

Sisters from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus stitch together bicentennial tribute

One colorful patchwork piece at a time, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus are stitching together a tribute to their foundress, Cornelia Connelly. And with a yearlong bicentennial celebration underway to commemorate Connelly's 200th birthday in January, the Sisters' quilt-making project couldn't have come at a better time.

With paint and vibrant fabric patterns in hand, a handful of Sisters from the New Sharon Retirement Community began working this month with art therapist Andrea Poggi Mooney to create a nine-block quilt with a reproduction of Connelly's likeness in the center. "There are other panels surrounding Cornelia's image," Mooney said. "They are all images that the Sisters chose that either have to do with the Society, Cornelia Connelly and her life or her teachings, or the group members and their thoughts about their journeys and lives as Sisters."

"Though each chose her own picture and colors, when put together the pieces form a beautiful, colorful quilt," said Sister Frances McCort. "This reminded us of our own Holy Child Society – though one, we are many Sisters. Likewise, the quilt is a single piece, but accomplished by a group of older Sisters whose tenacity and perseverance did indeed meet the challenge."



(Below) Art therapist Andrea Poggi Mooney (standing, center) helps Catherine Edgar, a retired Sister of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus design her piece for the quilt.

(At left) Art therapist Andrea Poggi Mooney (standing, center) demonstrates to the retired Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (clockwise) Nora Kelly, Joan Rigney, Catherine Edgar, Ann Schwarz and Frances McCort, how to design patchwork pieces for a quilt to honor the 200th birthday of the Society's founder, Cornelia Connelly. Once complete, the quilt will be on display at the New Sharon Retirement Community.

(Above) Retired Sister Frances McCort, of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, works on one of the patchwork pieces that will be part of the quilt to honor the Society's founder.

(Above right) Retired Sister Frances McCort, of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, displays one of the patchwork pieces.

