilt program at Jefferson School in Arlington had encountered significant hardship recently. She was involved in 2 accidents which required several weeks in a wheelchair and she continues to have a limp. In addition her father ended his own life over the Christmas holiday. The family is experiencing significant financial hardship and the rent needed is \$1000. Nova collected \$1000 for the rent

January 20, 2008

Meg Tuccillo announced the need for blankets for the homeless in Arlington on the streets (temp was 20 degrees)
750.00 was collected for blankets and long underwear.

February 3, 2008

Souper Bowl of Caring

Mikaela Kane brought a soup bowl and collected money for AFAC on this Super Bowl Sunday. Money will be used for food for the distributions in Arlington.
\$455.00

Bill Meyer received \$300.00 in emergency discretionary funds from the Nova Treasury for a family in need on the same Sunday.

February 17, 2008

Nancy Veldhuis took a collection to send to John in Uganda for the Kenyan refugees
\$600.00 was collected

July 27, 2008

Mary Grace gave a presentation about her upcoming trip to Iraq with the Christian Peacekeepers Team. She was required to raise \$3000 for the trip. She put out a basket for donations and Nova collected \$465. This amount completed her required amount and gave her some money to pay for shots, passport and "pocket money".

December 14, 2008

A second collection was taken to provide available monies for emergency rental assistance for families who are not able to secure help. This effort of Nova's is to help keep families from eviction. \$1800.00 was collected.

submitted by Dianne Carroll/Peace and Justice Committee

Praying with the Mystics Series

Make a Date with a Mystic (continuing)

A Free Series and Open to the Public

Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm

January - December 2009

"When I think of mystics, I think of ordinary people living out an incredibly intimate experience of relationship with God - gifted, too, with wisdom, grace and spiritual communion. And I wonder what the message is for me in my life today."

Please join us Tuesday evenings as we immerse ourselves in the stories of fourteen ordinary men and women who led extraordinary, God-gifted lives. Learn what they have to teach us today and how their lives can still inspire and influence us.

Each evening will include an introduction to the mystic, prayer, and small group sharing. No registration necessary. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

- March 3
7:30-9pm
- Bridgit, Patrick & Columba** - patron saints of Ireland; Patrick preached and taught throughout Ireland; Columba founded the monastic community on Iona; Bridgit founded a double monastery for nuns and monks and also a school of art.
Led by Carole Crumley
Location: Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD
- April 7
7:30-9pm
- Hildegard of Bingen** - a German abbess, artist, author, counselor, linguist, naturalist, scientist, philosopher, physician, herbalist, poet, visionary and composer.
Led by Liz Ward
Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, 7720 Alaska Avenue, Washington, DC
- May 5
7:30-9pm
- Jean-Pierre de Caussade** - a French Jesuit priest and spiritual director known through his writings, *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, and his posthumously-published letters of instruction.
Led by Leslie Miller
Location: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA
- June 2
7:30-9pm
- John Woolman** - an 18th Century itinerant Quaker preacher, who traveled throughout the American colonies, advocating against slavery, war and the plight of the poor.
Led by Bill Dietrich
Location: St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 14100 Darnestown Rd, Germantown, MD

Living Hope: The Well of Life
WomenCircles Retreat Week-end

April 24-26, 2009

Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday 3:00 pm

Blue Mountain Retreat Center - Knoxville, Maryland

"Within each of us is a holy well, a place in which the living waters of gratitude, wisdom, creativity and deep communion with Spirit continually flow." -Joan Borysenko, "A Peaceful Heart in a Busy World"

Cultivating hope as a source of energy, inspiration, joy and motivation seems particularly critical in this time of fear and discouragement. This retreat will focus on the "practice" of hope vs. that of despair and pessimism. We are using the metaphor of drawing water from a well in recognition that hope is as vital for the soul as water is for the body.

Come join us in creating a community of hope as we explore how to build and sustain this life-affirming energy within. Meditation and movement, journaling and song, poetry, artistic creations and the gift of time with nature and silence, all help to create a "holy well" of living hope.

Blue Mountain Retreat Center is located just outside Harpers Ferry, W.Va. in the Blue Ridge Mountains, less than 2 hours from the DC area. Set on 27 acres of secluded wooded land, this recently opened retreat center has spacious meeting areas, comfortable bedrooms (2-3 beds/room), two large fireplaces, a wrap-around deck and a hot tub. Food contributions and preparation will be shared by the group.

Fee: \$325 if registered by 3/24 - \$350 after. A \$100 deposit holds your reservation until 3/24 when the balance is due; no refunds after 4/6. Please call Gloria Mog (703) 550-4164 with any questions.

Limited to 15 participants - register early!

BREAD for the WORLD
Offering of Letters (Postcards) 2009

Writing (during end of liturgy) March 15
Offering postcards at mass March 22
Mailing all NOVA postcards (and letters) March 23

For this next BFW Offering of Letters, I have decided to try a bold new thing. I am *asking EVERY MEMBER* of NOVA (of voting age) to handwrite at least one postcard to Congress (preferably 3) simply asking your congressperson(s) to: **Reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act** and

Make foreign assistance more effective.

Postcards, addresses, pens and stamps will be provided at the liturgy on March 15.

For anyone who misses the March 15 liturgy, materials will also be provided **before** liturgy on the 22nd. Carmela Ormando, who is planning on the 15th, will be working with me on this project.

We hope to be able to include a related activity for the children during the usual "story time".

Any NOVA member anywhere can write these postcards (or letters) at home. Do your best to remember to bring them on the 22nd to be offered at the altar during the Eucharist. If you won't be attending these liturgies, try to mail your own cards on Monday, March 23. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW MANY CARDS YOU MAILED AND TO WHOM.** Bread for the World keeps a record of the number of letters that are generated by each Offering of Letters campaign. I would like to be able to include, for NOVA, any letters you write about hunger issues at any time. I would still encourage you to write letters whenever you are willing. These are more effective; but postcards e-mail and phone calls are also helpful.

This particular offering is especially important. More than twice as many people are struggling to feed their families now than before the economic meltdown. These numbers are rapidly rising. Many are experiencing life-or-death crisis. Yet other voices in congress are saying we must cut such social programs. Please take part in this effort. **NOVA can make a difference here.**

Peggy Meyer 703-750-9214 billpegm@aol.com

PAX Community 40th Anniversary Lecture Series

Post-Vatican II Intentional Eucharistic Communities: Theological and Practical Issues

A series of lectures, offered by the PAX Community to celebrate its 40 Anniversary Year, open to the Christian community of the Greater Washington area. **All talks begin on Sunday at 6:00 PM** and will last approximately 90 minutes (including discussion and questions). Refreshments will be served after the sessions.

For more information (or in the event of inclement weather), call Patti Wilson at (703) 241-1910 (pattishanahan@yahoo.com). All talks will be held at **St Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Old Georgetown Pike, McLean VA** (approximately ¾ mile inside Beltway). Admission is free. Reservations are *not* required. The speaker sessions will be as follows:



Sunday liturgies are celebrated at 8:45 am at St Luke Orthodox Church, McLean, VA.

Date	March 22nd (Sunday)
Topic	Social Justice and the Intentional Eucharistic Community
Speaker	Marie Dennis , Director Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Co-President Pax Christi International, Member of the Pax Community, author.

Date	April 19th (Sunday)
Topic	Christology and the Intentional Eucharistic Community: What are They Saying about Jesus, the Christ, today?
Speaker	Donald Buggert, O.Carm , STD, Professor of Systematic Theology, Washington Theological Union

Date	May 3rd (Sunday)
Topic	Ministerial Priesthood Among the Baptized
Speaker	Theresa Koernke, IHM , PhD, Professor of Word and Worship, Washington Theological Union.

PALM SUNDAY:

IT WAS PALM SUNDAY AND, BECAUSE OF A SORE THROAT, FIVE-YEAR-OLD JOHNNY STAYED HOME FROM CHURCH WITH A SITTER. WHEN THE FAMILY RETURNED HOME, THEY WERE CARRYING SEVERAL PALM BRANCHES. THE BOY ASKED WHAT THEY WERE FOR. "PEOPLE HELD THEM OVER JESUS' HEAD AS HE WALKED BY."
"WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT," THE BOY FUMED, "THE ONE SUNDAY I DON'T GO, HE SHOWS UP!"

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

ONE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING AS THE MINISTER WAS PREACHING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON, HE REACHED INTO HIS BAG OF PROPS AND PULLED OUT AN EGG. HE POINTED AT THE EGG AND ASKED THE CHILDREN, "WHAT'S IN HERE?" "I KNOW!" A LITTLE BOY EXCLAIMED. "PANTYHOSE!! "

Join Christian Peace Witness for Iraq in Washington!

WORSHIP & WITNESS

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 pm
Washington Convention Center

Featured Preachers & Speakers include:

Tony Campolo - author, pastor, social activist, sociologist, and passionate follower of Jesus

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr. - minister, community activist, president of the Hip Hop Caucus, and US Air Force Reserve Veteran

Sr. Dianna Ortiz - US born survivor of torture in Guatemala, Founder of Torture Abolition and Survivors' Support Coalition International

Elizabeth McAlister - peace activist and co-founder of Jonah House

Daniel Berrigan - Catholic priest, poet, peace activist

Worship will be followed by a procession to the White House that evening, and a

WITNESS AND NONVIOLENT ACTION

at the Capitol the following morning
Thursday, April 30, 9:00 am

ALSO:

Wednesday, April 29
National City Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW

Opening Convocation 12:30-1:30 pm
Nonviolence training 2:30 pm

April 29-30, 2009: Join Christian Peace Witness for Iraq in Washington!

On the 100th day of the new administration, come to Washington, D.C. for the third national Christian Peace Witness for Iraq event. Join us in the nation's capital for witness and worship Wednesday evening and nonviolent action and advocacy on Thursday to call on the new president and Congress to end the war and occupation in Iraq, support a comprehensive peace process, end the policy and practice of torture and meet human needs at home.

<http://christianpeacewitness.org/>

Lent 2009: Repent, Return, Restore A Lenten Prayer for the 6th Anniversary of the War in Iraq

by Johnny Zokovitch

Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. – Joel 2:12

O God of peace:

Let our nation **return** to the ways of God, the ways of justice and mercy, so absent in the vengeance and greed which drove the decision to invade and occupy Iraq.

Let us **fast** and repent of torture, violence, extraordinary rendition, the employment of mercenary forces like Blackwater, and let us **return** to our belief in the rule of law, the practice of diplomacy, and the desire for peace.

Let us **weep** for all those who have suffered on both sides, all those lives irrevocably broken by the violence of this war.

And let us **mourn** the dead—our nearly 5,000 soldiers and the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and children.

Let our hearts break and our souls wail for all those who have been lost to us.

And finally, dear God, let our troops **return** home

and let us **return** Iraq to its people, supporting them in rebuilding and reconstructing their devastated nation.

During this season of Lent, this will be our prayer, supported and deepened by our fasting and action:

No more war in Iraq. No war! Never again!
Amen.

[Pax Christi Lenten events](#)

[from Sister Adriana, Nairobi]

Nairobi, January 28, 2009

Greetings of peace and joy to you and to all the members of NOVA. Congratulations for your new president Barack Obama. This event has made history and has lifted up the hope of millions of peoples all over the world. We all hope and pray that he may be open and willing to be guided by the Spirit of God as he leads the US. Yes, a new era is dawning for people and countries like Sudan where citizens await for real peace and reconciliation and dialogue so that some stability can be lived. Let us continue in our own ways to sustain this hope and contribute to make real the dreams and hopes of our people.

Thank you very much for your letters and cheques. I am enclosing a few fotos of the Adult Literacy Program for Women in Koach County. As you can see, the women are happy and eager to learn. We hope that one day they will be able to start small businesses and become economically self-supporting but above all that they may grow in self-appreciation and confidence; that they may learn their rights and duties as citizens of South Sudan. Little by little we are collaborating with the government and influencing in various settings with Christian values that will lead the people to reconcile, to reconstruct, to work for peace and to be ready for the coming elections (2009 July) and the Referendum in 2011.

God is great! We are all happy for the Catholic University in Juba. Thank you for sending the letter of Father Mike Schultheis, SJ. I have not met him yet since I have not been in Juba. Here in South Sudan the distances are great and there are not roads connecting one region to another. Transportation is by air. You may have heard also about the Solidarity Project, an enterprise undertaken by the World Wide Religious Superiors. They are funding two programs: one in the medical field by establishing a hospital and school of nursing in Waw, and the other in the education field – a teacher training institute in Malakal. Also, another project is the S. Sudan Radio Network which is establishing radio stations in the 9 dioceses of S. Sudan.

As for me, I am happy and grateful to God for all that I have received in these years of missionary life. I am celebrating my 25th anniversary of religious missionary life. Join me to praise and thank God for her fidelity and love. God's love and mercy has been so great for me that I cannot but say, Thank you. God has enriched me through so many people, through countries and cultures that I have encountered and lived in and through them God has called me to serve and love Him in serving and loving my brothers and sisters. Let us pray for each other and may the Spirit of God make us instruments of peace and reconciliation.

A big hug, con carino, Adriana

“Just to Be is a blessing. Just to Live is holy.”



Volunteers Needed for Short-term work in El Salvador and Guatemala in 2009

El Salvador: Teach English or beginning computer skills to high school-aged youth, August 7-16

Students in this program will be low-income, rural youth associated with *La Nueva Esperanza*, a women's community development association in Ilobasco, El Salvador. Volunteers do not need to be experienced teachers, but should enjoy teaching and working with youth. An orientation and materials for teaching English will be provided in Alexandria, VA prior to the trip. Volunteers will travel to El Salvador on a Friday, have two days of country orientation, and then teach for a week.

Guatemala: Teach English to high school students or basic machine sewing to women, Wednesday, November 4-Friday, November 13

This program is in collaboration with the Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario (ASDECO). Volunteers will stay in a guesthouse in Chichicastenango. Sewing classes will be taught at ASDECO's center in Chichi, but English classes will be taught in two rural communities located approximately a 30 minute drive from Chichi. An orientation and materials for teaching English will be provided in Alexandria, VA prior to the trip.

Why teach English in Central America?

English is required for high school graduation, but instruction is very weak, so classes help students academically. Tourism is an important part of Central American countries' GNP. Chichicastenango, in particular, is a major tourist destination. Students who wish to enter the field of tourism need to be able to speak English. In addition, goods produced in the US often are marked in English and operators need to be able to understand these markings.

Volunteers pay their own expenses

Volunteers pay their own expenses except for some lunches that may be provided if food is offered to program participants. Daily expenses are approximately \$35 per day, single occupancy. Needless to say the accommodations are simple. Local transportation ranges from \$60 to \$200, depending upon whether volunteers are able to coordinate their arrival. Airline tickets are usually slightly over \$600, making the total cost of the experience in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

You'd like to volunteer, but you don't speak Spanish or your Spanish is rusty?

Guatemala has many wonderful language schools. We have used APPE—Academia de Profesores Privados de Español located in Antigua, Guatemala, www.appeschool.com which provides 30 hours of individual instruction for \$150/week. Our experience is that for an individual with rusty high school Spanish, a week-long refresher course is sufficient for participation in our programs. Participants without any previous Spanish need two weeks of intensive

Co-partners of Campesinas is a US based, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that supports *La Nueva Esperanza* (*New Hope*) and other associations working for women's education and empowerment in developing countries in Central America. *New Hope* is an organization of sixty rural girls and women from four impoverished communities near Ilobasco, El Salvador, who meet weekly to learn income-producing skills and advance the education of members and their children. *Co-partners* also supports the *Asociación para el Desarrollo Indígena de El K'iche* (*ADIK*) and the *Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario* (*ASDECO*), indigenous organizations located outside of Chichicastenango, Guatemala with goals similar to those of *New Hope*.

February Celebrations

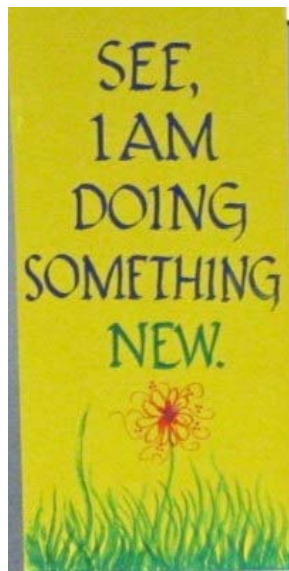


Jim Hug offers Eucharist



Blessing
of Mali
and
John

Quinn leads meditation



Teddi leads prayer for Peace in
Iraq and Afghanistan



March, 2009



NOVA Calendar

Every Thursday.... Food distribution at Gunston, see page 7
Every Sunday ... Cereal boxes brought to liturgy for Gunston
First Sunday of Month ... Paper products (towels, toilet) for Doorways

- Tuesday, March 3 – Bridgit, Patrick & Columba, page 9**
March 15-23 – Bread for the World Letter Writing, page 10
Friday, March 20 – Labyrinth Walk, page 4
Sunday, March 22 – Newsletter Deadline, page 2
Sunday, March 22 – PAX Lecture, Social Justice and IEC, page 11
- Tuesday, April 7 – Hildegard of Bingen, page 9**
April 9-11 – Holy Week, page 5
Sunday, April 19 – PAX Lecture, Christology and the IEC, page 11
April 24-26 – WomenCircles Retreat Weekend, page 10
April 29-30, Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, DC, page 12
- Sunday, May 3 – PAX Lecture, Ministerial Priesthood, page 11**
Tuesday, May 5 -- Jean-Pierre de Caussade, page 9
May 15-17, Intentional Eucharistic Communities Conference