



# SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PROVINCE

## ACTIONS NOT WORDS



Several of the Associates at the Province Appreciation Mass and Brunch in October. (Some present do not appear in photo.)



Initial commitment of Denise Bolli (second from left) at Holy Child Chapel, New Sharon October 15, 2017



An Appreciation Event in Charlotte. A rare shot with only the guys!

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## From the Director

*Save the Date*  
**2018 Associate Gathering**  
*Love Full of Action*  
**Thursday June 21 - Sunday June 24**  
*Keynote: Sr. Judith Lancaster*  
*Sending Forth: Sr. Elizabeth Mary Strub*  
New Sharon  
**Rosemont, PA**

Early Registration: \$250  
Regular Registration: \$275  
Scholarships available. Contact Cathi Duffy

All Are Welcome! See Page 8 for details.

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

# Sharing the Journey

by Cathi Duffy

Pope Francis initiated a two year program, Share the Journey, in late September. He shared that “Christ urges us to welcome our brothers and sisters with our arms truly open, ready for a sincere embrace, a loving and enveloping embrace”. The campaign encourages people to actually meet with migrants and listen to their stories, rather than treat them as mere numbers and statistics imbued with negative stereotypes.<sup>1</sup>

“Share the Journey” is a two-year campaign sponsored by Caritas Internationalis, the global network of national Catholic charities -- including the U.S. Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA -- to promote encounters between people on the move and people living in the countries they are leaving, passing through or arriving in.

Philippine Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, president of Caritas Internationalis, told Catholic News Service, “‘Share the Journey’ is not just a title or a label for a program -- it is that, but more than that, it is a lifestyle,” an affirmation that everyone wants and needs someone to share his or her journey through life.<sup>2</sup>

“This campaign is both spiritual and practical,” says Cardinal DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. “The Pope is asking us to pray and reflect and to use the awareness we build to take action, both personally and publically. To our Church, this campaign is an embodiment of the Biblical command to love our neighbor.”<sup>3</sup>

The Society in the 2016 General Chapter Enactments too has challenged us to “Do all we can, individually and together, to alleviate the struggle and suffering of migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers in whatever parts of the world we find ourselves.”

In meeting this want of our age, we can look first to Cornelia for inspiration. In the first months of the Society, Cornelia and the Sisters found themselves in Derby, a city polluted with the fumes and smoke of factories, where unemployed Irish immigrants searched for work in the factories and mines. Educating these Irish immigrant women at night and on Sundays was some of the Society’s first works.



We will explore what Associates are doing and what we can do.

- Do you know that one Associate has opened her home to welcome an immigrant from El Salvador?
- Do you know that another serves as the CRS archdiocesan ambassador in Philadelphia?
- Do you know how many Associates serve on boards of SHCJ ministries or schools that serve immigrant communities and/or refugees to the United States.

In upcoming issues, share how you personally #sharejourney as we explore ways to individually and collectively share the journey with those forced to leave their homes and live in hope of a better life.

To learn more about this initiative, check out...

<https://www.sharejourney.org/>

You might want to include the **Holy Family, Refugee Family: Digital Retreat** as part of your Advent prayer and reflection.

[https://www.crs.org/resource-center/holy-family-refugee-family-digital-advent-retreat?\\_ga=2.41903332.712259538.1510591189-1626504938.1506975786](https://www.crs.org/resource-center/holy-family-refugee-family-digital-advent-retreat?_ga=2.41903332.712259538.1510591189-1626504938.1506975786)

Watch **Holy Family in Midst of Refugee Crisis** video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqXY39xBBnw>

### The Justice Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit!  
Come, open us to the wonder, beauty, and dignity  
of the diversity found in each culture, in each face, and  
in each experience we have of the other among us.  
Come, fill us with generosity as we are challenged  
to let go and allow others to share with us  
the goods and beauty of earth.  
Come, heal the divisions that keep us from seeing  
the face of Christ in all men, women, and children.  
Come, free us to stand with and for those who must  
leave their own lands in order to find work, security, and  
welcome in a new land,  
one that has enough to share.  
Come, bring us understanding, inspiration, wisdom, and  
the courage needed to embrace change and  
stay on the journey.  
Come, O Holy Spirit, show us the way.  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops •  
Justice for Immigrants Campaign

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>from [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/09/27/pope\\_invites\\_all\\_to\\_share\\_the\\_journey\\_of\\_migrants\\_and\\_refu/1339258](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/09/27/pope_invites_all_to_share_the_journey_of_migrants_and_refu/1339258)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2017/share-the-journey-embrace-migrants-refugees-pope-says.cfm>

<sup>3</sup>From <http://www.usccb.org/news/2017/17-172.cfm>

### CRS Ethical Trade Migration Campaign Socks

Associate Anne Ayella shared a current initiative through Catholic Relief Services . As a way to help CRS efforts with migrants and refugees as well as promoting the Share the Journey campaign by Pope Francis, socks are being sold and 20% of the profits will be given to CRS' efforts related to migrants and refugees.  
Reflect on socks and the migrants' journeys.

To learn more and to place an order,

<http://ethicaltrade.crs.org/community-stories/socks-make-difference-one-step-time/>



# Tricia Fell

Barbara Bernardi

*Our Associate for this issue is Tricia Fell, another outstanding example of one of "Cornelia's Girls". When asked to be the focus of this article Tricia forwarded the following information. As you can see, there was little for me to do except forward it to Cathi. At this rate I will soon be out of a job! Enjoy reading everyone. God Bless, Barbara*

I grew up in Pequannock Township, New Jersey, which is about 30 miles northwest of New York City. My brother, three sisters and I attended public school and grew up on a block with many children. We could often be found on summer evenings having a baseball game in the street or playing tag or hide and seek among the houses on the block. Two of my sisters, my mother and I continue to live in Pequannock.

Our family grew up attending one of the two Catholic churches in our town. In addition, my father's aunt was a religious sister, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth, so we had a wonderful example of a faith-filled person in my great-aunt, who spent many of her vacations and holidays with us.

After high school, I attended secretarial school and then worked for several companies before deciding in my early thirties to attend college and change careers. I attended Morris County College for my associates degree and then attended Montclair State University to complete my bachelor's degree and embark on my new career as an accountant.

Around this time, I began attending Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, where I met Sr. Rosemary McSorley. Through working with Sr. Rosemary on the RCIA Team at the parish, assisting in her law practice during my college years and then working on the board of her law firm, Roey and I became very good friends. She helped me grow in my faith which served me well just a couple years later when I was diagnosed with cancer twice in one year. During

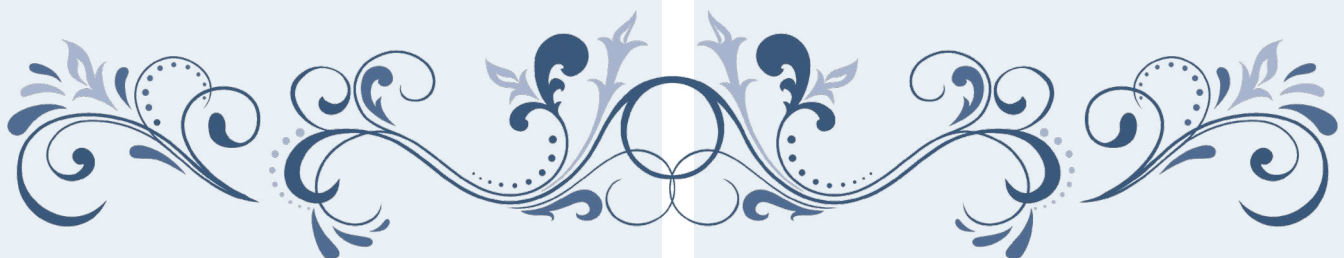


*Tricia Fell (r) at 2018 Associate Retreat in Stone Harbor with Juliet Njoku, Debbie Kissinger, and Eileen Dorman.*

this time, Roey was there for me and often reminded me of Cornelia's "accepted suffering."

Over the years, Sr. Rosemary kept telling some of the women from our parish about the SHCJ starting an Associate program. After Cathi Duffy was hired as the Associate Director, she came to give a presentation in Pompton Plains and that is when several of us began a true Associate relationship with the SHCJ. I became the leader of our Associate group in Pompton Plains and helped Sr. Rosemary coordinate our meetings. When Sr. Rosemary retired, she moved about 45 minutes away to Marian Woods in Hartsdale, NY. We were fortunate enough, as an associate group, to continue our relationship with her by traveling to Hartsdale and also to be a similar distance from the SHCJ convent in Rye, NY, where we could attend the Epiphany Mass each year and renew our Associate commitment.

Through my association with the SHCJ, I have been able to attend Associate gatherings including several regional meetings, the annual Associate New Jersey Shore retreat and the international meeting in the Dominican Republic as well as the recent pilgrimage to Louisiana and Mississippi. Through each gathering, I come to



# Praying in (Un)likely Places

by Anita Martineau

learn more about Cornelia Connelly and her life.

With the passing of Sr. Rosemary last year and the closing of the Rye convent, our Associate group in Pompton Plains is on a new path to discover how to continue our Association with the Sisters without the constant contact with an SHCJ Sister. We are lucky to be fairly close to the SHCJ Sisters living at Marian Woods in Hartsdale and hope to have meetings with them as often as our schedules and time permit. I am always grateful to receive materials from Cathi Duffy and to be able to attend events that she plans.

In addition to my Associate relationship with the SHCJ, I help to lead our Women of Faith group at church and have met some wonderful, spiritual women from our local parishes. I have also been expanding my knowledge of our Catholic faith by attending Bible study programs sponsored by my parish and am currently attending The Bible Timeline – The Story of Salvation program.

On a personal note, I am single and live within walking distance of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. After completing my education, I worked for a public accounting firm for nearly ten years doing audit and tax work. Almost five years ago, I began working at a local stone quarry in their finance department and have fallen in love with this type of accounting work – less stress with unique projects to tackle every year.

I value the friendships I have made with SHCJ Associates and Sisters and well as with members of the Women of Faith group. I hope to have many years of continued association with the SHCJ.



*Tricia Fell and Anita Martineau in 2014  
International Associates Gathering in DR*

For the last thirty years I have practiced as a social worker in child welfare. It is a fast-paced work environment where the day is frequently filled with putting out fires. My personal life is full of family commitments, helping care for four grandchildren and four elderly family members.

Living a life of service makes finding time for self-care and prayer challenging, but the wonderful thing about prayer is its easy accessibility. I've had to be creative in how to integrate this essential spiritual oxygen into my life. One day I was inspired to pray in the most unlikely of places and have sustained it as a regular practice.

Each morning I start my day in the shower and have found it to be the perfect place for daily prayer. It's quiet with no interruptions. Standing there shed of clothing helps me shed my concerns and reminds me that God loves me as I am. I make the sign of the cross. As the water rains down on me I think of my baptism as an infant. I allow the water to pour down over my forehead and recommit to my baptism every day. I am conscious of the freshness of the water permeating every pore of my body as I ask God to wash my soul of my sins and shortcomings. I breathe in the energy of the moist air, purifying and slowing down my breathing and thank God for another day of life and service.

After this ritual I raise my hands up high to put my petitions before God. These frequently include the wellbeing of family, friends, the relief for those suffering in the world, always including the special intentions of those on the SHCJ Associates prayer list and the Church. I allow myself casual conversation with God. I listen for response, smile, and say "thank you."

Next, I wish a good morning to Cornelia Connelly. Being in touch with her daily allows me to reflect on her example and her charism. I ask her to walk with me in my family life and in my work with families who experience great distress, not unlike she experienced in her own life. I focus on Cornelia not as an historical, inspirational figure, but as a wise friend who coaches me through the challenges in the day ahead. I let her know I have not forgotten her children and pray for the souls of her family.

I then connect spiritually to my deceased loved ones and the saints. I think of them as just being on the other side of the shower curtain, accessible and supportive. I thank them for walking with me through the labyrinth of my life.

# Carrie Fountain

by Michelle Dugan

*Time to be the fine line of light  
between the blind and the sill, nothing  
really. There are so many things  
that destroy. To think solely of them  
is as foolish and expedient as not  
thinking of them at all. All I want  
is to be the river though I return  
again and again to the clouds.  
All I want is to stop beginning sentences  
with All I want. No—no really all  
I want is this morning: my daughter  
and my son saying “Da!” back and forth  
over breakfast, cracking each other up  
while eating peanut butter toast  
and raspberries, making a place for  
the two of them I will, eventually,  
no longer be allowed to enter. Time to be  
the fine line. Time to practice being  
the line. And then maybe the darkness.*

I was not at all surprised to read on the website of American poet Carrie Fountain that “she captures a contemporary longing for spiritual meaning.” Born and raised in a small town near Las Cruces, New Mexico, Fountain now resides with her husband and children in Austin, Texas, where she teaches at St. Edward’s University. She has written two collections of poetry and a young adult novel, but this poem was just recently published online this October by the Academy of American Poets.

In “Time to be the fine line of light,” the poet’s voice is clearly her own: a young mother caught up in daily experience as well as a seeker after the ineffable, the eternal. As a meditation on time, the poem captures the long vista via the immediacy of the moment – an incarnational spirituality that resists “so many things that destroy.” To focus on the negative may seem like an “expedient” alternative, even a necessary way to combat the world’s ills; but it is as “foolish” as it is counterproductive, just as useless in the end as ignoring what is wrong. Instead, Fountain presents us with the contemplative path. The richness of the opening image is the key to the whole poem: it is “nothing really” in a most Zen fashion, for it will lead to her epiphany that she must “practice being the line,” being the light.

Moving next to the river that returns “again and again to the clouds,” Fountain wrestles with desire. Why must we humans want and want? Yet how natural, even beautiful, is our longing for the eternal return, for unity with the cycles of creation! So the poet turns for an answer to the present moment, to the laughter of children, “peanut butter toast/ and raspberries” (“really all/ I want is this morning”) – I do think Cornelia would find this passage delightful, and then oh so poignant as this still young mother realizes how brief this time she shares with her little ones really is: “I will, eventually,/ no longer be allowed to enter.” It is this sobering thought that reconnects Fountain – and us, her readers – to the eternal. Being both the light and “then maybe the darkness” requires awareness, commitment, presence, acceptance – spiritual practices that poets like Fountain help to illuminate for us.



# Care of Creation

Kay Rowan and Linda Tarney



*"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."*

*Pope Francis*

*I found this inspirational quote from Pope Francis very appropriate as the Season of Creation (September 1st through October 4th) came to a close on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Even though the season ended, our actions for the care of creation haven't ended in the least. We should continue to do whatever symbolic actions, large or small, we are called to do to protect our planet and all of God's creation.*

*God's Spirit will be with you and your group whether you are on a march to stop fracking and promote renewable energy sources or praying over the planting of a tree in a vacant city lot. Every action makes a difference.*

*The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) shared 5 things they were especially grateful for that sprouted from the Season of Creation. Beginning with the Creative Acts of Prayer, more than 500 global symbolic actions took place inspiring and educating people around the world. Prayer is transforming our communities and our planet.*

*Secondly, the GCCM were grateful for the unification of world religious leaders around the world praying for all of creation. Their moral guidance provides a way for us to find justice for creation.*

*The third action that the GCCM showed gratitude for took place on the Feast of St. Francis when 40 Catholic institutions took action to divest from fossil fuels. This is their action toward a clean energy economy.*

*Next, the fourth grateful action the GCCM acknowledged was the global unification of people of all backgrounds and walks of life. These people united to care for creation in order to honor their Creator.*

*Finally, the GCCM gave thanks to the Holy Spirit for making this Season of Creation possible. Through God anything is possible and with His Spirit there is always hope.*

*The Season of Creation may have ended for 2017, but the care of His creation is a never-ending action. Continue to pray for our Earth, all of His creation, and our call to preserve it all for future generations.*



# Love Full of Action June 21 - 24



## 6/21/18 Thursday - Past Celebrated

Opening - Begin arriving at New Sharon around 4 pm  
Meet & Greet Social  
Dinner  
Welcome  
Opening Prayer  
Celebrating our Past

## 6/22/18 Friday - Past to Present

Breakfast  
Opening Prayer Meditation  
Keynote: Sr. Judith Lancaster  
Tour and Mass at Rosemont College Chapel  
Lunch  
Share the Journey Exchange & Actions  
Tour Province Archives  
Dinner  
Social

## 6/23/18 Saturday - Present to Future

Breakfast  
Morning Prayer  
Core Team Shares  
SHCJ American Province Jubilee Mass & Celebration  
Dreams creating Our Future  
Dinner  
Social

## 6/24/18 Sunday Morning – Creating our Future

Breakfast  
Sending Forth: Sr. Elizabeth Mary Strub  
Mass with Sisters  
Lunch & Departure



Early Registration (before Feb. 28): \$250  
Regular Registration: \$275

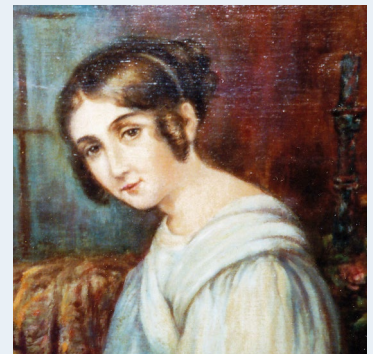
Scholarships available. Contact Cathi Duffy now for information.

## Visit Cornelia's Philadelphia

### Optional pre-Gathering Walking Tour

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Thursday

Additional costs to cover train, lunch, and entrance fees



We've secured a limited block of rooms at a special group rate of \$129.  
Book early and save.

Philadelphia Marriott West  
111 Crawford Avenue  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

**Booking under: SHCJ National Gathering**  
**Call 1 800 228 9290**

The hotel is less than 4 miles from Rosemont and just off I-476.

