



SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

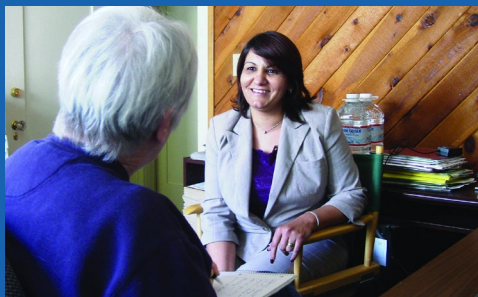
AMERICAN PROVINCE

SUMMER 2017 Volume XV Issue III

ACTIONS NOT WORDS



Some of the Associates enjoying Jubilee celebrations June 2017.



Learn more about Casa Cornelia Law Center, a ministry of the Society, on page 2.



A few of the Jubilarians celebrating 70, 60, and 50 years of religious life in 2017.

Inside this issue

From the Director	1
Casa Cornelia	2
Praying in (Un)likely Places	5
Poetry off the Shelf	6
Meet the Associate	7
Care of Creation	8

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From the Director

I hope that you have had time to relax and rejuvenate this summer. September the other January is fast approaching. Our calendars will again be full - let's add into our plans special time for connecting with our Holy Child family each month. Please also plan now to join together next June....

Save the Date for our
2018 Associate Gathering!
Love Full of Action
Thursday June 21 - Sunday June 24
New Sharon
Rosemont, PA

More info in future issues of the Associate Newsletter!
 If you want to help with planning and logistics,
 contact Cathi Duffy, cduffy@shcj.org who will
 connect you with the planning committee.
 Many hands make light work!

Glory be to God whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

Casa Cornelia Law Center

by Pat McKinley and Marilyn Nigro

This article featuring Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC) in southern California is one of a continuing series which attempts to inspire interest and connections between Associates and our SHCJ supported ministries. Our article includes a short summary of work taken directly from the CCLC website and continues with an interview of the founder Ann Durst, SHCJ.

Since its founding in 1993, Casa Cornelia Law Center (a public interest law firm) has been committed to its mission of providing quality pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations. For children, this can include abandonment, abuse, torture and even human trafficking. Casa Cornelia also strives to educate others regarding the impact of immigration law and policy. The Center has a primary commitment to the indigent within the immigrant community in Southern California.

Casa Cornelia Law Center (<http://www.casacornelia.org>) was founded when the leadership of the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus requested that Sister Ann M. Durst, a member of the Society and an attorney, explore the possibility of founding Casa Cornelia as a contemporary mission serving those in need throughout the southwest of the United States of America.

Sister Ann conducted a study along the Mexican-American border to determine the need for legal services among the immigrant community. It soon became clear to her that San Diego, the busiest land border crossing in the world, was the place to begin. On August 1, 1992, she was joined by Mary Wayne Gradon from the European Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and they signed the lease that made Casa Cornelia a reality in San Diego, California. Today Sister Mary Wayne

continues her life-saving work at the center.

The mission and spirit of Casa Cornelia is rooted in the tradition of service of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and that of the Society's founder, Cornelia Connelly. She believed that God has chosen men and women in every age to reveal God's love and to make known the reality of God's saving presence through their service to others. In her spirit and memory, Casa Cornelia Law Center conducts its work. While Casa Cornelia is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, it remains a sponsored ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Casa Cornelia continues to carry out Cornelia Connelly's belief in meeting the needs of the age with actions, not words.

PROGRAMS: Asylum, Children's Program, Victims of Crime

Upon entering the country, asylum seekers face immediate deportation unless they can convince immigration officials that they have a real and credible fear of returning to their homeland. Making a successful asylum claim without an attorney is virtually impossible. Casa Cornelia provides free counsel and representation to indigent asylum seekers at each step of their immigration proceedings.

Casa Cornelia recruits, trains and mentors volunteer attorneys from the private bar who provide pro bono service to clients. In 2005, Casa Cornelia began a clinical program with the law schools of the University of San Diego, California Western School of Law, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. With the consent of the Immigration Court, Casa Cornelia trains these clinical law students to directly represent indigent asylum seekers under the supervision of a CCLC staff attorney.

The Center provides free legal services to detained unaccompanied children in San Diego County. Beginning in 2009, and officially as of January 1, 2010, Casa Cornelia expanded the program to include children not currently in detention. Without this



program, many children would not have access to relief or to the protection afforded them by law.

The Children's Program provided legal services to 120 children in its first year. That number increased slowly to 180 children served in 2010. But in 2011, the program jumped to 232 children. And just this past year that number exploded to 999. Casa Cornelia is among many organizations and agencies experiencing the impact of the disturbing increase in child arrivals.

Besides children, the center helps indigent victims of domestic violence or serious crimes. Others have been forced to work or provide services without receiving the minimum wage required in California. Some of these victims may qualify for immigration relief and Casa Cornelia stands ready to help.

In 2011

Total Individuals Served - 1,053

Asylum Program - 375

Domestic Violence Program- 355

Children's Program - 232

In 2016, Casa Cornelia responded to 2,280 persons seeking assistance from Casa Cornelia Law Center:

Asylum Program - 610

Victims of Crime Program - 557

Children's Program - 999

Other forms of relief including DACA - 114

Sister Ann Durst has been working at CCLC for almost 25 years and is a current member of the Board of Directors. She wants us to know that CCLC is doing a good job right now providing quality legal services that may not represent large numbers but represents successful outcomes. It provides the community with the legal information and tools needed to feel supported and to help themselves. Sister Ann tells us that the United States is still the beacon of HOPE for finding personal



safety for those hurting and oppressed who are unsafe in their own countries. But she reminds us all that CCLC is only able to serve those who have a legal path to remaining in the US.

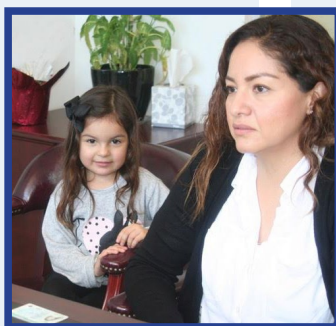
In just the last 5 years the immediate needs and numbers of those helped has doubled. But volunteers have exponentially increased the Center's impact. In 2016, 542 dedicated volunteers, including attorneys from the private bar, interpreters, translators, students and others, donated an

astonishing 18,951 hours of their time to helping Casa Cornelia's clients. Asylum seekers who go before a judge with no legal representation can expect a less than 10% chance of being granted asylum. That outcome is significantly increased with appropriate legal support.

Even though no laws have changed and the statutes which provide relief are unchanged, federal implementation and upholding of the current US laws has inspired more confusion and anxiety in the San Diego community. As the need for education and legal assistance grew, CCLC launched and continues a great effort to offer information sessions to the community by providing correct information on current rights and laws.

At any and all times, CCLC may be working on hundreds of open cases. Their need for volunteer attorneys or the money to pay contract attorneys is great. The on-staff attorneys can and do mentor volunteer attorneys who may not have immigration law in their training. Last year volunteers provided work that would have required 2.5 full-time paid attorneys, with benefits, valued at \$500,000. Interpreters also provide a basic but mandatory need. Over 40 languages are spoken by those who have benefitted from CCLC. Many of the children are from Central America but can come from as far away as Somalia.

Since clients come from many different countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe as well as Central and South America the language volunteer can have a huge impact. Volunteer interpreters and translators may find that their service at Casa Cornelia will satisfy school internship requirements or professional certification



service requirements. If you would like to be considered for the Volunteer Interpreters and Translators (VIT) program at Casa Cornelia, please send your cover letter and resume to the VIT Coordinator, Artemisa Valle, at AValle@CasaCornelia.org.

Have an interest in helping or making connections locally? Please see the website and the section called Volunteer. There is a Volunteer Interest form available at <http://www.casacornelia.org/volunteer-interest-form.html>

Marilyn asked Sister Ann about new needs and future needs which will surely develop. Sister answered by describing another group who will require education and legal assistance. And they are the long-term undocumented, here for over 10 years, who have paid



taxes without breaking any other US laws. The Law Center hopes to help them to prepare their only current remedy, the cancellation of a removal order. There may be extenuating circumstances which will help these families onto a legal path towards citizenship.

CCLC's largest need is to raise about 2 million dollars every year! Due to the uncertainty of ongoing grants and federally available money, those who can pledge a donation of only \$25 per month may become the lifeblood of the center. To donate or discuss ways to raise money, see the bottom of the Law Center's home page or please contact Director of Development Courtney Brown.

Please visit the website to read more about clients' personal success stories of achievement and victories. Sister ends with the realization that "even though our efforts are only a drop in the bucket, we are reminding everyone that God is present in their lives and hope they can feel joyful in that realization. Casa Cornelia Law Center's work is one step at a time, one case at a time. And every case is full of compassion, hard work and commitment and frequently joyous resolutions."

They are truly doing Cornelia's work of "meeting the wants of the age."

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<http://www.casacornelia.org>

Executive Director Carmen M. Chavez, Esq.



Praying in (Un)likely Places

by Debbie Kissinger

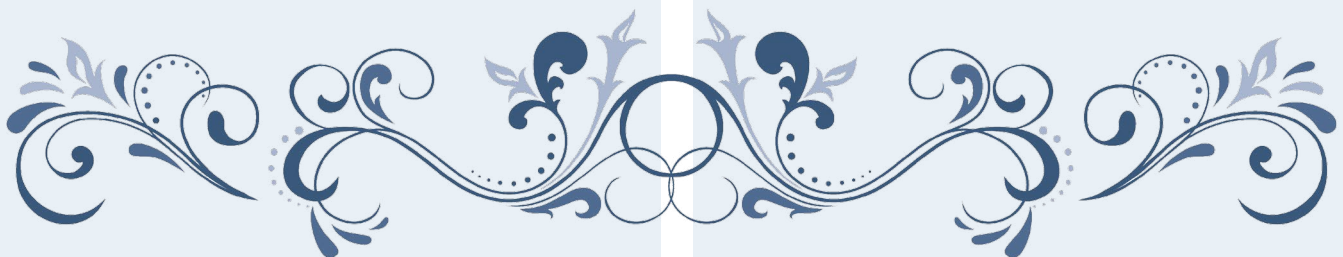
This new feature article will highlight an Associate each month. She/he will share when they include prayer in their daily lives. If you would like to write for this feature, please contact Cathi and she will put you in touch with Anita Martineau who is organizing this feature article each quarter.

When I retired from teaching there were many things that I missed about being an educator. One of the things I always enjoyed doing were bulletin boards. In retirement, I took a class on how to make my own cards using rubber stamps, cutting dyes and other embellishments. I soon became hooked and had a new hobby.

I discovered most of the cards I made were for friends who were experiencing challenges in life. It occurred to me that while I was making my cards this was also a time I could offer up some prayers for the intentions of the recipient. Thus my new hobby became another opportunity for me to pray in a different way.

Over the last 10 years I have created many cards and when I sign the back of the card I always include my initials, the year and "with prayers" as my signature. I thank our Lord for blessing me with the talent to create something that has helped console, encourage or celebrate with my friends and family. In the digital age we live in now, people always seem to love receiving a real card that can be held in their hands and that they can look at on a shelf. I always say "these are my mini bulletin boards" and am happy they mean so much and in my own way I'm praying that they feel the love of the Lord through me. This is my small way of sharing the prayers in my heart as I strive to reach out to those I care about.

Dk/2017/w/prayers



A. A. Milne

by Michelle Dugan

Halfway Down

Halfway down the stairs
Is a stair
Where I sit.
There isn't any
Other stair
Quite like
It.
I'm not at the bottom,
I'm not at the top;
So this is the stair
Where
I always
Stop.

Halfway up the stairs
Isn't up
And it isn't down.
It isn't in the nursery,
It isn't in town.
And all sorts of funny thoughts
Run round my head.
It isn't really
Anywhere!
It's somewhere else
Instead!



When it came time to choose poems for our summer newsletter, I found myself unable to concentrate on anything but the upcoming birth of our newest grandchild. Thankfully, our dear editor Cathi Duffy agreed that A. A. Milne's "Halfway Down" might actually open us to the kind of meditation that poetry inspires. As the Society of the Holy Child, we already embrace as a foundational truth the message of Jesus to become like little children. Much of the contemporary poetry for children is pure silliness, fun but not particularly "deep," mainly allowing children to embrace what their elders scold them for doing. Milne (1882-1956), known to all as the creator of Winnie the Pooh, creates a cozy world for his readers that teases gently but never overturns the British sensibility: an orderly nursery, à la Mary Poppins, is ever so delightful! A veteran of the Great War who served at the Battle of the Somme, Milne knew from the start that the world is not always a safe place, but that literature helps reassure children that their fears can be conquered and their problems solved.

"Halfway Down," though, offers something more than simple comfort. Children recognize intuitively that time spent apart and undisturbed is essential. The stair is unique – "There isn't any/ Other stair/ Quite like/ It" – because it represents a space outside the ordinary, where Christopher Robin (the narrator) can contemplate, free of constraints – "not at the bottom...not at the top." Here he can always stop and let "all sorts of funny thoughts/ Run round" his "head." All of us need to stop there, too, on a regular basis! The experience is both literal and metaphorical. Whether a summer vacation, a retreat, or a few moments of sunset awe, the destination is always the same: "It isn't really/ Anywhere!/ It's somewhere else/ Instead!"

Editor: We congratulate Michelle on the birth of her grandson, Samuel Charles Dugan, this summer.

Ann Hackett

Barbara Bernardi

When my brother Bill entered St. Mary's School (Melrose, MA), I became a member of the SHCJ and the St. Mary's families. I was two years old and have had an SHCJ Sister in my life ever since. I loved Sr. Veronica who gave me homemade root beer.

Sixty years later I met the Associates when Sr. Mary Samson hosted an Alumni meeting of about forty of us at which Cathi Duffy spoke. Twelve of us started meeting. Several years ago, we became supporters of Sr. Mary Alice Minogue and the Batey Lecheria in the Dominican Republic. I am able, finally, to give back to the Society who formed my life and to whom I am indebted greatly. My Auntie Edna (SMHS 1936) and I talk about our favorite Sisters with joy, humor and gratitude.

My hope is that the Associates will continue to spread the tradition of Faith, fun and charity that we, the "Old Girls and Boys" have received from the SHCJ Sisters, in addition to an excellent education.

My career in Finance with IBM allowed me to spend time in Rye with many of my past teachers and current co-workers. An IBM Treasurer came to Rye with me for lunch once and he was most impressed by being together with the Sisters. Their Cornelian tradition is what I hope the Associates will continue to spread - Action, Magnanimity, Joy...the tradition seems to be contagious.

Full Disclosure: Barbara Bernardi and I are classmates from St. Mary's. This year will mark the sixtieth anniversary of our high school graduation. Our class celebrates once a year with our Spiritual Director, Sr. Mary Samson. Barbara and I wish this sense of friendship and of being together for decades for every Associate.

Ann Hackett



Ann Hackett (back row -right) with some of the Associates in Melrose, MA. Barbara Bernardi i (back center) and Sr. Mary Samson (back left)



Care of Creation

Kay Rowan and Linda Tarney



On June 17, the Global Catholic Climate Movement invited and continues to invite everyone to join them in pledging to pray, live simply and advocate for the care of our common home.

*This pledge is a "world wide campaign to raise awareness of the Laudato Si message and to encourage the Catholic community to take action with the urgency required by the climate crisis."
(livelaudatosi.org)*

I pledge to:

Pray for and with creation

Live more simply

Advocate to protect our common home.

Praying is something we can all do individually or as part of a group. Do you have a favorite prayer for our earth? Do you pray either of the prayers of Pope Francis at the end of Laudato Si?

This year why not join Christians around the world and celebrate World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1.

This day of prayer was begun in 1989 by our Orthodox brothers who were joined in 2001 by the Christian European churches and in 2015 was endorsed by Pope Francis.

The Season of Creation is a month dedicated to prayer and the care of creation beginning on September 1 and ending on October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Various prayers are available on line as well as prayer service ideas for the opening and closing of this special time. (seasonofcreation.org)

The last line of the Laudato Si Pledge is to advocate to protect our common home. We can help save our

planet Earth and its resources simply in the way we buy and wash our clothes. In buying clothes look for Eco Spun clothes and clothes made from natural fibers such as bamboo, cotton, hemp, Tencel or wool. Eco Spun clothes are made of a high quality polyester fiber from recycled plastic drink bottles. Natural fibers, hemp and bamboo are fast growing plants, which absorb above average levels of CO₂ and require minimal applications of insecticides and pesticides. Also, whenever possible recycle clothing that is no longer worn.

In the caring of clothing, the average U.S. household washes around 6,000 items a year. To reduce the energy needed to wash all that laundry by 1/3 invest in a front loading, energy-saving washing machine. This type of washing machine uses a fraction of the water (25 gallons less per load) and energy than a top loading machine, while treating the clothes more gently. Also, by cutting the laundry down by 1 load per week can avoid around 50lb. of CO₂ emissions per week. Washing full loads at 86° F instead of a higher temperature uses up to 40% less energy, while extending the life of the clothes.

After washing the clothes in an environmental safe detergent, whenever possible hang them up to dry to reduce electricity consumption. Washing machines and dryers can account for up to 25% of the electricity consumed at home. If a tumble dryer is used, then run loads back to back while the drum is still warm keeping the lint collector and vent clean. A blocked up lint collector and vent can cause the dryer to use up to 30% more energy than a dryer with a clean vent.

Finally, in place of dryer sheets to decrease static and add a fresh fragrance to the laundry use dryer balls. Dryer balls help reduce drying time and static without toxic chemicals. By adding essential oils to wool dryer balls the laundry will come out of the dryer dry and smelling fragrant.

Resources

Laudato Si' #246 (Prayers of Pope Francis)

catholicclimatemovement.global

livelaudatosi.org

seasonofcreation.org

(resources for private and group prayer)

