

nova notes

Newsletter of the NOVA Community

May, 2007

Chair Notes

As I have written before, the period after Easter is my favorite time of the year. The Acts of the Apostles are my favorite readings. How could Peter so seemingly filled with human weakness transform to a person so filled with the Holy Spirit? How could he do such miracles? Jesus, for the most part, has left the scene but the mere mortals left behind carry on his miracles as without missing a beat. Faith was everywhere.

Real faith and belief in the gospel was expressed in Nicaragua. The first week of March, Marlene and myself joined Bill Callahan, John Mooney, Meg Sullivan, and John and Meg's children to Nicaragua to get a first hand experience of the of the great work the Quixote Center does in Nicaragua. The Quixote Center partners with the Pope John XXIII Center (the Center) which is the social justice arm of the (Jesuit) University of Central America. The Center works to bring housing, clean water and education to the poor of Nicaragua. We were provided an excellent education on the living conditions of Nicaraguans today. One of the leading economists in Nicaragua talked to us for two and a half hours about the economy of Nicaragua and he prospects for the people under the new administration of Daniel Ortega. We learned that

Nicaragua has no shortage of poor. Over 80 percent of Nicaragua's five million people earn between \$1 and \$2 a day. The average education of the rural Nicaraguan is third grade. The people in the cities average a sixth grade education. Fifty percent do not have a source of portable water in their homes. For the rural poor the water situation is serious. Their community wells are being impacted by a shortening of the rainy season. The wells are running dry before the rains come each year.



Six and eight year old children like this girl, in bare feet, with no parents anywhere to be seen, beg from automobiles at stoplights. <http://www.runet.edu/~gmartin/Nica%20-%20Managua%20photos.htm>



Large school, before repairs

We also heard from people what it was like growing up in Nicaragua and how the contra war of the 1980s affected the ordinary people of Nicaragua. It was quite distressing to hear how much misery the U.S. foreign policy brought to this country. Over half of the Nicaraguan national budget had to be spent on the war during those years. Many good people, including aid workers who worked with the Center were killed by the Contras. When I was in grammar school I was told that the Communists were the bad guys and the Americans were the good guys. I will never take U.S. foreign policy at face value again. I had known that U.S. foreign policy could be destructive but I had

(Continued on page 4)

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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.

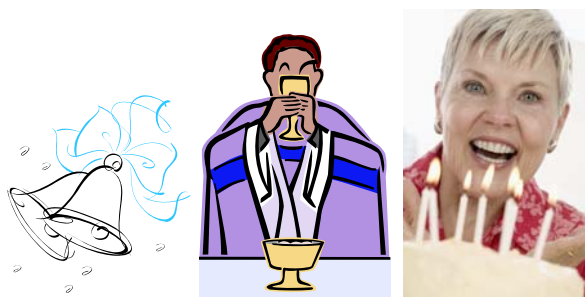
[Lacey Woods]
 Liturgies begin at 9:30 am—Gather at 9:15 am
 [Lacey Woods]

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

May Birthdays, etc.

- 3 Cathy Goldschmidt
Piper Powell
- 4 Joe Kenna (**Ordination**)
Jean Mendez
- 6 Ray Kemp (**Ordination**)
Lily Whalen-Peck
- 8 Ken Himes (**Ordination**)
Kettie Houck
Anne Passin
- 10 Dianne Carroll
Jim Hug
- 11 Elena Bailey
- 13 Patricia Greenfield
- 14 Quinn Conners (**Ordination**)
- 17 Katie Chaison
Jorge & Kathy Perez-Lopez (**Anniversary**)
- 18 Jim Hug (**Ordination**)
Alex Massey
- 20 Ella Carroll Teal
- 24 Anna M. Reich
Genevieve Schmidt
- 27 Alicia Puente Cackley
- 28 Tom Perez-Lopez
- 30 John Mooney
Doug McNeill (**Ordination**)
- 31 Elizabeth (Beth) Thompson

**Newsletter Deadline is
 May 27....**



Year C — Cycle 1

Liturgies

MAY MUSIC LIAISON Tim White

May 6 -- 5th Sunday of Easter

Jim Scullion, OFM – Betsy & Mike Marron
Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-13
Revelation 21:1-5
John 13:31-35

May 13 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Jim Coriden -- Kate Doherty
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

May 20 – 7th Sunday of Easter (Ascension)

Joe Kenna -- Cackleys
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
John 17:20-26

May 27 -- Pentecost

At Lacey Woods Park ***

Jim Scullion, OFM -- Peggy Meyer
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
I Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

NOVA's Summer Schedule in effect starting May 27.

Liturgy begins at 9:30 am.... Please congregate at 9:15 (or earlier if you would like to help set up).

LOCATION: Lacey Woods Park is on George Mason Drive near Washington Blvd in Arlington at the picnic Pavilion.

JUNE MUSIC LIAISON Tim White

June 3 -- The Holy Trinity

Ken Himes, OFM -- Helen Michie
Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-9
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 10 – 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan -- Jeanne Clarkson
I Kings 17:17-24
Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
Galatians 1:11-19
Luke 7:11-17

June 17 – 11th Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jim Scullion, OFM -- Emma Violand
2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11
Galatians 2:16, 19-21
Luke 7:36--8:3 or 7:36-50

June 24 -- Birth of Saint John the Baptist

Joe Nangle, OFM -- M Pinho & J Tarrant
Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80



Reports, Summaries...

(Continued from Chair Notes, page 1)



Community Center being built

never faced concrete examples of harm done by my government. Seeing harm done by my tax dollars was the part of the trip that disturbed me the most.

The best part of our trip was the visits to the villages that are helped by the Center. The Center doesn't provide all of the aid to build a house or sink a well. The communities have to provide a significant portion of the funds. Quite a working relationship has developed between the Center and the communities. The wells are low tech so the community can largely operate and maintain them on their own. The communities are very proud of their one room school houses. All of the books frequently fit into a small bookcase and the toys for the small children were nothing American children would even notice. Despite the problems, teachers



Ketzu
awarding
padlocks
and
deed

were very energetic and eagerly taught the children. The communities made the aid they received go a long way.

The week included some lively discussions on liberation theology and the Vatican's suppression of it. We met people who were very passionate about the promise of the Gospel. We met folks who were about to leave us to go to Guatemala to support colleges who had been threatened with death for working with the poor. It seems drug dealers and right wing reactionaries will do almost anything to keep things from changing. There was new hope that the dreams of the Sand-



Midwife
showing
New Well
and
showers

inista revolution would come to pass. When speaking of the original Sandinista revolution, a Nun we met who was living in Kentucky at the time of the revolution said "It was a government dedicated to treating its people according to the principals of the gospel. I had to come." She has been living in Managua for many years.

It appears that the faith of the disciples in the Acts of the Apostles is still alive today. We just have to know where to look.

Come to the calling forth at the Barretts on May 6th. Pot luck will start at 5 and the meeting will begin at 6. The Spirit is calling **YOU**.

Shalom

~John Tarrant

Meetings — Reports, Summaries...

NOVA's Recommitment Sunday

In preparation for our fortieth anniversary, this Sunday NOVA celebrated Earth Day with a penitential rite that acknowledged our involvement in diminishing creation including the loss of life at Virginia Tech and in Iraq and a recommitment to social justice. What better way to honor our foundation and history than by being fully alive to our oneness in creation and to redouble our prayers and our efforts to heal our brokenness?

We preceded the commitment ritual with a meditation and written prayers in the form of a leaf which we hung on a tree. These prayers will continue to be offered during the lead-up to our fortieth celebration.

Our first act of commitment is a step towards Earth Justice and being as green a community as possible by January. Each household received a CFL bulb, a first step towards the goal of all our homes (and those within our sphere of influence) to be using energy efficient lighting which significantly reduces our carbon footprint. The following are our words from the ceremony.

The Penitential Rite:

As we celebrate Earth Day, renewing the Earth and celebrating the web of life—
We regret: Our mistreatment of the natural world that diminishes our own dignity and sacredness, not only because we are destroying resources that future generations of humans need, but also because we are engaging in actions that contradict what it means to be human. **Lord Have Mercy**

We regret: Our lack of action to protect the life and dignity of the human person and to take care of all of creation that supports all persons. **Christ Have Mercy**
We regret: Our insensitivity to the effect our way of living has on all of creation and on all God's creatures and our need for ecological conversion to stewardship in God's universe. **Lord Have Mercy**



Recommitment Ceremony:

Everything in Creation cries out to Honor God. As we celebrate Earth Day, we seek to renew our role as stewards as we follow Jesus. We recommit ourselves:

- To ensure equity in sharing and renewing earth's resources
- To live simply so others may simply live
- To seek justice for all while living a healthy balance of consuming and contributing
- To foster equal rights and a place in the world for women, children and all those who are marginalized
- To take additional steps to ensure clean water and air for future generations
- To encourage and support access to education and basic healthcare for all people
- To make room for alternative approaches other than violence for addressing conflicts we have as individuals, as a community and as a society

Amen

~Marie Keefe



Reports—

NOVA's Community Life Ministry

Are you or a close family member ill or debilitated in some way?
Has someone in your family died?

Are you finding it difficult to cope with a problem at home, at school, on the job, within NOVA?

Do you need help in preparing family meals or meeting other family responsibilities?

Do you need some information about possible community resources, both those within the NOVA Community or the larger community?

These and other issues or concerns that arise in our lives fall within the ambit of NOVA's Community Life Ministry. This last year Cece Michelotti volunteered to serve as our Community Life Minister, and, as such, has been addressing a variety of needs for NOVA members including sending notes of support and/or thanks, sending get well cards, soup, or flowers for the sick, making visitation charts, or just making a phone call to check in on a member. But Cece needs our help.

As noted in a recent NOVA Liturgy, each of us has responsibility to minister to one another. This is what distinguishes community. But, we cannot be there at all times for every person. What this means for us as members, then, is that we need to help, to the extent we are able and we also need to identify needs, both our own and those of others, for the Community Life Minister.

Once Cece is made aware of a need or concern, she can pursue an appropriate way to resolve it. In this way, we might all better serve one another.

~Rosemarie Annunziata

Thank you, NOVA ...

From Sister Adriana, Nairobi, Kenya, Palm Sunday, 2007

Dear Carolyn and Ted:

Please thank the NOVA Community for the \$200 check for my mission in Leer. All the contributions we receive are used for the educational programs that we, Comboni Sisters, are carrying out in South Sudan. People all over South Sudan are thirsty for education and for the Word of God. We hope to be given land and possibilities to construct a secondary school in collaboration with the government.

We are three sisters in the community. Lily Akuma is from Uganda, Lorena Morales is from Costa Rica, and your Adriana from Ecuador. The three of us are studying to learn the Nuer language, which is beautiful but difficult. Most of it is based on intonation and one word can have lots of meanings. We can communicate with the people using simple words and short sentences



but we have still a lot to learn of the language and culture. The weather here is extremely hot at this time of year, and the winds are strong, bringing a lot of dust. There are many refugees coming back to Sudan and they get shock to see how the war has destroyed their land and displaced family members. Here in Leer we hope that the County Commissioner can work some changes. The engineers are not yet here to plan and delineate the town. Please, if you have the possibility, could you send us some cassettes of spiritual songs in English, if there are songs that speak of peace, reconciliation, etc. we will appreciate very much.

The photo shows me on the left holding a newborn baby, Lily is bending among the women, center. The banner shows the face of the founder of our order. May God bless you everyday and keep each one of you close to her heart. A big hug, con carino,

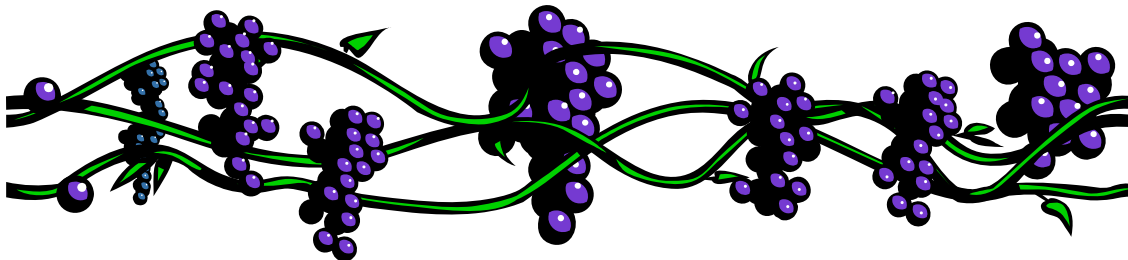
~Adriana

Important Dates & Activities

NOVA Calling Forth Meeting—Mark your calendar!

- What:** Nova Calling Forth Meeting
When: **May 6, 2007**
5:30 pm Pot Luck
6:30 pm Meeting Begins
Where: Rose and Jerry Barrett's Party Room
200 N. Maple Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046
How: Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage for the potluck
Why: The Nova Calling Forth meeting is one of the most important meetings of the year for a self-governing Intentional Eucharistic Community. It is during the annual Calling Forth meeting that the community chooses its leadership for the coming year.

Please be on time so that the Nova greeter who will let you into the building will be able to fully participate in the gathering.



May 20 liturgy. . .

Bishop Jackson Matovu and his wife, Lady Perusis, from the Anglican Diocese of Central Buganda will be visiting **Nova at liturgy on May 20**. Later that afternoon, the women of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church will host a tea for Lady Perusis at the parish hall and would appreciate it very much if the women of Nova could join them in welcoming her on her first visit to the United States. For those of you who participated in the Nova Ecumenical Study Group, you may remember the St. Barnabas church community as our hosts for a dinner as the group concluded its study of the Anglican faith.

Sunday, May 20, 3pm — 5pm
St Barnabas Episcopal Church Parish Hall
4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia 22203
Contact Nancy or John Veldhuis if you have any questions
(703) 750-1670



Holy Week, 2007



The Birch Family at Easter



NOVA 2007





May, 2007



Calendar

Sunday, May 6 – 5:00 pm – 9:30 pm, NOVA Calling Forth Meeting, Page 7

Sunday, May 20 Visit with Bishop Jackson Matovu, see page 7

Sunday, May 27 – 5:00 pm DEADLINE FOR NOVA NEWSLETTER, Page 2

Sunday, June 3 – 4:00 pm, Mosaic Harmony, Page 8

January 11-13, 2008 ... NOVA'S 40th Anniversary Celebration



Pray for Peace



Anne and Dianne