

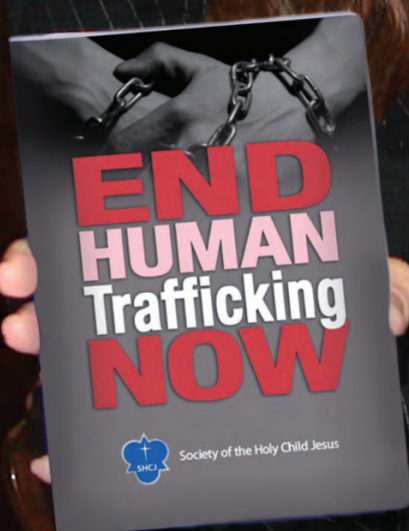
Actions

Serving with Peace, Justice, & Compassion

*I have begun
the work;
others will
bring it to
perfection.*

- Cornelia Connelly

Carmen Chavez, Esq.,
Executive Director of
Casa Cornelia Law
Center in San Diego, CA,
takes a stand against
human trafficking





DEAR FRIENDS,

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis' invitation to religious to "Wake Up The World" – *to be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living* – resonates with our Holy Child heritage

and spirituality. For nearly two centuries, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ) has focused on *meeting the wants of the age* and responding to these needs with open hearts and minds. With your support, the Society embraces Pope Francis' invitation and seeks to live and serve in ways that promote the respect and dignity of all creation.

In this issue of ACTIONS, I invite you to witness the Holy Child community responding to today's challenges. Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego, CA, opened a program to protect victims of human trafficking. From coast to coast, the Holy Child Network of Schools participated in dozens of activities fostering peace, justice, and compassion, including a collaborative volunteer program for at-risk students at Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City. Holy Child Sisters in the American Province joined the Catholic Climate Covenant, promising to take additional steps in stewarding God's gifts through reflection, action and advocacy. Beginning in 2014, the New Sharon campus in Rosemont, PA, began the transition from conventional electricity to green energy.

In the coming pages, you will also read about new initiatives – *a different way of doing things* – to advance

the Society's mission. For the first time, SHCJ Associates and Sisters worked together to create an e-retreat available online. The Society launched a new website uniting all three Provinces – African, American, and European – to reflect *One Society for Mission*. Holy Child's social media program now includes inspirational posts, news, and images to represent our intercultural/international community.

The works of the Society have been made possible through the commitment of our Sisters, SHCJ Associates, alumni/ae, donors, collaborators, and friends. In this publication, we honor the 2014 Jubilarians for their part in caring for God's creation and remember our Sisters who have gone to God during this past year. We also recognize our donors for supporting the Society's educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries.

As ACTIONS goes to print, the world awaits Pope Francis' upcoming environmental encyclical. The Church anticipates this document to give witness to environmental justice and to inspire action on global issues. I invite you to continue to respond to today's needs with open hearts and minds, and to continue the journey with the Holy Child family to "Wake Up The World."

Gratefully,

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ
American Province Leader

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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.



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CASA CORNELIA LAW CENTER

Opens Human Trafficking Program

While Cornelia Connelly lived in the 1800s, many of her life experiences resonate with the life experiences of today's women, men, and children. Victims of human trafficking, in particular, identify with Cornelia's pain of being separated from her children, searching for hope in unfamiliar lands, and finding the courage to act.

Founded by the Holy Child Sisters in 1993, Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC) carries on Cornelia's spirit and desire to *meet the wants of the age*. In 2014, CCLC expanded its services to include a Human Trafficking Program.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human labor trafficking is modern-day slavery that extends across international borders and continents. People are bought, sold, or smuggled into foreign countries to work as migrant workers, domestic help, restaurant staff, factory workers, and prostitutes. Victims receive little or no pay. Many countries, including the United States, serve as a transit or destination country for trafficking people.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

The victims – primarily children and women – are captives of abusive and deceptive employment. And due to their unauthorized immigration status, these women and children live in misery and paralyzing fear. According to CCLC, victims hide in plain sight and many are unwilling to seek or receive help.

CCLC RESPONDS WITH A LOVE FULL OF ACTION

With the support of the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, CCLC began a Human Trafficking Program to provide victims with legal services when few other providers had stepped forward.

In partnership with the Center for Social Advocacy (CSA) San Diego and San Diego State University, CCLC identifies victims and provides them with life-saving legal services.

Victims are also referred to CCLC for legal representation by anti-trafficking organizations.



Carmen Chavez, Executive Director of Casa Cornelia Law Center, was recognized for her efforts on behalf of human rights and equal justice at the 27th annual All People's Celebration honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., in San Diego, CA. She was presented with the Ashley L. Walker Social Justice Award.

ONE SUCH CLIENT IS EVA*...

Eva took a harmless job cooking and cleaning for a gentleman in Mexico. Months later, Eva's employer persuaded her to move to the United States using false promises of increased pay. Eva thought she had been offered the opportunity of a lifetime – she would have the ability to earn higher wages and improve the quality of life for her family.

Upon arrival in the United States, Eva's contact stole her travel and identity documents. Eva quickly realized that she was imprisoned by her employer and trapped in a foreign country. Eva was required to work round-the-clock – cooking, cleaning, and doing whatever the gentleman asked – with little or no compensation. She could not speak English and had no money to return to her children in Mexico. After two years, Eva called a national human trafficking hotline, a number she found on a flyer at a grocery store. The organization she called secretly rescued Eva and then connected her with CCLC. Together, CCLC and Eva submitted a T-Visa application, "a temporary nonimmigrant status given to victims of 'severe forms of human trafficking' on the condition that they help the law enforcement officials investigate and prosecute crimes related to human trafficking."

Eva's visa application is currently pending approval, and expected to be approved in 2015.

In its first year, CCLC's Human Trafficking Program has provided legal screening to 85 potential victims. Another 16 have had a T-Visa filed on their behalf.

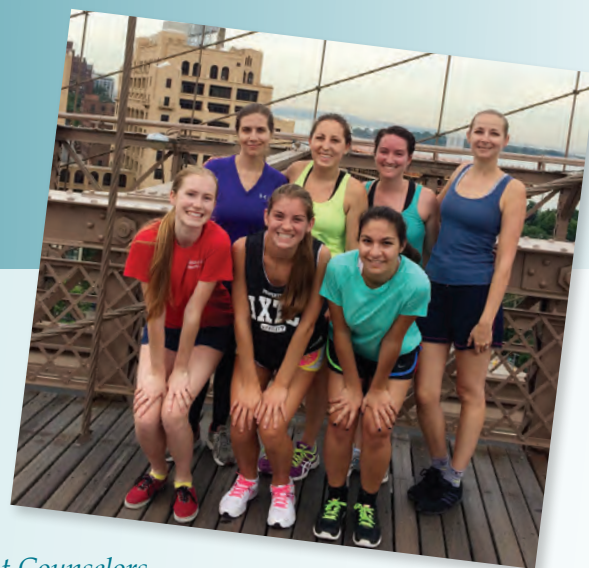
Empowered by Cornelia's spirit and the Holy Child mission, CCLC's Human Trafficking Program focuses on the human person – God's creation – regardless of a person's ethnic origin, religion, or gender. CCLC takes action to ensure that all women, men, and children are treated with dignity, reverence, and justice.

COAST TO COAST

Holy Child Schools Advocate Justice, Peace, & Compassion

Grounded in a 150-year heritage, the Holy Child Network of Schools is rooted in Christian values and attuned to learning opportunities that enable students to grow and respond to life with joy, zeal, and compassion. At the core of a Holy Child education is trust and reverence for every human being.

In a Holy Child environment, students achieve academic excellence, act responsibly, and lead full lives that benefit themselves and contribute to the lives of others. The Schools follow seven distinctive goals that foster a Holy Child spirituality including goal four: *to work for Christian principles of justice, peace, and compassion in every facet of life.*



*Student Counselors
from Holy Child Network of Schools volunteer
at Camp Cornelia in the City, New York City*

From coast to coast, all ten Holy Child Schools take action to make the world a better place. Teachers ensure that principles of peace and justice are incorporated into the curriculum. Communities conscientiously care for and protect the earth. Teachers, students, and parents annually organize dozens of activities, service trips, and fundraisers for people in need, animal shelters, the environment, or natural disaster relief. The Schools also unite their resources and spirit on projects to advance the Society's mission.

Camp Cornelia in the City, for example, involves six Holy Child ministries from the east and west coast coming together for a service project in New York City.

*Mayfield Junior School
(Pasadena, CA) sponsors
an e-recycling event*



High school students and teachers/chaperones from the Network of Schools - Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD; Cornelia Connelly School, Anaheim, CA; Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA; Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, NJ; and School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY – volunteer at Cornelia Connelly Center's *Camp Cornelia in the City* for one week. Founded in 1993 by the Holy Child Sisters, the Center offers educational programs and a wholistic support system for at-risk girls from 4th grade through college. *Camp Cornelia* kicks off the incoming fourth graders' experiences with the Holy Child family. Campers learn about Cornelia Connelly, are taught basic academic skills, meet new friends, participate in team building experiences, share meals, and have fun. And the volunteers gain a wider perspective on service, relationships, and social responsibility. Together, the volunteers and campers grow as individuals and as a Holy Child community.



Above: Students and faculty from Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child (Summit, NJ) spend their Spring break volunteering at the Society's mission site in the Dominican Republic



Holy Child high school students volunteer at Cornelia Connelly Center's Camp Cornelia in the City, New York City

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus thanks the Holy Child School community for promoting peace and justice, and protecting God's creation. Through their *Actions Not Words*, the Holy Child Network of Schools recognizes and embraces the connectedness and interdependence of all people across boundaries.



Above: Students, teachers and alums from Connelly School of the Holy Child (Potomac, MD) spend their Spring break participating in a service project with Food for the Poor in Jamaica



Above: Holy Child Academy (Drexel Hill, PA) establishes an organic garden for their community



New Website Communicates One Society for Mission

Society of the Holy Child Jesus launches new user- and mobile- friendly website in December 2014

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus launched a new website in December 2014 to communicate **One Society for Mission**. The mobile- and user- friendly website united the Society's three Provinces in design and navigational features; however, the site allows each Province to personalize its content to reflect the culture and people that they serve.

Prior to the launch, the African, American, and European Provinces had operated independent websites with varying designs and content. The websites lacked the technology to re-size content and images to accommodate smaller screens found on watches and phones. To address these issues, the Society identified a communication goal in their 2014-2020 Strategic Planning process to "promote a visual image of the Society" and "to effectively communicate to the public its identity as **One Society for Mission**."

Today, website visitors can easily identify the Society as one international community with three Provinces and ministries on four continents: Africa, Europe, North America, and South America. The website showcases the new logo, utilizes complimentary colors, and offers similar drop down menus so users can efficiently flow from one Province to the other, but within the Society's site. Also, widely searched materials can be quickly found in several places. The history of Cornelia Connelly and monthly meditations, for instance, are housed in the same location on all three Province pages.

We invite you to visit the Society's new website on your computer, watch, tablet or cellular phone at www.shcj.org. At the top of the homepage, each Province is listed on the right. Click on a Province to learn about its ministries. To go directly to the American Province, type www.shcj.org/american. We look forward to your visit!





Your gift makes our ministries possible!





Society of the Holy Child Jesus
2014-2015 Annual Appeal
www.shcj.org/american/donate

"Let us love one another and be filled with the charity of God." – Cornelia Connelly

Holy Child Sisters

PROTECT THE GIFT OF CREATION...

This past Fall, Sisters in the American Province took additional steps to protect God's gift of creation by pledging to reduce their personal and organizational carbon footprint, including the transitioning to renewable energy:

We, the Sisters of the American Province, compelled by the Gospel and by our mission to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world... the Holy Child Sisters recognize that what we do to earth, we do to ourselves. Therefore, the Society commits itself to support ALL life on earth.

Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ, shares that the Society's pledge coincides with efforts of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) to be proactive in caring for the earth. Sister Terri explains that "Holy Child Sisters are called by our Foundress, Cornelia Connelly, *to meet the wants of the age,*" and this includes using clean, sustainable energy in order to minimize environmental threats to our planet. To date, 100% of the Society's Archives building and almost all of the Sisters'

residences have converted to renewable energy. Furthermore, Holy Child's New Sharon campus, which houses the Sisters' assisted living and skilled care facility and administrative offices, continues to take steps to transfer from conventional electricity to green power. Sister Terri, who serves in the Society's ecospirituality ministry, appreciates and acknowledges the Sisters' environmental efforts, "As a woman religious, I am proud that members of my American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus have made a strong commitment to help reduce climate change."

The Society's ecospirituality ministry focuses on the interconnectedness between the care of creation and concern for all people, especially those suffering from poverty, trafficking, violence, and injustice. To learn more about Holy Child's social justice and creation initiatives, visit the www.shcj.org/american, or Sister Terri's ecospirituality blog, www.ecospiritualityresources.com.

Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

Pope Francis, May 21, 2014

SHCJ Associate Michelle Dugan (3rd from left) with family and friends attends the People's Climate March in New York City, September 21, 2014



SHCJ “Begin Again” E-retreat Inspired Younger Generations

Last Fall, Holy Child Sisters and their Associates collaborated on a special project that invited spiritual growth in young adults and families. They created the “Begin Again” e-retreat, with three (3), three to five minute videos, that reflected on themes of beginning again with God, with self, and with others. Participants were guided by scripture, music, and images to deepen or renew their relationships. In addition, people were invited to reflect quietly on questions such as “What did you experience when you were able to connect with God in the everyday moments of your life? How might you start re-connecting today?”

For the Holy Child community, the words “begin again” have deep roots and significance. Cornelia Connelly wrote for the Society “... so ought all to begin again with the most... loving child Jesus – a humbled God...” With the first reflection released on January 6 – Feast of the Epiphany – the thrust of the e-retreat was to make a fresh start, a new beginning in 2015.



As a first-time initiative for the SHCJ Associates and Sisters, the e-retreat was successful in reaching and inspiring younger generations. The meditations were shared with the Holy Child Network of Schools and ministries throughout the American Province. Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep in Waukegan, IL, encouraged faculty to participate in the e-retreat as a way of learning about the Holy Child charism. Rosemont College shared that the “E-retreat seems to be a popular item with our campus ministry following.” Holy Child elementary and high schools forwarded the reflections to their communities via e-newsletters and electronic communication. The e-retreat was distributed to thousands of people via e-mail and social media outlets.

Embracing Pope Francis’ call for the Church to be “life-giving” to today’s youth, SHCJ Associates and Sisters are planning a second “Begin Again” e-retreat in January 2016. In the meantime, we invite you to sign-up for the monthly meditation on the Society’s website at www.shcj.org/american or visit the e-retreat videos at vimeo.com/shcj/videos.

**We are also reminded to
bask in God's light/love
that has been there from
the beginning but has
sometimes gotten
obscured in our lives.**

“Begin Again” e-retreat focused on beginning again with God, with self, and with others.

A Love Full of Action

2014 Appreciation Mass & Brunch

In October the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus hosted their annual Mass of Appreciation and Brunch at New Sharon in Rosemont, PA. Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, Province Leader, welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude for the many ways in which each one helped to further the Society's mission:

*"With you by our side, we are **a love full of action** -- we educate; we strive for social justice; we seek a deeper spiritual life; and we care for the lives of others. Together, we create an energy that makes a positive impact in today's complex world - we are **meeting the wants of the age.**"*

Father Michael Oliveri, a longtime friend of the Society, presided at the liturgy in the New Sharon Chapel. Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, Ph.D., President of Rosemont College, and SHCJ Associate Stephanie Griffin were readers. Grace Smith '15 of Holy Child Academy, and Emily Szela '15 of Rosemont School of the Holy Child read the Prayers of the Faithful.



Selma Wunderlich and Margaret Doyle, SHCJ, met at the Appreciation Brunch



The Holy Child Academy Handbell Choir performed during the Mass



Janairis Perez, Teen Leader from Providence Center, and Kenyetta Powell, 8th Grade student from Hope Partnership for Education, presented the offertory gifts to Father Oliveri

Congratulations to Our



NANCY CALLAHAN, SHCJ

(M. M. Electa)

Sister Nancy's 60 years as a Holy Child Sister have been marked by a love of teaching and a love of New York City, where most of her teaching took place.

Born and raised in New York City, Sister Nancy attended St. Elizabeth's School and graduated from St. Walburga's Academy in 1951. Following her high school graduation, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Sister Nancy began her teaching ministry at St. James' School in Philadelphia, PA, and then taught at Sts. Peter and Paul's School in Fleetwood, NY, and St. Mary's School in Melrose, MA. She then taught upper grades at St. Veronica's School in Chicago and Our Lady of Lourdes' School in New York City, and at St. Rita's School and St. Rose's School in Portland, OR. Sister Nancy later returned to teaching in Melrose and Fleetwood, and for seven years taught

8th Grade at her alma mater. From 1980-1983, she served as head of the lower school at Marymount School of New York.

In 1990, Sister Nancy's teaching experiences led her to a ministry at Fordham University. For six years she was a mentor/instructor in the University's Graduate School of Education and for five years in the Intern Program. Since then, Sister Nancy has been an active member of two advisory boards and six boards of trustees.

Having recently completed 12 years on the board of trustees at School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY, Sister Nancy remains connected to the School and volunteers as a member of the Academic Affairs Committee. This role enables her to link Cornelia Connelly's educational innovations with the School's current curriculum.

Sister Nancy's Jubilee celebration was an exceptionally happy one because Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, whom she first knew as a curate at St. Elizabeth's Parish, served as the presider at Mass.



CAROLINE CONWAY, SHCJ

(M. M. Caroline)

Born and raised in Portland, OR, Sister Caroline was educated there at Holy Child Academy. Her musical gifts were nurtured at Marylhurst University, where she received a bachelor of

arts degree in music. When she entered the Society in 1951, she appreciated being part of a particularly musical group of postulants.

After making her first vows in 1954, Sister Caroline taught for a year at Rosemont School of the Holy Child. In 1955, she was sent to her alma mater in Portland, where she taught for ten years and was principal for five of those years. In 1965, Sister Caroline moved to Pasadena, CA, to become principal of Mayfield Senior

School for the next three years. She returned to Pennsylvania, and after earning a master's degree in religious studies from Temple University in 1971, she taught for the next eight years at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, MD.

In 1980, Sister Caroline was called to Rome to be Secretary General, a responsibility she held for seven years. Returning home she had a sabbatical year at Weston School of Theology and then began a completely new work at Grand Valley Catholic Outreach in Grand Junction, CO. She served as director there for ten years, making many friends in the area.

Today, Sister Caroline continues to minister in Grand Junction. She offers spiritual direction and Tai Chi classes. She also has initiated several prayer and earth-caring groups and keeps music alive in her life by playing the piano.



JEANNE MARIE GUERIN, SHCJ

(M. M. Mildred)

Sister Jeanne Marie came to know and love the spirit of Holy Child Sisters first at Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, PA, and after graduating

from Rosemont College, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Early in her ministry, Sister Jeanne Marie taught at Holy Child schools in Summit, NJ; Rosemont, PA; and Suffern, NY.

Her next mission was 4,000 miles away at the Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi in Rome, where she served for four years as director of the English language section. Beginning in 1974, Sister Jeanne Marie ministered in California for 11 years

at Mayfield Senior School and the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education. Her next ministry took her to Augusta, GA, and then to Natchez, MS, where Cornelia Connelly and her husband, Pierce, had lived and where they decided to enter the Catholic Church.

Sister Jeanne Marie's tenure in the New Orleans Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education lasted for 13 years. During this time, she delved deeply into the life of Cornelia Connelly for whom New Orleans and Grand Coteau were significant places.

Now back in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, Sister Jeanne Marie joins the Sisters at Holy Child Center for liturgies, participates on the theology committee, attends justice meetings, and continues to grow and to learn in her genial way.

60 Year Jubilarians



CLARITA HANSON, SHCJ

(M. M. Clarita)

Sister Clarita, whose life of service has taken her to many locations in the United States and Africa, was born with an adventurous and compassionate spirit.

Born and raised in Chicago, she first encountered the Holy Child Sisters at St. Veronica's School. Following graduation from Alvernia High School, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Her first teaching ministry spanned seven years at St. Ignatius' School in Chicago. During the next 11 years, she taught science at Holy Child high schools in Rye, NY, and Portland, OR. At Holy Child Academy in Portland, she served as principal for five years.

Sister Clarita's great desire to serve in West Africa was answered in 1977. She worked in Nigeria for the next thirty years as science teacher, principal, vicariate councilor, vicar, vicar provincial, and first provincial of the newly established African Province. She returned to the United States to live at Dalton Center for Mission in New York City. Two years later, Sister Clarita was called on to administer a rural maternity health center in Nigeria and serve as provincial councilor/secretary.

In 1999, Sister Clarita returned to the United States, where her gifts and life experiences prepared her to serve in several ministries including academic advisor in the Rosemont Educational Advancement Program (REAP) at Rosemont College. Presently, she shares the work of the Society Treasurer and serves as the "unofficial" angel for all Sisters visiting from West Africa.



MARY JANE HICKS, SHCJ

(M. M. Collette)

Born in Chicago, Sister Mary Jane met with sadness early in life when her mother passed away. While the loss of her mother was difficult, Sister Mary Jane's

move to her grandmother's home brought her closer to the Holy Child Sisters who taught her at St. Veronica's School. After graduating from Alvernia High School and working for two years, Sister Mary Jane entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

Sister Mary Jane first taught at St. Anastasia's School in Waukegan, IL, and St. Patrick's School in Wadsworth, IL. She served as principal at both St. Patrick's and St. Veronica's Schools, and also taught history at Holy Child High School in Waukegan, IL. She moved to Old Westbury, NY, to teach at Holy Child Academy, and later returned to Chicago to teach at St. Ignatius' School.

Sister Mary Jane also served as a school secretary at Annunciation School in Washington, DC, a pastoral assistant at St. Bridget's

Parish in Westbury, NY, and as a business manager at the Holy Child provincial offices in Drexel Hill, PA. She then spent ten years as a pastoral associate, first at Holy Cross Parish in Las Cruces, NM, and then at Queen of Peace in Chicago, IL.

A move to Rome was next, where, for five years, Sister Mary Jane served her community in several ways while managing the household budget. She relished experiencing another culture and visiting with Holy Child Sisters in Europe and Nigeria.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania, Sister Mary Jane volunteered at Rosemont School of the Holy Child and taught English as a Second Language at Providence Center in Philadelphia. Today, she continues her ministry at the Rosemont School and joyfully participates in local activities, especially at Holy Child Center and Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish. In view of these 60 years, Sister Mary Jane thanks God in the words of the psalmist: "I will celebrate your love forever, and your faithfulness age after age."



RUTH MCCARTHY, SHCJ

(M. Louis Mary)

Born and educated in New Jersey, Sister Ruth continues to be devoted to the Garden State. After graduating from Rutgers University with a science degree, Sister Ruth worked for eight years as an assistant chemist and two years as a laboratory assistant at pharmaceutical companies. She then entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1951.

Her first teaching ministry extended for 12 years at Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, PA., as a teacher and then as principal for six years. She then spent one year teaching religion at John W. Hallahan High School before being missioned to Archbishop Carroll High School. She happily taught there

for 23 years – even enjoying ski trips with the students. During those years, Sister Ruth also volunteered at RESPONSE-ABILITY for three summers.

In 1990, Sister Ruth returned to her home state of New Jersey and opened a new Holy Child residence 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. Adept at managing the new residence, Sister Ruth was given responsibility for the shore houses in Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor.

Officially retired in 2007, Sister Ruth was always available to drive, make mission appeals, and serve the needs of Sisters at Holy Child Center. Now residing in New Sharon's Midhill, Sister Ruth not only provides good conversation, but also gives rides when needed.

Congratulations to Our 60 Year Jubilarians (continued)



ANN SCHWARZ, SHCJ

(M. M. Theophila)

Sister Ann's relationship with the Society of the Holy Child Jesus is extensive and enduring. She has the distinct privilege of being related to Cornelia Connelly through her father, who was a direct descendent of Adeline Duval, Cornelia's oldest sister.

Sister Ann cherishes the memories of the love and care she received at the School of the Holy Child in Suffern, NY, where she boarded after her mother died. Upon graduation from Holy Child, Sister Ann entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

As a gifted and beloved teacher who masterfully connected with her students, Sister Ann taught for 25 years on both coasts, including at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, PA, St. Leonard's Academy in Philadelphia, PA, and Rosemont School of the Holy

Child in Rosemont, PA. On the west coast, she taught at Holy Family School and St. Charles' School in Portland, OR, and Mayfield Junior School in Pasadena, CA. She was also missioned to teach at St. Anastasia's School in Waukegan, IL.

Sister Ann's next 20 years of ministry were devoted to religious education in parishes throughout the country, including Cape Coral, FL; Bayonne, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, DC; Littleton, CO; Charlotte, NC; and Bryn Mawr, PA. Sister Ann brought creativity and inspiration to catechetics, especially through music and dance.

Sister Ann was an avid practitioner and expert in Tai Chi, which she continued to teach even after she retired from active ministry. Today, she lives at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, PA, and welcomes all with a warm smile and prayerful spirit.



ELIZABETH STRUB, SHCJ

(M. Elizabeth Mary)

Sister Elizabeth has been surrounded by the Holy Child community for most of her life. Born in California, she spent the first nine years of her education in Holy Child schools in Pasadena, CA. After graduating from college, Sister Elizabeth made a geographic and cultural leap to the east coast and entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. What followed was a life of service around the world, including ministries in Rosemont, PA, Pasadena, CA, St. Louis, MO, Rome, Italy, Cambridge, MA, and Santiago, Chile.

Sister Elizabeth served as a high school teacher, head of school,

director of novices, missionary, pastoral agent, retreat leader, spiritual director, and Society leader. Today, she continues serving in the Society's ministry in Chile. Always learning, Sister Elizabeth considers herself a perpetual student, including in the kitchen, where she lightheartedly refers to herself as a "not very good cook."

Sister Elizabeth believes the thread that holds together her lifelong journey of service, enriched by the company of Sisters and a faithful God, is a "call and answer." Reflecting on her Jubilee celebration, Sister Elizabeth quotes St. Paul, "Let us go forward on the road that has brought us to where we are." Sister Elizabeth shares "That's what I hope to do."



NORA SWEENEY, SHCJ

(M. Bridget Mary)

Sister Nora's passion for teaching and a talent for languages have been fundamental to her life of ministry. Born in Philadelphia, Sister Nora received 12 years of Holy Child education beginning at St. Edward's School and then at St. Leonard's Academy. She would go on to spend 60 years of her professed life in education.

Sr. Nora's first three years of teaching were at St. Edward's School followed by five years at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill. She moved to Anaheim, CA, to teach at Cornelia Connelly School for 13 years. One of the few Holy Child Sisters with a master's degree in Latin, she taught that language as well as history, English, and religion.

Sr. Nora's advanced studies in theology led to a ministry in Nigeria, where she taught Bible knowledge at Holy Child College in Lagos and then New Testament and Synoptic Gospels at St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Jos.

During a brief return to the United States, Sister Nora taught for three years at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY, before returning to her beloved West Africa. For 12 years, she taught New Testament, Latin, and Greek at St. Peter's Regional Seminary for Southern Ghana and St. Paul's Seminary in Accra, Ghana.

Since 1994, Sister Nora has taught part-time at Rosemont College, LaSalle University, and Caldwell College. She has been invited back to West Africa several times to teach summer courses. She also embraced a new ministry of providing clinical pastoral education at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.



PATRICIA TIRRELL, SHCJ

(M. M. Vincentia)

Sister Patricia experienced firsthand the joy of being taught by Holy Child Sisters at St. Mary's School in Melrose, MA. She was moved by the Sisters' talents, caring and deep faith. Her prayers to be chosen to join these women were answered, and, in the Fall after her high school graduation, Sister Patricia entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

Her first teaching assignment and opportunity to live in a city was at St. Edward's School in Philadelphia. She fully embraced her ministry and enjoyed urban living, which she eventually experienced in many cities throughout the United States.

As with everything, Sister Patricia was exuberant and grateful

for her teaching ministry. She taught almost every grade, as well as serving as principal of elementary schools. In her later years, she served as director of religious education and parish administrator.

Sister Patricia speaks warmly about her ministries and the wonderful places they took her, including Mississippi, Arizona, California, Oregon, Colorado, and Pennsylvania. Her travels also included a three week visit to Ghana – another tremendous event for her. Today, she volunteers at a parish food pantry, serves as receptionist in the provincial office, and visits the Sisters at Holy Child Center.

Reflecting on her 60 years of service, Sister Patricia joyously remarks, "How can I thank God for allowing me the privilege of ministering among so many creative, spiritual, and loving people of God?"

Congratulations to Our 50 Year Jubilarians



JEANNE RONZANI, SHCJ

(Sr. Dominic Mary)

Sister Jeanne's shares that 50 years as a Holy Child Sister has been filled with both meaning and mystery. During her senior year at Holy Child

High School in Waukegan, IL, she began to think seriously of religious life, and when the idea persisted, she decided to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Sister Jeanne's mother supported the decision, but her father was opposed. Nevertheless, Sister Jeanne entered and with her experience of being the third in a family of nine siblings, she adjusted readily. When Sister Jeanne's father realized her happiness, his opposition became pride in having a daughter as a nun.

Sister Jeanne began her teaching ministry in Chicago at St. Ignatius' School and then at St. Veronica's School. A math major, Sister Jeanne later taught this subject at Holy Child

schools in Rye, NY, and Potomac, MD. For five years, she was also principal of School of the Holy Child in Rye.

Sister Jeanne chose to spend her sabbatical year in Pacoima, CA, where, for the first time, she worked directly with the poor. She considers this period as one of the highlights of her life, both in terms of ministry and community. She taught for two more years at Potomac and then returned to California to teach at Our Lady of Loretto High School in Los Angeles for five years and then for three years at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena.

Sisters Jeanne's compassion and administrative skills have been called upon several times by the Province. She has served on two Provincial leadership teams and today she supervises the Holy Child community in Rye. Sister Jeanne reflects on her vocation and jubilee year with love and appreciation, "My heart overflows with gratitude as I continue the journey."



CAROL ANN SMITH, SHCJ

(Sr. M. Carol)

Sister Carol Ann attended Rosemont College where the blend of warm humanity and intelligence of the Holy Child community drew her to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She spent her first ten years teaching at Holy Child schools in Suffern, NY, and Old Westbury, NY, while completing a master's degree in library science from Villanova University. After Vatican Council II, when spiritual direction opened as a ministry for women, she studied at St. Louis University and became the Society's director of formation. Sister Carol Ann served on the boards of Holy Child schools in New York and in Maryland, and was a member of the SHCJ Associates' core team. She also authored two books for the Society: *Abundant Jubilee* and *Living Wells*.

After receiving a master's degree in Religion and Culture from The Catholic University of America, she served the spiritual needs of the laity at Pace University in New York City, in the Diocese of Toledo, OH, and at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI., where, in 1991, Fr. Greg Lucey, SJ, started the Center for Ignatian Spirituality to address the needs of faculty and administrators.

From 1994-2005, Sister Carol Ann served as director of the Center. Starting in 2000, she co-authored two books with Fr. Eugene F. Merz, SJ: *Moment by Moment: A Retreat in Everyday Life* and *Finding God in Each Moment: The Practice of Discernment*. Today, she continues in a ministry of spiritual direction and as a resource for various groups. As *ACTIONS* goes to press, Sister Carol Ann and Father Merz are completing their third book, *Moments to Remember: Ignatian Wisdom for Aging* (New City Press).

Congratulations to Our 50 Year Jubilarians *(continued)*



FRANCE WHITE, SHCJ
(Sr. Leo Mary)

Sister France White, the fourth of Kathleen (Teddy) and Leo White's nine children, was born and raised in Portland, OR, where she attended St. Rose's School and Holy Child Academy. Immediately after graduating from high school, Sister France entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and started her teaching ministry in 1966.

After seven years of teaching – at St. Rose, St. Charles and Holy Family schools in Portland, OR, and Assumption School in Pasadena, CA – she earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in studio art from Rosemont College. Subsequently, she worked as a graphic artist, peace educator and administrative assistant while developing her talent as an artist. She has made prints,

cards and calendars of her art, as well as a book with paintings on the seven last words of Jesus.

Over the years, Sister France has been engaged in social justice issues and is particularly concerned with creating a culture of peace and sustainability. Her art has been influenced by various intercultural and international experiences: living as support staff in a shelter for homeless women and children; teaching art in Jos, Nigeria; working with Sisters from Africa and Europe and with barrio children in Santiago, Chile; serving at a transition house for women in Los Angeles; giving retreats and teaching art in the Dominican Republic; being immersed in the art of England, France, and Italy, and later returning to France with Buddhist teachers for an experience of Celtic power places.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS for the Society's Mission Site in Dominican Republic

Do you have an interest in sharing your time and gifts with the Society's educational and medical mission site in the Dominican Republic? Did you graduate from college, are over the age of 21 and proficient in Spanish? If yes, we invite you to "ACT" now and learn about Holy Child Volunteers at www.holychildvolunteers.org.

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Remembrances



SISTER JEAN GILBON, SHCJ

(M.M. Francine)

October 10, 1929 – February 25, 2015

Before entering the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Sister Jean worked in the business world, where she became friends with the woman who introduced her to the Holy Child Sisters. Sister Jean often shared that this friend “brought me back to God and led the way to entering the Society in 1956.” Sister Jean taught at St. Mary’s School in Melrose, MA, and then at St. Ignatius’ School in Chicago, IL, Sts. Peter and Paul’s School in Fleetwood, NY, and at Our Lady of Lourdes School in New York City. In 1966, she began her eight-year ministry at St. Elizabeth’s Parish in New York City as teacher, principal, and business manager. She later worked in the American Province’s finance office until 1979, when she became the business manager at Connolly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, MD. From 1985-1999, Sister Jean worked in the Archdiocese of New York’s Office of Criminal Ministry. Upon retiring, she volunteered at Holy Child Academy in Old Westbury, NY. She lived in Rye, NY, until illness necessitated a move to Holy Child Center.



SISTER ELIZABETH GORVIN, SHCJ

(M. M. Berchmans)

November 4, 1920 – December 25, 2014

Born in Boston, MA, Sister Elizabeth began her teaching ministry at St. Leonard’s Boys School in Philadelphia, PA. She then taught at Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, PA. One of her students there, Cardinal John Foley, became a lifelong friend and called her the best teacher he ever had. For 13 years, Sister Elizabeth worked in formation with the Society’s novices and postulants. She served as superior and provincial councilor before returning to teaching at her alma mater, St. Mary’s School, Melrose, MA. Sr. Elizabeth later taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School in New York City and at Mayfield Junior School in Pasadena, CA. In 1980, she moved to Florida serving first at Sacred Heart parish in Punta Gorda for 14 years and then at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Venice. She returned to the Rosemont area in 2002 and lived her final years at Holy Child Center. There she was known for her love of the Society and her devotion to the Blessed Mother. Sr. Elizabeth wrote in her memoir, “Wherever I was, I was always happy.”



SISTER ITA GUTHRIE, SHCJ

(Sr. Ita)

August 1, 1914 – March 5, 2015

Born in County Clare, Ireland, Sister Ita had three desires – to be a nurse, to be a sister, and to live in Australia. While she never lived in Australia, Sister Ita achieved two

of her dreams – she was a Holy Child Sister for 78 years and worked as a nurse for nearly two decades. Sister Ita lived and worked in Holy Child convents in Rosemont, PA, and Portland, OR. In 1968, after completing a practical nursing course, Sister Ita served at the Orange Grove Nursing Home in Pasadena, CA. She left there to become the nurse in the infirmary in Rye, NY, for ten years. In 1982, Sister Ita moved to Rosemont, PA, to serve in that capacity at Holy Child Center. Five years later she returned to New York where she worked in Our Lady of Lourdes parish until 1996. Sr. Ita celebrated her 100th birthday last year with deep gratitude for her life in the Society.



MARY THEODOSIA LINUS, SHCJ

(M.M. Theodosia)

December 15, 1916 – May 3, 2015

From her fun-loving family, Sister “Theo,” inherited the bright, happy spirit she shared throughout her life. After graduation from West Catholic High School for Girls, Sister Theo entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Her teaching ministry extended over 30 years. In Pennsylvania, she taught at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, St. Edward’s School in Philadelphia, Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, and Rosemont School of the Holy Child in Rosemont. She taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School and St. Elizabeth’s School in New York City and later at St. Veronica’s School in Chicago. She served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s remedial reading program. For 20 years after that, Sister Theo was the librarian at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, St. Leonard’s Academy in Philadelphia, and School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY. In 2000, Sister Theo wrote her first icon under the tutelage of Rev. Richard Cannuli, OSA. On her 98th birthday, she commented, “My retirement years have been greatly enriched by the icon experience and by all the people I have met along the way.”



SISTER EDWINA MENTEN, SHCJ

(M. M. Edwina)

April 13, 1928 – February 13, 2015

After graduating from St. Mary’s High School in Melrose, MA, Sister Edwina entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Her first ministry was as a teacher and later principal at St. James’ School in Philadelphia, PA. She taught at St. Elizabeth’s School in New York City and at St. Ignatius’ School in Chicago. In 1967, Sister Edwina pioneered the Society’s mission in Santiago, Chile, where she served as principal of Santa Rosa School. Returning to Philadelphia in 1973, Sr. Edwina taught at St. Leonard’s Academy before moving to Farmington, MI, where she was director of Mercy Center. From 1983-1988, Sr. Edwina directed the Society’s mission appeals and education programs at Dalton Center in New York City. She returned to Santiago where she served for 19 years as a pastoral counselor at Santo Tomas and at Centro Cornelia Connolly.



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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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 sponsors the ministries below.

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Casa Cornelia Law Center
(San Diego)
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(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)

Dalton Center for Mission
(Rye)
Holy Child Academy
(Old Westbury)
School of the Holy Child
(Rye)
UNANIMA International
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African Sisters Education Collaborative
(Philadelphia)
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Providence Center
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Rosemont College
(Rosemont)
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CHILE

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Fe y Alegría
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