



# SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

## AMERICAN PROVINCE

SPRING 2016 - Volume XIV Issue II

### ACTIONS NOT WORDS



A few Associates prior to meeting in Melrose  
May 2016



Quilt of Ghanaian fabric given to Cathi  
Core Team Meeting - April 2016

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## A Letter from Director

Dear SHCJ Associates,

The results of the **Associate Outreach Project** are in! Thanks to all who participated and helped in the important project. Check out page 3 to read more about the results! The Core Team and I will be in touch as future plans are made in light of your responses.

It was heartwarming to read how seriously you take the electronic prayer requests that are sent your way. It truly connects us!

You also shared that you like getting to know other Associates through this newsletter. This month, you will meet Linda Tarney, one of the newest Core Team members. *Hidden Works of Mercy* also introduces four Associates. You told us that you find the newsletter helpful for knowing what is happening. In this issue, you can discover who the **2016 SHCJ Jubilarians** of the American Province are

Plans continue for our **2017 Pilgrimage**. (See page 8 for more details.)

Wishing all of you a beautiful Spring with abundant blessings,  
**Cathi**

# Hidden Works of Mercy

by Judy Talvacchia



Cornelia Connelly's original vision for the mission of the Society was to perform the spiritual works of mercy. As she became more familiar with the needs of the Church in England, she realized

that educating women and girls was the work of mercy that should be her focus. But the larger scope of the spiritual works of mercy was always in her field of vision. Yes, instruct the ignorant; but also counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinner, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the sorrowing and pray for the living and the dead.

There are many Associates among us who perform the works of mercy in a hidden way. They are often people who are unable to volunteer in the community, on Society projects or in Society ministries. Frequently, their merciful actions are poured out on family members, friends and neighbors. While the wider world may be unaware of their service, the people of God benefit from their compassion. We Associates are enriched by their witness in daily life to Cornelia's vision of mercy.

There are probably many more of you out there than I'm aware of, but I will hold up three who give a largely hidden witness.

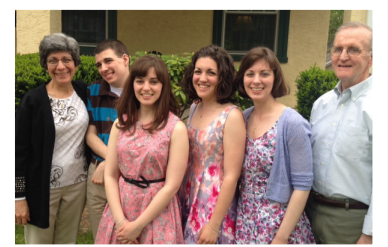


## **Kay Rowan in Phoenix, AZ**

and her husband have been helping to care for their grandchildren since 2009. Their duties have changed as the children have grown but their commitment to them remains top priority. They have been especially flexible in caring for their grandson, Gus. His parents, Kay's son and Gus's mother chose not to marry, but share custody. When her son has Gus and is working, Kay and her husband host them so Gus can be cared for while his dad works. They even make themselves available when Gus's mom is working and her family is unavailable due to their work schedules. As Kay says, "Watching three young children has been exhausting at times and there were days when I had to reluctantly say no to an outing or rush home from a lunch date to pick up grandkids, but I would not change it for anything. It has been

such a gift to watch each of them grow as individuals, to share their most important formative years and to have so many intimate daily memories." I think Cornelia would agree!

**Mary Lynn and Dave Barr, of Havertown, PA** have three daughters and a son. (Full disclosure: Mary Lynn is my sister!) Their son David has intellectual disabilities and autism. Now 21, David has attended specialized schools and recently transitioned to an adult day program where he shreds documents and helps to deliver mail.



He will need lifelong one-on-one assistance. The Barr's have made a family decision to keep David at home as long as possible. Their daughters are very involved with David's well being and he adores his sisters. David is a loving and engaging young man, but can get very anxious if his routine changes in any way. Their family life always has to take David's needs into account.

As my sister says, making such a decision can be counter cultural. At times, they feel marginalized and isolated. People don't understand David's condition or his behaviors and so keep their distance. It can be challenging to arrange social events where David will feel comfortable or to get appropriate respite help. But the rewards outweigh the challenges when they see David happy and thriving at home and in school. As Pope Francis says, mercy is "entering into the reality of other people's lives through the power of tenderness" (The Joy of the Gospel, 270). My husband and I can see the effect in David when we visit. He knows he is loved and an important member of the family. Mercy enfleshed will do that.

Finally, I hold up the witness of **Elaine Patterson, of Pompton Plains, NJ**. Elaine is currently being treated for cancer and is limited in what she can do. She lives out the spiritual works of mercy (continued on page 3)



# Associate Outreach Project 2016

by Cathi Duffy

In January 2016, a team of 8 Associates met by conference call to plan an outreach effort to all Associates in the United States. These Associates were able to have conversations with 95 Associates; 8 additional Associates preferred not to participate (often a spouse). With a directory of 191 Associates, they reached half of the Associates. Thanks to all who participated as a team member or in conversation!



What did we learn? The conversations were engaging for both participant and caller. It is not easy to call individuals that you don't know but your warmth and willingness to engage the team member made it easier. The team was energized by the calls so it made the calls easier.

Because we are such a geographically diverse group, it is not always easy to feel connected as an Associate community. Overwhelming, the Associates feel most involved in receiving the electronic Prayer Requests. (sent to all Associates for whom Cathi has an email address). It is a way that connects the majority of Associates.

You shared what makes you feel connected and the top responses follow:

**What do you like most about the Associate relationship?** (91 of 95 responded)

1. The connection to SHCJ (25)
2. Sharing with others of same belief (25)
3. Spirituality/Charism of Cornelia (18)



**What do you like about the newsletter?** (84 of 95 responded)

1. Reading about Associates in other places (24)
2. Feeling of connectedness (19)
3. Keeping informed/up to date (17)

**What makes you feel connected to the Associates?** (90 of 95 responded)

1. The sisters (25)
2. Local meetings (16)
3. The newsletter (12)
4. Cornelia/her charism (11)



**Are you connected to the Holy Child Associates, USA facebook page?**

Response: 18 Yes

Many responded they are connected to the Society web page and/or they did not know there was a page for Associates.

**Are there particular ways in which you've been involved in the Associates?**

- Receiving Prayer Requests: 91 of 95
- Going on retreats: 45 of 95
- E Retreats: 43 participate/have participated
- Prayer & reflection groups: 47 participate/have participated
- Large Assoc. Gatherings: 39 have attended
- Holy Child Ministries: 33 participate/have participated
- Associate Ministries: 28 participate/ have participated
- Assoc. Commitment Ceremonies: 52 attended at least one commitment ceremony
- Socializing informally: 57 have socialized informally





- Serving on the Core Team: 16 serve/have served on the Core Team
- Writing Newsletter Articles: 18 write/wrote for newsletter
- Financial Support: 64 have supported financially
- Help Fundraise: 21 have helped with fundraising
- Special Projects: 27 work/ed on special projects
- Virtual Reflection groups: 4 already participate in one
- International Associate groups: 16 have attended an international gathering
- Support in Other Ways: 37 have been active in other ways

**Do you have suggestions on other technology we could use that might help us stay connected?**



Twenty-three (23) Associates gave us suggestions that included:

Twitter                      Facetime  
Periscope

Skype                      Google chat  
Webex

Some exciting survey results are the many Associates who are looking to join virtual communities (16) and/or explore making a formal commitment (14).

Others indicated their willingness to get involved in the Newsletter and other projects. We also hope to share more about the SHCJ ministries based on your interest.

*We are excited that we were able to connect with so many Associates and sorry that we were not able to reach everyone.*

*In closing, I want to recognize the Associate Outreach Project team. Anita Martineau was project leader and with Bob McHugh and Kay Rowan consolidated all of the individual responses into a report for the Core Team and myself. This summary was in addition to the many calls and individual response reports that they each did. Other team members were Ann Donovan, Michelle Dugan, Hope Gillespie, Debbie Kissinger, and Dolores McCormack. Thank you for the many hours that you gave contacting the Associates and creating the summaries of your conversations!*

by closely following the prayer requests that Cathi Duffy sends out. Each day, she prays for the needs of those who have asked for our prayers. She and Associates like her are our prayer power houses! Only in the next life will we know the full extent of the benefit their intercession has brought us.

Cornelia Connelly was deeply aware of needs of the humble and hidden in our world. It was here that she most often met God. Associates who offer compassion in humble and hidden ways embody the SHCJ spirit and the call to mercy that Pope Francis has proclaimed. I hope that their example encourages all of us to seek out and to recognize opportunities for merciful action in the humble and hidden corners of our own lives.

#### Questions for Reflection

1. When have you received acts of humble and hidden mercy from others?
2. In what ways are you practicing hidden acts of mercy?
3. What opportunities might you have that you have overlooked?
4. How has God shown you mercy in ways you might not have recognized?



# Linda Tarney

Barbara Bernardi



In this issue our spotlight is shining on Linda Tarney.

Linda was born and raised, along with her two brothers, in Erie, PA but lived closer to Harbor Creek, PA. She attending two years of Catholic school; Linda graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. While attending

pharmacy school there she met her future husband, Gerald, who hails from North Apollo, PA. They married and, after 13 years, Gerald decided to change careers from pastoral ministry in the Church to computer graphic design.

The Tarney's headed south to Charlotte, NC. Before leaving Pennsylvania, their oldest daughter, 8 year old Cara, received her first communion. They then gathered up 4 year old Heather and Cara and headed south, where the family began the search for a church to call home. After attending St. Luke's church, Linda knew they had found the place where they wanted to continue their faith journey. They loved the welcoming community and the music really spoke to Gerry.

It was there that the family met Sr Veronica Grover SHCJ, who had been at St Luke's since its storefront beginning. Sr Veronica was running the Enrich program, which ran while children attended Faith Formation classes. Linda also attended several church history classes which Sister taught. Sister was always smiling and more than willing to share her faith and the history of the church. Linda felt the Holy Spirit flowing from Sr Veronica and says that she enlightened many people.

One day Sr Veronica invited Linda and Gerry to attend an Associates meeting. They had many friends who belonged to the group. After attending their first

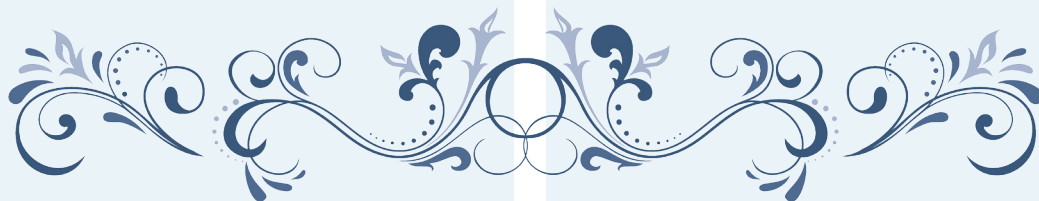
Give me O Lord  
a Love  
Full of Action

meeting and feeling the love of the Lord, along with learning about Cornelia's mission Linda was hooked. Linda had a strong urge to do more for others in need of hope and God's love in their lives. Through SHCJ Sisters and the Associates Linda gained the strength and support she needed to go on an Agape mission to the Appalachia Mountains of Kentucky with the Christian Appalachian Project.

She also has the opportunity to work in the University City Regional Library where they collect Spanish/English books for the children of the SHCJ ministry in the Dominican Republic. Linda says perhaps one day she will be able to deliver these books in person and share the stories and the life of the Holy Child Jesus with the children.

The beginning of the year saw Linda being invited to join the Core Team. Although not being sure what she could contribute, Linda is happy to serve a term of three years. She wants to see the Associates continue to grow stronger with so much need of hope, peace, love and education in this struggling world. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and welcoming support and loving spirit flowing from all those involved, Linda hopes to be able to carry out Cornelia's mission and bring forth God's love in others.

Again we see in Linda the humility, love, caring, dedication and commitment of an SHCJ Associate which makes Cornelia proud!



# e e cummings

by Michelle Dugan

## *Religious Leanings*

1

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes



(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears are awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)



2

i am a little church(no great cathedral)

far from the splendor and squalor of  
hurrying cities

--i do not worry if briefer days grow  
briefest,

i am not sorry when sun and rain  
make april

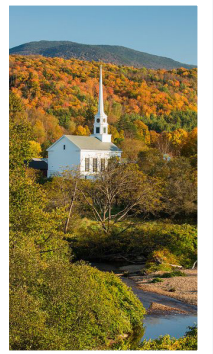
my life is the life of the reaper and  
the sower;

my prayers are prayers of earth's own clumsily striving  
(finding and losing and laughing and crying)children  
whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing  
birth and glory and death and resurrection:  
over my sleeping self float flaming symbols  
of hope,and i wake to a perfect patience of mountains

i am a little church(far from the frantic  
world with its rapture and anguish)at peace with nature  
--i do not worry if longer nights grow longest;  
I am not sorry when silence becomes singing

winter by spring,i lift my diminutive spire to  
merciful Him Whose only now is forever:  
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence  
(welcoming humbly His light and proudly His darkness)  
-- e e cummings



What American poet is famous for his lower-case letters and crazy syntax, his poems lyrical in tone and subject but experimental in form? You may have encountered E. E. Cummings (1894-1962) as a young person, as I did, falling in love with his love poems – “I carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)” – and his social commentary (“anyone lives in a pretty how town”). It was only after I picked up a friend’s volume of his selected poems that I discovered “Religious Leanings,” five poems that are grouped together, growing “curiouser and curiouser” as the sequence proceeds (#5 a pure experiment in words and punctuation on the page). I share the first two here, but a strong faith perspective permeates all of them. Sure enough, his father was a minister; and Wikipedia informs us that Cummings “exhibited transcendental leanings his entire life.”

The first stanza is a prayer, tweaking the conventions just barely by thanking God “for most this amazing/day.” Familiar imagery is transformed into “leaping greenly spirits of trees” and the “blue true dream of sky.” In the second stanza, the poet connects his personal rebirth to the cosmic: “the sun’s birthday...the gay/great happening illimitably earth).” The assertion of faith in the third stanza achieves its power through the poetic genius so unique to Cummings, a blend of absolute simplicity and linguistic invention. By splitting the familiar phrase, “how should...any” with the list of senses, and ordering “human merely being” as he does, Cummings tells us that what we cannot imagine is

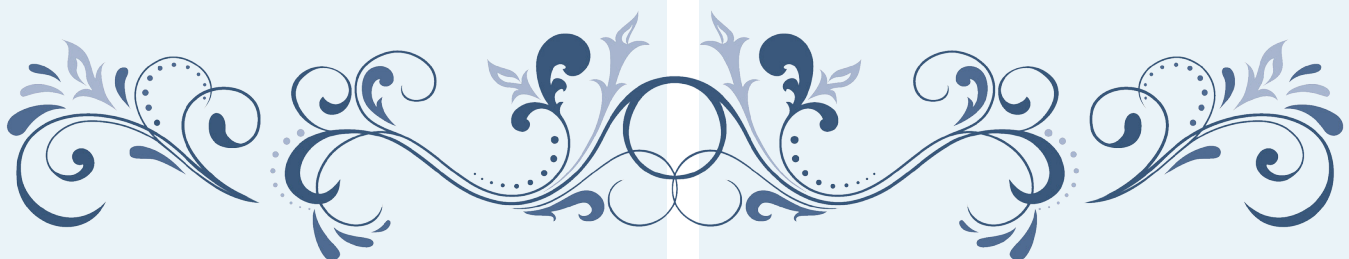


nevertheless undoubtedly real, lifting us all from “the no/of all nothing.” The final couplet of poem #1 completes the reassurance with Biblical resonance: “ears awake” and “eyes are opened.”



*e. e. cummings*

Cummings’ New England roots (he was born in Massachusetts and died in New Hampshire) show clearly in the little church of poem #2. Cornelian spirituality resonates here as well: incarnation and the humble, hidden life, “far from the frantic world.” The rhythms of nature, “the life of the reaper and the sower,” run throughout the stanzas: “sun and rain make april,” “winter by spring.” In choosing to speak to us in the voice of the little church itself, Cummings eschews the trappings of civilization, the “splendor and squalor of hurrying cities,” the “rapture and anguish.” Yet at the same time, he embraces all that is “earth’s own clumsily striving.” This is a spirituality inclusive of human emotion: “whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness”; a spirituality that recognizes the “miracle of unceasing/ birth and glory and death and resurrection”; a spirituality alive with “flaming symbols/of hope.” At the same time, the little church is “at peace,” “does not worry,” “is not sorry,” and wakes to “a perfect patience of mountains.” The “deathless truth of His presence” inspires a faith that is, like Cornelia’s, unwavering through every possible permutation of human experience, “welcoming humbly His light and proudly his darkness.”



# Jubilarians 2016

This June, the American Province will honor the following Sisters for their many years of religious life in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

## **75 Years**

Eleanor Carbin, SHCJ  
Gemma Gargano, SHCJ

## **70 Years**

Kathleen Groh, SHCJ

## **60 Years**

Helena Mayer, SHCJ  
Jean Marie O'Meara, SHCJ  
Florence Rice, SHCJ  
Mary Samson, SHCJ  
Suzanne Synder, SHCJ  
Rosemarie Tedesco, SHCJ

## **50 Years**

Wayne Gradon, SHCJ

We thank them for their years of service to the Church and for truly living 'a love full of action'!



**March 30 - April 3, 2017**

**SHCJ Associate Pilgrimage  
to**

**Grand Coteau and Natchez**

**Cornelia's world as  
a young wife and mother**

We will be staying in Grand Coteau at the Jesuit Spirituality Center.

*Tentative Schedule:*

March 30 - Arrive in New Orleans and head to Grand Coteau

Friday, March 31 - Tour Grand Coteau

Saturday, April 1 - Tour Natchez

Sunday, April 2 - Quiet Day in Grand Coteau

Monday, April 3 - Depart for airport and home

We are still finalizing costs but we are currently estimating about \$350 plus your airfare costs.

New Orleans is at least a 2 hour bus ride from Grand Coteau so the required timings for arrivals and departures will be shared this fall.

It may be possible for some of you to fly into Lafayette (LA) which is only 20 minutes away from Grand Coteau.

If you have *any interest* in this pilgrimage, please let Cathi know (see page 1 for contact info). It will help with our planning efforts.

*Thank you!*