

Actions

Society of the Holy Child Jesus / American Province

Igniting Faith in Our Young Adults

"God calls you to make definitive choices, and he has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfillment."

- Pope Francis, 2013 World Youth Day, Rio de Janeiro

FALL/WINTER 2016



DEAR FRIENDS,

The Vatican recently released a statement announcing that the theme for the 2017 World Day of Social Media centers on hope and trust. The Church believes that while our world faces many, many challenges, we have good news to tell!

"But in the midst of this tumult a whisper is heard: 'Fear not, for I am with you.'"
(Is 43.5)

Indeed, our Holy Child family has good news to share! With God as our light and compass, the Sisters, our ministries, Associates, alumni/ae, friends and supporters give voice to that whisper. We provide a source of hope and trust to thousands of people every year, including today's young adults. We help women and men during and after college on their journey of self-discovery and faith formation. In this edition of ACTIONS, we feature the ministries of a few of our Sisters who are influencing the lives of these young people.

Beginning on page four, we invite you to read about several significant events in our Province. Providence Center, founded by the Holy Child Sisters, kicked off its *Catalyst for Change* campaign in May 2016. This year's Holy Child Awards Dinner in New York City honored Meg and Tom Healey and Alexandra Hellmuth for handing on our Holy Child spirit. We recognized our 2016 Jubilarians, celebrated the Eco-Spirituality Group's

15th Anniversary, and hosted a welcome reception for our Sisters visiting from the African Province. Coast to coast, several of our Holy Child schools gathered for alumni/ae reunions. We also celebrated the lives of three Sisters who have gone to God.

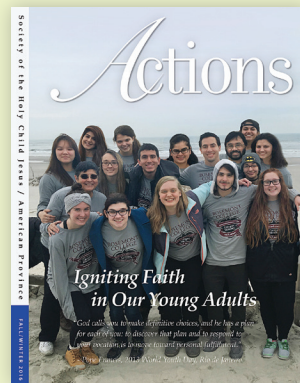
As we begin 2017, let us be united in our efforts to communicate hope and trust, and share the good news that even in darkness God's love never ceases. Let us make choices and decisions that reflect God's presence in us and in our world. Let us remember God's message: "Fear not, for I am with you."

With prayers and blessings in the New Year and always,

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ
American Province Leader

*Featured on our cover:
Rosemont College
students attend the
2016 Spring retreat at
the Holy Child Sisters'
home in Stone Harbor,
NJ. This is one of
several annual retreats
organized by the
College's campus
ministry program.*



CONNECT WITH US

Sign up to receive our e-communications. Send your name and e-mail address to actions@shcj.org. You can also visit our website at www.shcj.org/american and complete the e-newsletter form on the right-hand side of the page.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/HolyChild



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
www.twitter.com/holychildsister



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
www.instagram.com/holychildsister



WATCH US ON YOUTUBE
www.youtube.com/holychildsisters



BLOG WITH US
www.shcj.org/american/news-event/blog



SEE OUR PHOTOS
www.flickr.com/photos/holychildsisters/sets/



Holy Child Sisters and Ministries Invite Young Adults to a Deeper Spiritual Life

Ministry with young adults has been part of the American Province from the beginning. It is rooted in the Society's mission **to rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world.**

In today's complex society, the Sisters' commitment to working with women and men remains a priority. Director of Vocations, Anita Quigley, SHCJ, shares that "young adults need to know that there is something deeper in life – a spirituality that exists in their very being, in their decision-making, and in their actions. The Sisters want to help them recognize this or bring this into the light."

The role of the Province's vocations office has expanded to include working with young people ages 18-35 and igniting their faith life. The ministry has moved from a "come and see" to a "go and see" approach. A group of Holy Child Sisters meets with this age group wherever they are — geographically, spiritually, and emotionally — and assists them in exploring their spiritual life and vocational calling. Sister Anita explains, "We go and see people. We pray and listen, and we ask people to be open to God's call and respond with an open heart."

Holy Child Volunteers and Mary Alice Minogue, SHCJ, enjoy a walk with students from Holy Child Elementary School, Fey y Alegria (Dominican Republic).



Students from the University of San Diego's "Introduction to Catholic Theology" course take a selfie with Tobie Tondi, SHCJ.

For some, this means working in the corporate world, raising a family, or being single. For others, this means taking religious vows. The most important part is giving witness to God's presence in one's life and the lives of others. And the Sisters are there to support them.

Holy Child Sisters also work individually and/or partner with organizations to be present and engaged in a young person's formative years. The Province sponsors the Holy Child Volunteers program which places college graduates in the Dominican Republic for a one-year teaching assignment. The Sisters live and work side-by-side with these young adults, and together they witness to the reverence and dignity of all people. Together, they meet the needs of children in the country's poorest communities and discover God's presence and action there.

(continued on page 7)

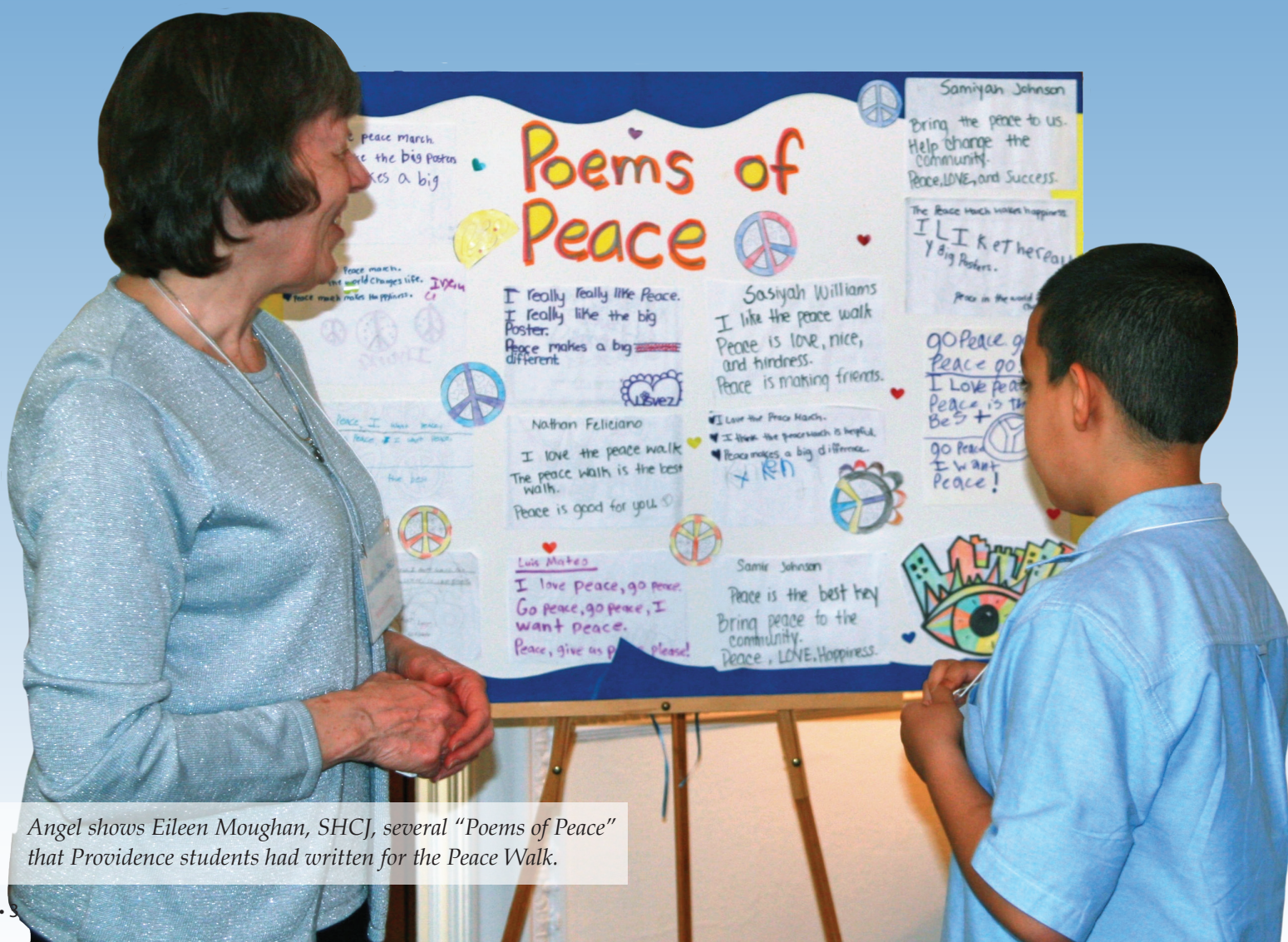


This past May, Providence Center, founded by the Holy Child Sisters in 1993, announced its *Catalyst for Change* campaign to friends and supporters at New Sharon, in Rosemont, PA. The theme for the evening's festivities centered on **the Holy Child Sisters stayed**. David Chiles, director of the Center, explained the significance of this theme to more than 170 guests. "Providence Center's mission is inherited from the Sisters, who would not abandon Fairhill when St. Edward's parish and school closed. The Center's mission is *a love full of action*, and it changes lives and communities." The Holy Child Sisters' presence in Fairhill exceeds 125 years.

Located in a section of Philadelphia with the highest violence and poverty rates, Providence Center offers education programs for children, youth, and adults. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* featured the Center in an article "In Philly your zip code sets your life expectancy." Residents in Fairhill have a lower life expectancy than a person in Syria or Iraq. The leading cause for a shortened life expectancy is the emotional stress of living in fear and poverty. In a recent school year, there were five lockdowns in just two months because of shootings immediately outside the classroom walls.

Serving A Community

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY



Angel shows Eileen Moughan, SHCJ, several "Poems of Peace" that Providence students had written for the Peace Walk.

(from left) Trustee Juan Lopez and Providence Center's director David Chiles attend the kickoff for the "Catalyst for Change" campaign.



Providence Center offers hope and opportunities through its educational and mentoring programs. A supportive staff empowers the students, teens, and adults to transform their lives. 85% of the students who stay in the Center's Teen Program throughout their high school years enroll in college.

The Center's *Catalyst for Change* campaign will provide much-needed space to advance and strengthen Providence's programming. With the support of the Holy Child Sisters, donors, and the community, the Center purchased a new building in Fairhill. Renovation plans include new adult learning classrooms for English as a Second Language instruction, an art and science classroom, and a community

resource room for teens to attend college preparation courses. With a projected completion date of early 2017, these plans continue the Holy Child tradition of "staying" in a community that needs an active, joyful, and compassionate spirit, or in the words of Cornelia Connelly *to meet the wants of the age*.

"The kids know the minute they get there [Providence Center], they are going to feel safe, they're going to be welcomed, and they're going to be protected. No matter what, they'll be there for us."



- Arisitdes,
8th Grader



Florence Rice, SHCJ, visits Providence Center's exhibit and spends time with Hannah learning about "Chill Skills."

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

The Sharon Alumnae surpassed its goal to fund a named classroom at Providence Center. A total of \$17, 661 was raised. This effort was kicked off by a donation from the Sharon Alumnae Association and two Sharon graduates who challenged the alumnae to match their gifts.

2016 Holy Child Awards Dinner



Anne O'Mara Russell, master of ceremonies, kicked off the night with a warm welcome to nearly 200 guests.

On Thursday, March 10, 2016, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus hosted its Eighth Annual Holy Child Awards Dinner at Battery Gardens Restaurant in New York City. The venue's view of the Statue of Liberty served as the perfect backdrop for the evening's festivities. The Awards Dinner recognized three individuals for being beacons of hope, light, and opportunity. This year's Awards Dinner honored Meg and Tom Healey, *Faith in Action Award Recipients*, and Alexandra (Alex) Hellmuth, *Holy Child Spirit Award Recipient*.

In her address, Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, recognized the award recipients for responding to Pope Francis' call to overcome a *globalization of indifference*. "Alex, Meg, and Tom – you are being honored tonight for making a difference! With a spirit of joy, generosity, and courage, you have served the weary, offered hope to the marginalized and advanced education across the globe. Thank you!"

Sister Mary Ann also conveyed the Holy Child Sisters' gratitude to everyone who made the evening such a success, especially the Honorary Committee, sponsors,

friends and families of the award recipients, Holy Child ministries, and benefactors. "Working together, we are living and handing on the Holy Child spirit to tens of thousands of people every year. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you." Proceeds from the event benefit the Society's ministries in the Americas.

The Healeys witness to a day-by-day awareness of the presence of God, a spirit of joy, and courage. Their lives exemplify the generosity, love and service characteristic of Cornelia Connelly. Meg is a graduate of Rosemont College where she currently serves as an honorary trustee. Meg's commitment to service includes her work as a consultant psychologist and member of the advisory board for Plaid House, a New Jersey group home for abused adolescent girls. Meg currently serves on the board of Portsmouth Abbey School and previously served as the co-chair of the Georgetown College Parents' Committee and a trustee of Cristo Rey New York High School, a co-sponsored ministry of the Holy Child Sisters.

Tom is the founder and managing partner of Healey Development LLC, and a senior advisor of KKR Prisma. Previously, Tom was a partner and managing director



(from left to right) Tom and Meg Healey accept the 2016 Faith in Action Award from Ann Durst, SHCJ.



Tim Saburn, head of school of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, NJ, presented the Holy Child Spirit Award to Alex Hellmuth.

of Goldman, Sachs & Co. He is a senior fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Tom's commitment to service includes serving on the board of trustees and investment committees for both the Rockefeller Foundation and Georgetown University. Tom is the co-founder and treasurer of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management. He is also involved with several other non-profit institutions. Meg and Tom are the parents of two children and have nine grandchildren.

A 2006 graduate of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Alex embodies the Holy Child tradition of service

by using her gifts to create systemic change. In her acceptance speech, Alex shared that giving back and helping others is attributed to her Holy Child education. "It's easy for me to see the thread that connects me to Oak Knoll. The community that taught me to care for others, inspired me to seek out problems in the world, helped me to succeed in Ghana..."

Alex is passionate about the private sector's opportunity to apply business solutions to challenges of poverty, economic development, and gender equality. After studying abroad in East Africa as an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame, Alex pursued a career in advocacy. Alex worked for three years at Enough Project, a program dedicated to ending genocide and crimes against humanity in Central and East Africa. As the assistant campaign manager for Raise Hope for Congo, Alex developed initiatives that targeted the electronics industry for conflicts arising from the mining of minerals. From 2013-2014, Alex lived in Ghana as a Princeton in Africa Fellow with Olam International. In her role as a Princeton fellow, she worked to develop strategies that deliver mutual value for companies and farmers through training programs, education campaigns on gender equality and child labor, and opportunities for partnership with development organizations. Alex received an MBA from Yale University in May 2016 and is now working with Boston Consulting Group.

Students from sponsored and co-sponsored schools gave the Invocation



*Alena Maiolo '17,
School of the Holy Child,
Rye, NY*



*Daniel Tejada '18,
Cristo Rey New York
High School,
New York, NY*



*Ellen Magnier '16,
Oak Knoll School
of the Holy Child,
Summit, NJ*



*Nicole Polanco '15,
Cornelia Connelly Center,
New York, NY*

Holy Child Sisters and Ministries Invite Young Adults to a Deeper Spiritual Life *(continued from page 2)*

Barbara Bartlett, SHCJ, ministers at Howard University's Catholic Campus Ministry (Newman Club) in Washington, DC, where she regularly gathers with students to attend Mass and meet with them for weekly discussions. They share their thoughts on "what does it mean to be a Catholic?" or participate in "out of the box" activities for recreational purposes. These efforts focus on building and strengthening the students' spiritual lives. As *ACTIONS* goes to press, Sister Barbara is pleased to report that the number of students attending Mass has reached its greatest number for the year. To her, the blessings of this ministry extend beyond the students' lives. They impact her life. "I feel privileged to be a part of their spiritual formation and know they play a special role in mine as well."



Howard University students Morgen Owens and Ngodoo Iye and Barbara Bartlett, SHCJ, shop for food items for a campus ministry Thanksgiving project.



Kathleen King, SHCJ, (second from right) spends time with the Holy Child Volunteers and staff in the Dominican Republic.

At Rosemont College, the campus ministry staff accompanies young adults on their journey to develop as whole persons. Jeanne Marie Hatch, SHCJ, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, believes the strength of the campus ministry program is derived from each student's personal story,

regardless of his or her belief system. "We provide experiences that invite students to engage, to share, and to reflect. These opportunities certainly serve them well on campus, but more importantly, as they pursue their vocational calling, whatever that may be. Students develop a deep awareness of themselves and others, including their various faiths. This inclusion is crucial to advancing peace in our world, which will be achieved only by acceptance and respect for all faith traditions. It's a grand goal, but it's real." The College's Catholic identity provides the freedom to be open and accepting of all people regardless of gender, creed, or ethnic origin.

Blending the Society's founding philosophy of *Actions Not Words* with the College's motto *The Power of Small*, Rosemont's campus ministry program is able to offer numerous volunteering activities, student-led sharing sessions, and spiritual retreats. The Cornelia Connelly Service Corp, for instance, sponsors a "Get Lost at Rosemont!" activity where students are encouraged to "lose" themselves in serving and connecting with others. This type of experience, as well as week-long immersion service trips during college breaks, have led men and women to pursue medicine, social work, pastoral ministry, and theology as their vocational calling.

With ministries in North and South America, the Province serves hundreds of young adults every year. The Sisters respond to this generation with a warmth, an openness, and an understanding that is appealing to them. This fall, Tobie Tondi, SHCJ, a lecturer at the University of San Diego, served as a theologian on the San Diego's diocesan synod on young adults and the Church. She worked in a group that discussed the topic of creating "a culture of invitation and hospitality to unmarried couples."

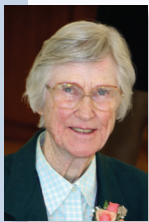
Looking ahead, the Sisters will continue to explore new ways and programs to understand and respond to the challenges of this age group. This winter, Sisters will be gathering on the east and west coasts to discuss the Province's young adult ministry and how it can "meet the wants of the age."

"God calls you to make definitive choices, and he has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfillment."

- Pope Francis, Address to 2013 World Youth Day Volunteers, Rio de Janeiro



Congratulations to our 60 Year Jubilarians



HELENA MAYER, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Kilian)

An educator for 60 years, Sister Helena's first two teaching assignments were at St. Leonard's Academy and Holy Child School at Rosemont. She then served as principal at both Holy Child School at Rosemont and Our Lady of Lourdes School in New York City. For seven years, she was the coordinator of Holy Child elementary schools. Following this work, Sister Helena moved to Newark, NJ, where she served at the Ministerial Development Center and at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

The next stage of Sister Helena's ministry took a new and challenging turn when she was named American Province Archivist. Her practicality and gift for organization resulted in the transformation of Dalton House,

once a college dormitory at Rosemont College, to a first-class Archives. Here, she welcomed all, including Sisters conducting research, students learning to use archival material, visitors eager for a tour, and groups seeking an attractive space to gather. Several times a year, she would travel to Rye, NY, to share materials on the Society's heritage with an appreciative audience of Sisters.

Sister Helena welcomed the help of many volunteers at the Archives. One of the most faithful was Mother Mary Henry. When Mother Mary Henry's eye sight failed, Sister Helena read to her weekly at Holy Child Center.

Today, as one of the Holy Child pioneers at Daylesford Crossing in Paoli, PA, Sister Helena is known for her friendliness and generosity, as well as for her daily walks around the neighborhood.



JEAN MARIE O'MEARA, SHCJ

(Mother Jean Marie)

Sister Jean Marie is one of five children born to Genevieve and William O'Meara. Her roots are in the Midwest. Born in Peoria, IL, she grew up in Waukegan, IL, where she attended St. Anastasia School and Holy Child High School. Family life and these Midwest beginnings shaped her life, her faith, and her perspective.

When Sister Jean entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1953, she aspired to serve in the Society's African missions. Her vocation had been fostered by the missionary zeal of Maryknoll, but her ministry in the Society directed her on a divergent path.

Early assignments were in elementary schools including, St. Ignatius School in Chicago, Our Lady of Humility in Zion, IL, and Holy Child

Academy in Old Westbury, NY, during which time she completed an undergraduate degree in History. Subsequently, she earned an M.A. in religious studies at Manhattan College and taught theology at Oak Knoll School in Summit, NJ. There she began a journey of some fifty years as an administrator in the Holy Child schools and as a trustee on various boards of directors. She served as chair of the board of directors for a fledgling Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego.

Following her tenure as head of school of Oak Knoll School, Sister Jean established the first development office for the American Province. After retiring as head of school of School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY, Sister Jean, at the request of the Society, co-founded an intercommunity NGO -- UNANIMA-International at the United Nations and served on its first board.

Commitment to the works of the Society has been the passion and touchstone of Sister Jean's sixty years in the Society.



FLORENCE RICE, SHCJ

(Mother Mary St. Jude)

Sister Florence, a "Melrosian" (born and raised in Melrose, MA), has traveled far in her 60 years of profession, making fast friends wherever she has ministered. During her first 14 years, she taught in Philadelphia, Melrose, New York City, and Chicago. In 1970, she was missioned to Chile to join the pioneering Holy Child Sisters at Santa Rosa School, Lo Barnechea. During her stay she witnessed the political trauma after the military coup. Because of these difficult times, she grew closer to the people.

In 1978, Sister Florence returned to the United States and underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor. She eventually became director of religious education at St. Mary's Villa for Children, in Ambler, PA. In 1985, she moved back to Chile for nearly six years. At the request of the local Chilean bishop, the Holy Child Sisters helped to form a new

parish in the Southern Zone of Santiago. The bishop gave the Sisters an old barley mill to fix up as their chapel. Within a year, the Sisters and all of the people who helped to form the parish had accomplished their goal. This was one of Sister Florence's favorite ministries.

In 1991, Sister Florence moved to New York City and served at Cornelia Connelly Center, a new ministry of the Province. She taught Spanish and was the Center's receptionist.

After 13 years in New York, Sister Florence relocated to Bryn Mawr, PA, where she volunteered as a Chaplain at Bryn Mawr Hospital and participated in the choir and RCIA program at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish. This move enabled her to spend time with her older sister Eleanor, also a Holy Child Sister and valiant victim of Parkinson's disease. Sister Eleanor's death in 2007 was a great loss.

In 2010, Sister Florence moved to the New Sharon community in Rosemont, PA. She continues her ministries at the hospital and parish, and loves living in community.

Congratulations to our 60 Year Jubilarians

continued



MARY SAMSON, SHCJ

(Mother Charles Mary)

Sister Mary often says, "God writes straight with crooked lines." Born into a bilingual family in Melrose, MA, she attended St. Mary School, where she was taught by the Holy Child Sisters for eight years. She enjoyed the tradition of Sisters and students going for Sunday walks after the children's Mass. The call to religious life took hold in Sister Mary as the high school girls spent time with the Sisters and grew in their Spirit. She entered the Society immediately after high school.

Sister Mary began her teaching ministry in Philadelphia, first at St. Edward School and then John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. The first of her "crooked lines" happened when she taught French at Hallahan. She also taught in Pasadena, CA; Summit, NJ; and her hometown of Melrose.

At Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, her interest in

technology grew. She taught television production and, with students, televised the Sunday Mass at Overlook Hospital on closed circuit TV.

As a person who suffered from back problems, Sister Mary experienced the need for pastoral care in hospitals. So, her next "crooked line" led to a M.A. in Pastoral Counseling at Emmanuel College and a position as Chaplain at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. From 1978 – 2001, Sister Mary served as the hospital's director of Pastoral Care. This was a wonderful experience of learning from the patients, the medical staff, a Jesuit priest, Congregational Minister, Rabbi, and Imam who had joined the team of Chaplains. The teacher in Sister Mary reveled in mentoring seminarians, sisters, and graduate students from the Boston Theological Institute who were fulfilling their clinical requirements.

To Sister Mary, retirement is only a word. Since 2002, she has ministered in Melrose as pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish. She shares that Holy Child Sisters do not fade away – they reinvent themselves as daughters of Cornelia "to meet the wants of the age" through *Actions Not Words*.



SUZANNE SNYDER, SHCJ

(Mother Gregory Mary)

Sister Suzanne (Sue) was born in Buffalo, NY, but always considered herself a Californian, since she moved to the Golden State at the age of ten.

Sister Sue entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus after graduating from Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena, CA. Her first two years of teaching were spent at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, NJ. In 1958, Sister Sue was missioned to the west coast where she would remain for the next 57 years. She taught at Assumption School in Pasadena, CA, as well as at St. Charles School and Holy Child Academy in Portland, OR. She returned to California to teach at her alma mater for four years. Her concern for marginalized persons led to prison ministry for three years and to pastoral work at

MEND, a parish social service center in Pacoima, CA.

In 1984, Sister Sue founded and directed the Social Service Center of Holy Cross Parish in Los Angeles. Even while living with and caring for her aging mother, she worked part-time at the Center. After her mother's death in 1999, Sister Sue moved to San Diego, where a new ministry tugged at her heart. She became a Court Appointed Special Advocate, an arm of Voices for Children. She was enormously effective in her ministry with at-risk children, one of whom continues to keep in touch with her.

Sister Sue returned to the east coast in 2015 to live in Rye, NY. Here she found many ways to help, in particular, reading each day to a Sister with a vision impairment. In August, Sister Sue moved to Holy Child Center where she has brought the community her fun-loving and generous spirit and love for sports.



ROSEMARIE TEDESCO, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Veronica)

Sister Rosemarie feels deeply grateful for the many opportunities she has been given during her years in the Society. She enjoys many happy memories of her time at St. Edward School in Philadelphia, where she first met the Holy Child Sisters. While attending John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, she and a group of her friends often returned to St. Edward School to help the young Sisters, and upon graduation, she and four others from this group of "helpers" entered the Society.

Once professed, Sister Rosemarie had the joy of teaching for two years at her beloved St. Edward School before being sent to Pasadena, CA. During the next two decades, she taught students in both junior and senior high school in her fields of mathematics and religion.

In 1984, Sister Rosemarie moved to Hartford, CT, serving in the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office before moving to Rome, Italy, to become General Secretary to the Society's leadership team. She cherishes the memories of 13 privileged years in "bella Italia" where, thanks to her Italian heritage, she felt so much at home. Returning to the United States and wanting to be involved more directly with the poor, she worked at Calcutta House in Philadelphia, a residence for persons with AIDS. She felt inspired by the struggles and courage of the residents.

When the opportunity arose to enter yet another culture, Sister Rosemarie happily went to live for five years in Mayfield, England, where an international community of Holy Child Sisters was being formed. Today, she helps in the American Province's Health Insurance Office and continues to look forward with anticipation to whatever plans the Lord may have for her remaining years.

Congratulations to our 70 Year Jubilarian



MARY KATHLEEN GROH, SHCJ (Mother Mary Kathleen)

Sister Kathleen grew up on a fox farm on the outskirts of Portland, OR. Together with her four siblings, she learned many practical skills, including mastering the art of sewing. After graduating from Holy Child Academy in Portland, OR, where she had come to love the Holy Child Sisters, she decided to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Despite her fears of teaching, the Society's primary work, Sister Kathleen put her trust in God and embarked on a four-day train trip east to enter the Society. Mother Mary Boniface was waiting for her when the train arrived in Philadelphia, a kindness Sister Kathleen never forgot.

Sister Kathleen's teaching ministry began at St. Anastasia School in Waukegan, IL, and Assumption School in Philadelphia, PA. She enjoyed

Assumption's small class sizes and happily taught for eight years. In 1955, she was missioned to St. Rose School and then St. Rita School, both in Portland, OR, where she taught for the next 33 years.

In 1976, Sister Kathleen discovered a new ministry at Mt. St. Joseph's Retirement Home in Portland. There she served in many roles, including as an aide to the occupational therapist. In the meantime, her creativity and sewing skills flourished as she created a variety of items from huggable stuffed animals to smocked baptismal dresses.

Sister Kathleen joined the community in Rye, NY, in 1988. She continued her sewing projects both for the community and School of the Holy Child in Rye and was gracious in welcoming and caring for frequent guests. In 2013, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA, where she continues to be a cheerful and serene community member.

Congratulations to our 75 Year Jubilarians



ELEANOR CARBIN, SHCJ (Mother Mary Kentigern)

Sister Eleanor's (Nell) 75 years in the Society are often described as *amazing*, especially for their extent and global outreach. Her first 65 years are well recorded in the *Society of the Holy Child Jesus History* (Vol. VII, pp 146-52), which chronicles her family background, her nearly 30 years teaching in Nigeria and Ghana, and her missions in the South, West and Northeast regions of the United States. Her travels even took her to Slovakia, where she taught English to a group of sisters.

St. Paul's expression, "Trade till I come," has been her constant motivation, even in her retirement years. Her communities in Primos, PA, and Bryn Mawr, PA, have provided a wide range of ministries, including reading to the blind, singing in the parish choir, and sewing for

the benefit of Providence Center. St. Paul would have approved of her use of public transportation to reach all of her endeavors!

Living at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA, Sister Nell continued her outreach. In fact, a recent sewing project netted several hundred dollars for the benefit of Providence Center. She also served as a reader and Eucharistic minister at Liturgies, as well as a volunteer in the Archives. Today, Sister Nell lives with Holy Child Sisters in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

Reflecting on her golden years, Sister Nell sees herself as, "...a very insignificant piece of a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle." She feels blessed with good health and energy and enjoys time with friends and the Sisters. She commented, "I am surrounded by modern miracles, too numerous to mention. I marvel at the beauty of our tiny planet and say, 'O Lord, my God, how great Thou art!'"



Gemma Gargano, SHCJ

Sister Gemma has been dedicated in her ministry as a Holy Child Sister for an impressive 75 years. A hardy New Englander, she was born in Revere, MA, but met the Holy Child Sisters in Melrose, MA, where she heard God's call to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

Always willing to take on the humblest of tasks, Sister Gemma prepared the meals for the Sisters and guests in Holy Child convents in New York City, Waukegan, IL, and Summit, NJ, for more than 40 years. Along the way, she provided both nourishment and down-to-earth wisdom.

In 1985, Sister Gemma moved to the convent in Rye, NY, where she cared

for many guests during meetings, retreats, and vacations. Her quiet presence and abundant generosity are described as outstanding by all who know her.

A grateful member of the Rye community commented, "At 95, Gemma has an incredible memory, never forgetting a request or overlooking a need in the house. The thought of retirement is not part of her make-up. She just wants to keep on doing her work, for which we can all say "Gratias, Alleluia!"

In August, Sister Gemma joined the Holy Child Center community in Rosemont, PA, where she continues to share her generous spirit and good humor with the Sisters and staff.

Eco-Spirituality Committee Marks 15th Anniversary

Members of SHCJ's Eco-Spirituality Group gathered on June 22–23, 2016, at New Sharon in Rosemont, PA. In addition to celebrating the Group's 15th anniversary, they honored the first anniversary of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* with a planting of an evergreen sapling. The group blessed the small tree as a symbol of their lives being firmly rooted and to being "open to possibilities."

(at left) Director of Holy Child Center at New Sharon Mark Fitzgerald and Tese Currie, SHCJ, prepare for the tree planting ceremony.

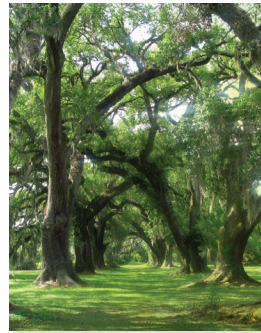


Newly Designed PRAYER CARDS from the Holy Child Sisters



The Holy Child Sisters' newly-designed prayer cards are now available. These cards provide a meaningful way to remember and honor your friends and family in times of sorrow or happiness, including special occasions such as a birthday, anniversary, or new job. The Sisters find joy in knowing that their prayers serve as a source of love and support.

*To request a supply of prayer cards, please contact the Sisters at holychildsisters@shcj.org or 610.626.1400, or visit the Province's website at www.shcj.org/american. Any donations received through this program are directed to the Holy Child ministries. **Thank you!***



A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

- From *Laudato Si'*
or "Praise Be to You"
Pope Francis, 2015



Study Reports Number of Associates Growing in the United States

Board members of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious, including **SHCJ's Director of Associates Cathi Duffy (2nd row, third from left)**, authorized the Center for Applied Research to conduct a national study on associates. According to the Center's recent findings, the number of associates in the United States has grown almost 80%, from 25,500 in 2000 to more than 46,000 today.

This increase makes sense to Ms. Duffy. "I think there's a spiritual hunger. So many individuals have connected with the spirituality of a congregation, and they're drawn to it. I think it's one of the best-kept secrets in the Catholic Church."



To learn more about SHCJ's Associates, please contact Cathi Duffy at associates-usa@shcj.org.

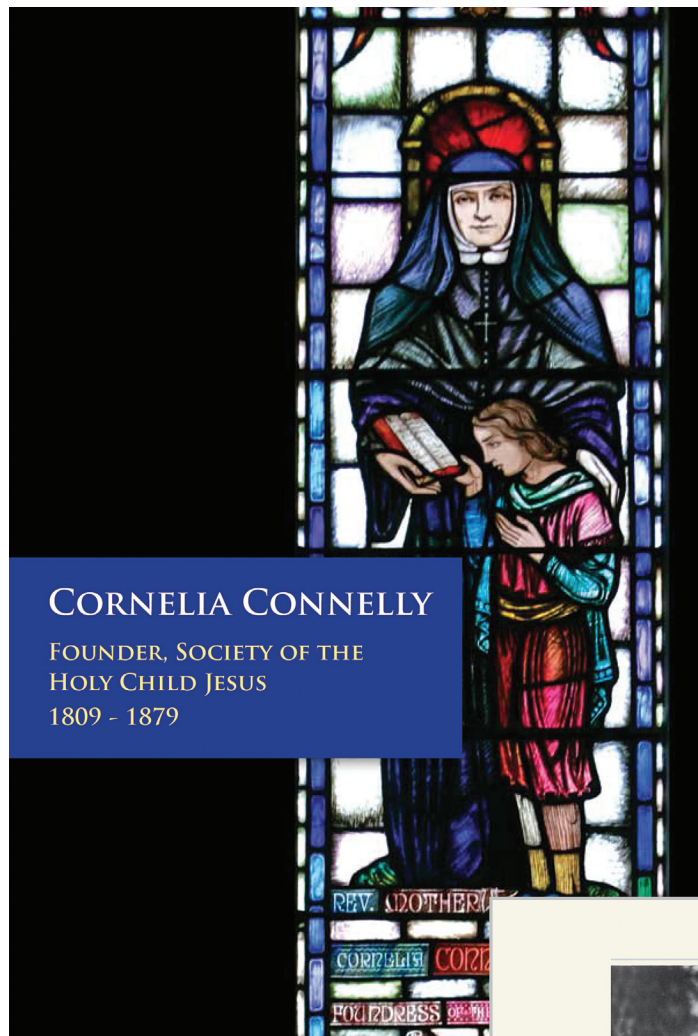
On July 14, the Holy Child Sisters in Rye, NY, "remember, celebrate, and believe" in God's continuing love as they move to new communities in New York and Pennsylvania.



THE LIFE OF CORNELIA CONNELLY

by Judith "Judy" Talvacchia is now available in English and Spanish!

To receive a copy, please send an e-mail to holychildsisters@shcj.org.



"Thank you so much for the book on Cornelia Connelly. I first read about Cornelia during my school days at St. Leonard's. After that, she remained a huge part of my life. Many times my children heard her quotes, especially "be yourself but make that self just what our Lord wants it to be." My husband and I both read the book and then discussed it. Now I will pass it on to others and trust that Cornelia will also inspire them."

– Nannette

"The book is beyond informative. Every page captivated me. Kudos to Judith A. Talvacchia! I shall keep my copy on the coffee table for the rest of my eighty-four years! The twelve of which have made me ever grateful for the education the Holy Child Sisters imparted to me."

– Katharine



CORNELIA CONNELLY

Fundadora, Sociedad Del Santo Niño Jesús
1809 - 1879



Society of the Holy Child Jesus
ACTIONS NOT WORDS

ÍNDICE DE CONTENIDOS

PREFACIO	X
INTRODUCCIÓN	1
INFANCIA DE CORNELIA	3
DE NIÑA A MUJER	5
RECÍEN CASADOS	7
DESCONTENTO	8
DUDAS	8
DECISIÓN	10
EL CONTEXTO DE LAS DECISIONES DE CORNELIA	11
CONVERSIÓN	12
ROMA, ITALIA	13
GRAND COTEAU, LOUISIANA	15
CRECIMIENTO ESPIRITUAL	15
UN ACCIDENTE TRÁGICO	17
MOMENTO DECISIVO	17
PONIENDO A PRUEBA	19
NUUEVAMENTE ROMA	19
EL CONVENTO DEL SAGRADO CORAZÓN, TRINITÀ DEI MONTI	20
LAS SEMILLAS DE LA SOCIEDAD DEL SANTO NIÑO JESÚS	21
EL CONTEXTO DE LAS DECISIONES HECHAS EN ROMA	21
RUMBO A INGLATERRA	23

Reunions Around Town



Rosemont Senior School All Class Reunion





Holy Child Academy, Sharon Hill, PA
All Class Reunion



Holy Child High School, Waukegan, IL
CLASS of 1956



60TH REUNION

Holy Child High School, Waukegan, IL
CLASS of 1950



Holy Child Academy, Portland, OR
CLASS of 1966



Remembrances



Ruth McCarthy, SHCJ
(Mother Louis Mary)

May 20, 1924 – September 16, 2016

Sister Ruth, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 62 years, dedicated her life to serving the Sisters, her family, friends, and students with unlimited energy and compassion. Joanne Sullivan, SHCJ, shared that “she never turned a person down. She had the capacity to lend a helping hand wherever needed.” Following high school graduation, Sister Ruth earned a certificate in science from Rutgers University and then began working for pharmaceutical companies. In 1951, after six years in the workforce, she entered the Society.

Sister Ruth’s teaching ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia spanned 36 years. Her first ministry extended for 12 years at Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, PA, as a teacher and a principal. She then spent one year teaching religion at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School before being missioned to Archbishop John Carroll High School. She joyfully

taught there for 23 years – even organizing and enjoying ski trips with the students. For 19 of these years, she was a resident assistant at Rosemont College.

In 1990, Sister Ruth returned to her home state of New Jersey and opened a new Holy Child community at Cape May Court House. While living there she taught, first as a part-time teacher at Sacred Heart School in Vineland and later as a substitute teacher in Wildwood Catholic High School. For 25 years, Sister Ruth managed the Sisters’ residences in Sea Isle City, Stone Harbor, and Cape May Courthouse.

Officially retired in 2007, Sister Ruth returned to the Philadelphia area and generously shared her time making mission appeals and serving the needs of Sisters at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA. She is most likely the only Holy Child Sister who skied into her 70s. Sister Ruth maintained life-long relationships with many people, including her former students at Archbishop Carroll and Holy Spirit School. For decades, she and the Holy Spirit alums have gathered every year to celebrate their friendship.



Barbara Mullen, SHCJ
(Mother Anthony Mary)

February 20, 1929 – June 12, 2016

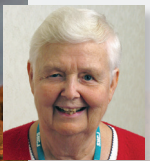
Sister Barbara’s faith and passion for education, women studies and theology had been fundamental to her life of ministry. A graduate of Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, PA, she grew up in a close-knit, musical family. In 1947, she entered the Society where she struggled with homesickness for the first year. Sister Barbara’s father sent his complete set of drums to her to lift her spirits. Later in life, she shared that it was her love of God that stabilized her during this time.

Sister Barbara blossomed as a classroom teacher and generously shared her talents at the organ and piano. She taught at St. Edward School (1950-1955) and St. James School (1955-1957) in Philadelphia, and then at Sts. Peter and Paul (1957-1964) in Fleetwood, NY. Later she served as principal of St. James School in Philadelphia (1964-1967),

Assumption School in Pasadena, CA (1967-1970), and St. Elizabeth School in New York City (1971-1976).

For the next 39 years, Sister Barbara lived and ministered on the west coast. She taught at Alverno High School (1977-1984) and Bellarmine-Jefferson High School (1984-1989) in Sierra Madre and Burbank, CA, respectively. She then joined the women’s studies department at the University of Washington in Seattle as a visiting scholar (1989-1991).

In 1991, Sister Barbara returned to Pasadena where she became the first dean of students and assistant head of school at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child, positions she held for 14 years. She continued to minister at Mayfield Senior School as director of formation to mission where she organized theology seminars for students and led prayer groups for women. She worked closely with the SHCJ Associates, parents, and students – endearing herself to the Mayfield family while deepening their faith and understanding of Cornelia Connelly. For 25 years, Sister Barbara joyfully served, embraced, and cherished the Mayfield Senior School and its community.



Joan Marie Rigney, SHCJ
(Mother Mary Martin)

May 26, 1927 – July 8, 2016

Influenced and inspired by her Holy Child education, Sister Joan’s desire for religious life was fulfilled in 1945 when she entered the Society. Her first teaching assignments included Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, NJ; Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, PA; and St. Edward School in Philadelphia. In 1958 she was named principal of Assumption School in Pasadena, CA, where she introduced innovative programs and shared her love of music. She moved to Fleetwood, NY, in 1967 to teach at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Following her ministry in New York, she returned to Assumption School as principal.

In 1974, Sister Joan’s ministry took a new turn. She was assigned to Immaculate Heart Parish in Pacoima, CA, where she served as director of religious education and worked with senior adults. A year later, Sister Joan moved to Portland, OR, where she was director of

religious education at St. Rose Parish. In 1977, Sister Joan moved to Chile where she was both challenged and grateful for the rich intercultural experience. This experience led her to do mission education for the Office of the Propagation of the Faith in Washington, DC. She later worked at the Catholic Spanish Center and served as superior for the Sisters living in the Washington area. From 1991 until 1999, Sr. Joan served at Annunciation School in Washington, DC, as a teacher and then as principal.

In 2000, Sister Joan returned to California and served as the receptionist at Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego, and later as a volunteer at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. Heart surgery in 2001 curtailed her ministry and she moved to Sisters’ community in Rye, NY, where she became director of activities. After suffering a debilitating stroke and shoulder injury in 2010, Sister Joan moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA, where she welcomed and renewed old friendships with her former students.

American Province Welcomes Sisters From African Province



On July 16, 2016, the American Province hosted a special event to welcome Sisters from the African Province to the United States. Our guests included friends and supporters of the African Province's ministries. Also, alumnae from Holy Child schools in Ghana and Nigeria who are now living in the United States joined in the celebration.





Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Chester, PA
Permit #170

Because the Society is committed to
caring responsibly for the environment,
Actions is printed on recycled paper.

Holy Child Ministries

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and their colleagues serve in educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries. The Society of the Holy Child Jesus in the Americas sponsors the ministries below:

CALIFORNIA

Casa Cornelia Law Center
(San Diego)
Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child
(Anaheim)
Mayfield Junior School
of the Holy Child Jesus
(Pasadena)
Mayfield Senior School
of the Holy Child Jesus
(Pasadena)
South Central Los Angeles
Ministry Project
(Los Angeles)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington School for Girls

ILLINOIS

Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep
(Waukegan)

MARYLAND

Connelly School of the Holy Child
(Potomac)

NEW JERSEY

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child
(Summit)

NEW YORK

Cornelia Connelly Center
(New York City)
Cristo Rey New York High School
(New York City)

Holy Child Academy
(Old Westbury)
School of the Holy Child
(Rye)
UNANIMA International
(NGO, United Nations)

PENNSYLVANIA

African Sisters Education Collaborative
(Scranton)
Holy Child Academy
(Drexel Hill)
Holy Child School at Rosemont
(Rosemont)
Hope Partnership for Education
(Philadelphia)
Providence Center
(Philadelphia)
Rosemont College
(Rosemont)

CHILE

Centro Cornelia Connelly
(Santiago)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Holy Child Elementary School,
Fe y Alegría
(Santo Domingo)
Our Lady of Good Counsel Dispensary,
Fe y Alegría
(Santo Domingo)

**Have you moved or
changed your e-mail
address?**

**Please send your
updated information
to actions@shcj.org.**

Save the Date

Holy Child Awards Dinner

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Aronimink Country Club
Newtown Square, PA

HONOREES:

Faith in Action Award
Samantha "Sam" Fleetman
Alumna of Holy Child Academy,
Sharon Hill

Holy Child Spirit Award
William Martin
Alumnus of Holy Child School
at Rosemont

*For more information about
this event, please contact the
Mission Advancement Office
at 610.616.1400, ext. 315.*