


nova notes
Newsletter of the NOVA Community May, 2008

Chair Notes

It has been a fascinating and rewarding two years serving the Nova Community as a co-chair. Little did I know the pleasures, educational opportunities, and challenges this would bring into my life when I accepted your call to serve.

I was rather new to the Community and was not at all sure that I could fill such big shoes. However, sometimes knowing very little is an advantage since you have no pre-conceived ideas about how things “should” be.

Working with John Tarrant, Eric Carroll, and my wonderful wife, Nancy, has been terrific. Having continuity through a two year commitment brings stability to the leadership role and allows for new ideas at the same time. I encourage the Nova Community to continue that pattern. I believe it will serve the Community well.

As I mentioned, I felt I knew very little about the role of co-chair and therefore encourage new members not to be shy and reticent in accepting this role if you are called forth. You will learn much and I believe contribute a great deal as well.

During the last two years we have seen a number of milestones. We observed our Community’s 40th anniversary with Spirit-filled celebration; we have had renewed focus on an Adult Forum program, the Affirmandi group has been ably led, growing in faith, and also teaching us in return; the Peace and Social Justice Committee continues to set an Olympian pace; the music group inspires us with their music each week; the Padre Cadre continues to stimulate and challenge us and joins us on the pilgrimage towards a faith filled life. These are by no means the only things Nova does

but are just the tip of the mountain.



After two years in the role of co-chair it is time to step down and call forth a new co-chair. This will allow new ideas to flourish and renew the enthusiasm that sets Nova apart.

The Holy Spirit will lead us in the right direction. The Holy Spirit just needs us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Love in our Community and serving as a co-chair provide that opportunity.

Many members of Nova have served as Nova chairs already but I hope you will also consider being called forth again. Your perspective may very well be what the Community needs at this time. With experience comes wisdom, the wisdom to assist the members of Christ’s church in their search for a stronger and deeper faith.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as co-chair of Nova these last two years.

~ John Veldhuis

May 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 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

**Newsletter Deadline is
 May 25....2008**

- 3 Cathy Goldschmidt
 Joe Nangle (Ordination - 50th Anniversary!)
 Piper Powell
- 4 Joe Kenna (Ordination)
 Jean Mendez
- 5 Robert Matthew Cambridge III (Matt)
- 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 Alex Massey
 Jim Hug (Ordination)
- 20 Ella Carroll Teal
- 24 Anna M. Reich
 Genevieve Schmidt
- 27 Alicia Puente Cackley
- 28 Tom Perez-Lopez
- 30 John Mooney
- 31 Elizabeth (Beth) Thompson

Liturgies: Year A — Cycle II

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.

MAY MUSIC LIAISON
Tim White

JUNE MUSIC LIAISON
Tim White

May 4 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Quinn Conners, O.Carm. – Betsy & Mike
Marron
Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8
John 17:1-11

May 11 – Pentecost

Joe Kenna – Linda Rosenberg, Susan Jelinek,
Kathy Scheimer
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
John 20:19-23

May 18 – Trinity Sunday

Joe Nangle, OFM – Barbara & Joe Formoso
Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9
Daniel 3:52-56
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

May 25 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (also Affirmation Sunday) At Lacey Woods Park***

Joe Nangle, OFM – Kate Doherty
Isaiah 49:14-15
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Psalm 62:2-3, 6-9
Matthew 6:24-34

***NOVA's summer schedule in effect starting May 25. Gather at 9:15 a.m. Liturgy begins at 9:30 a.m. LOCATION: the picnic pavilion at Lacey Woods Park on George Mason Dr. near Washington Blvd. in Arlington

June 1 – 9th Sun. in Ordinary Time

John Haughey, SJ – Carolyn & Ted Miller
Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32
Psalm 31:2-4, 17, 25
Romans 3:21-25, 28
Matthew 7:21-27

June 8 – 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bill Callahan – Clyde Christofferson
Hosea 6:3-6
Psalm 50:1, 8, 12-15
Romans 4:18-25
Matthew 9:9-13

June 15 – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna – Emma Violand, Jim Weber
Exodus 19:2-6
Psalm 100:1-3, 5
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:36-10:8

June 22 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joe Kenna – Anne Passin
Jeremiah 20:10-13
Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 1:26-33

June 29 – Solemnity of St. Peter & St. Paul

Jim Scullion, OFM – Meg Sullivan & John
Mooney
Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Liturgy Tip

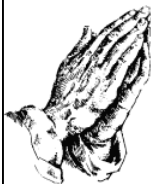
The Sacramentary

The Sacramentary is the large red book that contains all the standard parts of the Mass, the various Eucharistic Prayers, special prayers for special times, etc. There are 3 covers for the book:

- a white one for the Easter Season,
- green for Ordinary Time, and,
- purple for Advent and Lent.

Nova also owns a simple carved wooden book stand that can be used to support the open Sacramentary on the altar. This elevates the book several inches so that it is easier for the priest to read the Mass parts and to find the different sections of the book as needed. The stand is in the closet, planners should feel free to set it out as part of the altar preparation.

~Gloria Mog



NOVA is praying for ...

Anne Passin has been through Hell and Purgatory. **Frederick "Ted" Beacham**, Her father died on April 2nd. Our prayers are with Anne and all members of her family. Contributions in his memory may be made to Capital Hospice, 9200 Basil Court, Suite 200, Largo, MD, 20774-5337. To add to her grief her son, **Warren Passin**, was seriously injured in a jeep accident in San Antonio, TX, with both lungs punctured, broken ribs, pelvic fracture, etc. Prayers for his healing and for his family's wellbeing as they navigate this very trying time were offered continually and NOVA has/is witnessing the power of prayer as Warren has become stabilized and began the healing process. On April 30th, Anne reported: *We have arrived safely in Atlanta! The trip was arduous for Warren, but I think he, Glen and I at least began to feel a bit lighter the closer we came to home. Warren continues to make progress daily. With his particular injuries, a challenge is just finding a comfortable position, especially for sitting and sleeping, even with meds and the array of props we have been using. Nights are particularly difficult and much needed sleep remains elusive. We arranged for Kate to fly back to Atlanta last Sunday; she has returned to work and is doing well. They (like us) have a wonderfully supportive network of friends and coworkers. When I think back to the day of the accident and Warren's condition when I first saw him in the ER, his recovery thus far feels miraculous.*

+

Mary Grace's cousin, Mark Rosenberg was killed in Iraq. He was the son of her favorite cousin, Peter Buckland, and his wife Sheila. He was on his third tour to Iraq and had just been promoted to Colonel. Mark was 32 years young. He leaves behind his wife, Julie, and their two little boys, Max age 1 and Joshua age 3. Let us hold them in our hearts and our prayers.

+

Nancy Veldhuis's father successfully underwent surgery but suffered complications and multiple strokes. Please continue to pray for peace for him and Nancy.

+

Ella Carroll Teal (Kirsten's daughter) has been hospitalized with Kawasaki disease (strep throat, high fever, dehydration, stiff neck, etc). She was released from the hospital on 4/29 but not yet able to return to school. Ella is still taking antibiotics and high doses of aspirin. Please continue to pray for Ella and her parents and grandparents during this trying time.

IRAQ Casualty Toll

US Military Deaths	4,066
Suicides**	No report
Missing or Captured	3
Civilian Deaths*	83,336—90,897
American Wounded	29,314
Returned to Service	16,307

* documented to 5/2/2008. This number may be seriously understated.

**Every day, five U.S. soldiers try to kill themselves. Before the Iraq war began, that figure was less than one suicide attempt a day.

Happenings —

Gunston volunteers for April

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

May Gunston schedule - Still need volunteers for May 22

May 1: Eric, Marie-Claire, Lani

May 8: Tim, Lani, Jerry

May 15: Kopp/Cece, Cathy G.

May 22: Marie P. + _____

May 29: Syd, Glen, Lani



End Homelessness in Fairfax!

We did it! The Board of Supervisors approved the Implementation Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community at its March 31 meeting. It was clear from the comments made by the members of the Board that your efforts made a real difference. Chairman Connolly referred to the people with the 'orange badges' in the audience, several supervisors mentioned the meetings with Faith Community representatives, and the discussion of the issues showed that they had read the Plan - definitely not the case in November. Chairman Connolly responded to a concern about the available resources by saying that this was an 'essential investment in fellow human beings' that needed to be made now despite the financial pressures that the County faces.

The full text of the Implementation Plan approved by the Board is available on the following web site:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>.



Happenings, continued —

Vigil for Peace: Confronting Violence through Prayer

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Arlington, Virginia

This is an invitation to Nova members to participate in *Vigil for Peace: Confronting Violence through Prayer* at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Arlington. We will open the Vigil on Monday, May 12, at 6:00 pm in the church with a welcome and a peace-centered homily by Joe Nangle. The church is located at 2700 S. 19th Street.

Beginning Monday, May 12, Vigil hours will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 11:00 to 12:00 and Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00. My own hope is that it will be a long-term witness by our parish, and thus a long-term opportunity for people of faith to pray silently in community for an end to violence in our lives, our country and our world. As an extension of the on-site Vigil, all people are invited to join in prayer while at work, at home, driving, etc., during those hours. Whether one can set aside 30 minutes or an hour once a week, or even once or twice a month, all participation is welcome.

There is no greater need in the world today than an end to violence. Violence challenges us in many forms throughout American society and throughout the world's societies. Each of us experiences a piece or pieces of violence in his or her life, whether directly or indirectly. A shortlist of examples would include war, domestic abuse, bullying, gun violence, genocide, economic exploitation, and substance abuse.

We have prepared a vigil booklet which will be available at the church for participants to use as an aid to reflection and prayer. Participants should feel free to bring their own material as well—whatever they find facilitates their approach to God in silent prayer for an end to violence—for peace.

All are welcome.

Peace be with you and yours.

Ken Fredgren—Coordinator,
Vigil for Peace



Update on Nova's Homeless Prevention Family Project

Jenny Carroll meets with the mom once a week and separately with the 3 older girls (not new baby) to have lunch at their school with them. The mom went back to work March 2 at her old job, Legal Seafood. The baby had some skin issues which the doctor said were allergy reactions to the paper diapers. With the project funds a Nova person made arrangements for diaper service for 3 months. Another Nova person donated a breast pump and went to her home to explain how to use it and get the humidifier started for the baby who was suffering from congestion. Issues resolved because of this help. The baby is healthy, growing, and happy. After 1 month at a sitter while Mom worked during the day and the girls went to school, she invited her ex-husband to pay for the sitter or care for the children and she would work some nights (evenings) and weekends. He agreed to come to the home and care for the children while she is working. She used her tax refund to pay the hospital bill and anesthesiologist. A Nova person has offered to give some budget assistance and Jenny will help make that happen. Nova will continue to pay the full rent until June and then reduce to 1/2 for 6 months. She continues to look for work that would include benefits.

If there is anyone in Nova who would like to tutor the mom once a week in English please contact Jenny (jilcarro@yahoo.com) or Dianne (703-536-2616)/diacarroll@comcast.net

Nova has been able to continue the commitment to the Homeless Prevention Program for emergency rental subsidy also. A family at an Arlington school was helped this winter to meet their rent payment due to unexpected crisis.

News, announcements . . .



The Center Dance Company Presents Spring Forward! A Joint Festival Performance on May 16, 17, and 18, 2008 and includes the following:

- "A Bluegrass Portrait" choreographed by Kathryn Fredgren (Kathy Fredgren attended our 40th Anniversary, Kathy has led liturgical dancing at many Nova liturgies)
- "Fiancées" from Swan Lake staged by Nancie Woods and Carolyn Carratini and two new works by Dana Tai Soon Burgess and Company
- "Fractures" and "Khybet"

The Performances will be held at Thomas Jefferson Community Theater. Tickets are \$12-\$20 and discounted tickets available for groups of 10 or more.

Performances are at 7:30 pm on May 16 and May 17. Sunday performance at 2:00 pm. Theatre address is 125 South Old Glebe Road, Arlington (Rte 50 & S. Glebe Rd). Call 703-522-2414 for handicapped seating. Visit www.arldance.org for additional info.

News, announcements . . .

Social Justice and Peace Committee Update

Our five topic groups on social justice issues have been imbued with Spirit and moving us on the way in the Learning phase in the last two months.

The Peace Group launched participation in the 1,000 feet of rope with prayer flags that got carried at the Peace Rally on the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq.

The Care of the Earth Group brought us a liturgy focusing on environmental justice as expressed in the Council of Bishops statement: "There can be no option for the earth without a preferential option for the poor." Folks had an opportunity to make personal commitments to action leading up to Earth Day.

The International Economic Development Group created a multifaceted panel informing us on microfinance/microcredit, the planned microlending work in the Dominican Republic by Emmanuel Church with the One Campaign, Lisa's experience through a foundation giving small grants to strengthen civil societies in such places as Tashkent, John's involvement with The Quixote Center's Quest for Peace in Nicaragua. Three books which will allow us to deepen our knowledge on international development were reviewed: The World is Flat, Three Cups of Tea, A White Man's Burden.

Looking ahead in after liturgy conversations:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 1 | Marlene Shade will present a framework of principles that will help us make informed, practical Care of the Earth decisions |
| June 15 | There'll be a panel from the Immigration Group |
| TBA | Domestic Poverty Group discussion |

~Marie Keefe

Obituary of Kathleen Rose Kennedy for SEPA-WOC newsletter

Kathleen Rose Kennedy, 65, of Harrisburg died on April 4, after collapsing at Mass on March 30 and not regaining consciousness. However, Kathleen would have been immensely pleased that her kidneys gave two people the gift of renewed life.

Readers would have met Kathleen at many SEPA-WOC events because she attended every event on women's and African-American rights, history of women's suffrage, women's ordination, Vatican II theology, anti-death penalty, and anti-war within about 200 miles of Harrisburg. Kathleen was always one of the first to the mike with a perceptive question or comment. She also frequently had letters on religious issues published in the Harrisburg newspaper. However, Kathleen was also a loyal, active member of the conservative parish where she was raised, giving her a cross familiar to many.

What you may not know about Kathleen is that she also loved baseball and baseball history, especially of the Negro Leagues, and often combined visits to women's suffrage sites with visits to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Additionally, Kathleen appeared as an eccentric senior citizen named Ethel Firecracker, who drives a hearse and attends her own funeral, in a quirky, independent film called "Guatemalan Handshake," which was released April 29 on DVD.

She received a B.A. and M.A. in theology from Catholic University in the mid 1960's. However, her career was as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Act 101 State Coordinator for Higher Education for the Disadvantaged. She is survived by one brother and his family.

Kathleen was a special person with a heart of gold, and her unique presence will be missed.

Marjorie Maguire, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

(submitted by Bernie Byrne)

News, announcements . . .



Pax Christi Metro D.C./Baltimore invites you to a day of learning and reflection

Flag or Cross?

Following the Nonviolent Jesus in a Time of War



Keynote Speaker: 9:30 a.m.

Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy
Founder of the Center for Christian Nonviolence

"Christian Nonviolence"

Saturday, May 10, 2008

9:00 a.m Registration

Trinity University
125 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC

*Closest Metro, Brookland/CUA, Red Line;
H2, H4, D8, 80 bus lines*

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. – Registration begins; complimentary continental breakfast (Rose Parlor)

9:30 a.m. – *"Christian Nonviolence,"* Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

11:00 a.m. – *"The Human Cost of War,"* with Katy Scott, *Military Families Speak Out*; Andy Shallal, *Busboys and Poets*; Phyllis Bennis, *Institute for Policy Studies*; and Donna Grimes, *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*

During Lunch (provided) we'll watch *Conviction*, a film about the Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares Action by Carol Gilbert, OP and Ardeth Platte, OP

1:30 p.m. – *"The American Church: Prophetic Response or Silent Consent?"* Afternoon panelists include: Joe Nangle, OFM, *Pax Christi Ambassador of Peace*; Ann McCarthy, OSB, *Past President of Pax Christi USA*; and Carol Gilbert, OP and Ardeth Platte, OP, *filmmakers and prisoners for peace*

4:00 p.m. – Mass with Monsignor Ray East

*Registration is \$35 before May 1; \$40 after May 1 or at the door. No one turned away for lack of funds.
Co-sponsored by Trinity Washington University Campus Ministry.*

Mail registration and scholarship requests to: Pax Christi Metro DC, 415 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017.
For more information, visit www.paxchristimetrodc.org or call Jack McHale at 571-334-2654 or jmchale@cox.net.

SIGN UP FOR FLAG AND CROSS ON MAY 10

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my registration plus \$ _____ as a contribution towards scholarships.
Please make checks payable to "Pax Christi Metro DC"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone/email: _____

Mail to:
Pax Christi Metro D.C.
415 Michigan Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
Attn: May 10, Flag/Cross

News, announcements . . .



BEHOLD Peace in the Holy Land SPEAKERS TOUR



"If we have paid this price,
and can sit and talk
and listen and make dialogue,
that's enough really. All
Palestinians and Israelis
CAN do it." - Mazen Faraj

Mazen Faraj & Rami Elhanan

Proud members of the

Parents Circle—Families Forum

an association of Israeli and Palestinian families
who have turned their shared bereavement
into a shared passion for peace.

Tuesday, May 13th

at **7:30PM** with Refreshments at **7:00PM**

St. Charles Borromeo Church Benedict Hall

3304 Washington Boulevard, Arlington VA.

1 block west of Clarendon Metro-Orange Line, behind Murky's.

Limited parking onsite; extra parking in neighborhood.

All are Welcome! Refreshments Provided!

Questions? 703-527-5500 x126 -or- mvertrees@stcharleschurch.org

<http://crs.org/act/speaker.cfmtour.cfm>

News, announcements . . .

Benefit Concert II



*A Concert to benefit
NOVA Catholic
Community's social justice
ministries in Arlington
and Central America*

**Come and enjoy an evening of music (and poetry)
from a variety of styles, periods and ensembles**

When: Sunday, May 18 - 7 p.m.

Where: Barcroft Community House
800 S. Buchanan Street (accessible from Columbia Pike or S.
George Mason Drive)
Arlington, VA

Refreshments will be served

Lent 2008 ...

Each Sunday during Lent this year the Peace and Justice Committee invited some of our Social Justice project sponsors or workers in the area of Domestic Poverty to create a prayer for the community to take home for praying during the week. Here are the ones that were offered.

Twilight Psalm by Anne Passin

O God, must I bear this cross
In a room not chosen
Assigned to me at twilight
Seated on wheels
That cannot take me
Where I wish to go

Thoughts—urgent, inarticulate stillbirths
Voiceless
My body does not function on their
schedule
I am inconvenient
Ashamed

By fate the last to leave
Waiting for passage
Resigned and rage-filled
O God, may I rest in peace

Prayer by Peggy Meyer

O God, when you look upon those who are living in poverty, you see many with physical or mental disabilities. Let them be seen by others as people of value, worthy of equal dignity and respect. Let them find work that affirms their worth and covers their expenses. Give them access to whatever assistance they need to:

- to maintain good health
- to move about freely
- to clean their homes
- to be safe

May all receive the blessing that Jesus said He came to give:

“That they might have life, and have it more abundantly”

Prayer by Jerry Barrett

Lord, NOVA members know we need your help.
We want to help our brothers and sisters who are hungry and homeless.
We feel the need to do this work in the name of justice and peace.

But we don't really understand the hungry and homeless.

We have never been hungry or homeless.

We have never experienced hunger.

Our cupboards and refrigerators are always full.

We've always had a comfortable place to live.

So we need Your help to understand how hunger feels.

How standing in line at Gunston feels.

How standing in line a second time feels hoping for an extra

quart of milk or a dozen eggs.

Help us understand how the homeless feel not having a place to call their home.

As we enjoy our comfortable homes, well fed and clothed, help us understand our brothers and sisters who have little to enjoy.

So we can better perform Your work on earth, help us understand and respect the hungry and homeless.

Prayer by Jenny Carroll

We pray for those who find themselves in crisis because:

- a job has been lost
- another child is on the way to an already full household
- a provider is deported
- a child is burned and in need of treatment
- the rent is raised
- they can't communicate their needs

For all these reasons and more we pray for them to have the resolve to find a solution; we pray for those assisting them to continue to be compassionate and understanding.

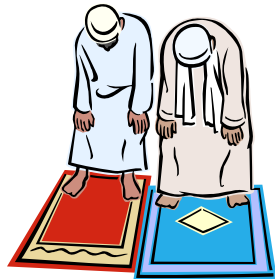
Lent 2008, continued ...

On Homelessness By Brian Carome

What does the Lord require of us?
When we stop seeing homelessness as a problem, homelessness will disappear. To really understand homelessness, we need to know and understand individuals who happen to be homeless. We get to know them by listening to their stories, their hopes, their fears, their dreams – all with an open mind. As we do this, their unique self presents itself and they become more like us. Or like a brother; an aunt; a son; or a mother. A problem disappears. In its place we see an opportunity – to help; to create; to comfort; to collaborate; to build; to work; to feel; to be more fully alive; to connect; to be more like Christ.
What does the Lord require of us?

Peace Prayer by the Cackley family

Abba God, we pray that you touch our troubled world with your peace. Help us to see a way to end the fighting in Iraq, an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. We think of all the places on this globe where hatred and conflict and killing afflicts humanity: in Israel and Palestine, in Darfur, in Kenya, in Afghanistan, in Korea, in Sri Lanka, in Colombia, in Kashmir, in Burma, in the Philippines, in Chechnya, in Kurdistan, in Chad, in New Guinea, in Somalia: hear our prayer and pour out your peace on our brothers and sisters in these places. Keep us from closing our eyes and turning our backs on the suffering of our world. Help us to see people as people, rather than as enemies. And finally, make us peacemakers in our own nation, our own communities, our own families. Help us, Abba God.



Prayers of the Women of the Chrysalis Community with Rev. Valerie Dixon York Correctional Institution, Niantic, CT

Introduction to Nova: As People of God “outside” prison walls, let us join with People of God “inside” as they pray in their own words for themselves and their families –
O loving, merciful, compassionate God, hear our prayers --
For patience to endure and to accept my situation
For wisdom to use this time to learn about myself
For courage to forgive myself and others and to make the changes that I need to make in my life
For my children and parents, for them all to feel lightness of their heavy hearts
For being safe, secure, and strong when I leave and for a healthy transition
For humility to ask for help when I need it
For finding a positive place in society once released and for creating productive lives for our ourselves and our families despite our “felony” labels
For strength to be who you created me to be – strength to dedicate my life to my dreams and to inspire others, strength to leave behind the past with no regrets and to start over again always trusting I will find the answers I need. I walk beside You in faith.
Amen



Recently, . . .

MS Walk 2008 — M.O.M. Team



Jim Scullion blesses Nova ...



Nova blesses Jim, whom we'll miss dearly



TRANSFORMATION

by Peggy Meyer



How could a lowly caterpillar
Ever imagine what it might be like
To experience life
As a magnificent butterfly?

Totally focused upon the tedious task of crawling,
It struggles moment by moment
To reach the next leaf.

Often, it gets to relish a satisfying meal.
Now and then, it falls from a tree and curls up in pain.

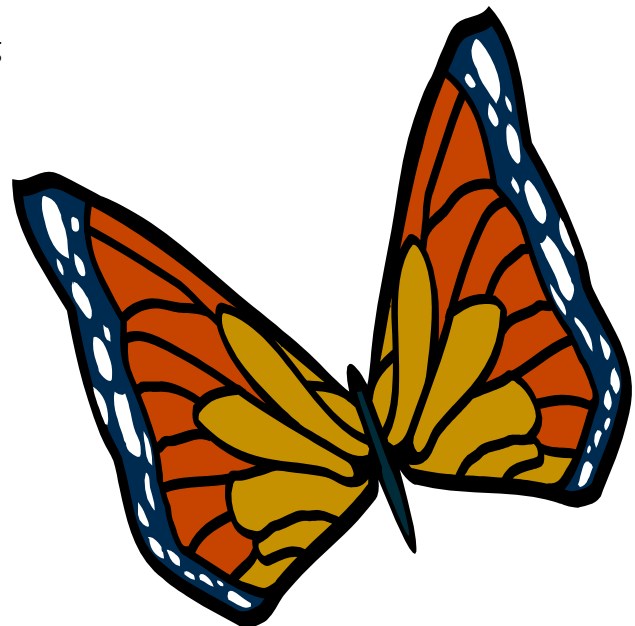
This lovely creature of God's making
Has not the slightest inkling
That it has always done the perfect things
To enable it to emerge from a chrysalis one day
transformed..

On days when my body and feelings are saying
That I am really nothing more than a worm,
I know for certain that this is a lie.

For I truly AM a butterfly,
Fashioned like no other.
My heart continues to soar.

I know the perfection I observed from the
skies is very real.
I still glory in my freedom.
I continue to rest in the peace of Christ;

And, most of all, I give thanks to our gracious
and loving Creator
For this blessed gift of joy !





May, 2008



NOVA Calendar

Every Thursday.... Food distribution at Gunston, see page 4
Every Sunday ... Cereal boxes brought to liturgy for Gunston
First Sunday of Month ... Paper products (towels, toilet) for Doorways

Saturday, May 10 ... Pax Christi, Flag or Cross, page 9
Monday, May 12 ... 6:00 pm, Vigil for Peace, OLQP, page 6
Tuesday, May 13 ... 7:00 pm, CRS Peace in the Holy Land, page 10
May 16-18, various times ... Center Dance Co, page 7
Sunday, May 18 ... NOVA Benefit Concert II, page 11

Sunday, May 25 ... LITURGY IS AT LACEY WOODS, page 3
... 5:00 pm, Deadline for June *Nova Notes*, page 2

Sunday, June 1 ... after Liturgy – Care of the Earth presentation, page 8
Sunday, June 15 ... after Liturgy – Immigration Group Panel/Discussion, page 8