



SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PROVINCE

Winter 2018 Volume XVI Issue I

ACTIONS NOT WORDS



Associate Anne Ayella with her daughters and granddaughter after receiving the papal Benemerenti (To a Well Deserved Person) Medal in January



Pasadena Associates helping with SCLAMP Toy Drive in December



Archival Assistant and Associate Emily Siegel with Sr. Tese Currie after Emily's presentation on Frank Connelly in January.

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SHCJ Associates, USA
American Province
 1341 Montgomery Avenue.
 Rosemont, PA 19010

Cathi Duffy, Director
 Phone: 610.626.1400 x 310
 Email: associates-usa@shcj.org

Register Today!
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 (ends February 28): \$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 Anne Ayella

As millions of God's children flee war, persecution and poverty, all of us are invited to "Share The Journey" by walking with them in prayer and support. Pope Francis' two year Share the Journey campaign urges Catholics to connect in a real way with migrants and refugees.

Pope Francis has asked all of us to "Share the Journey" with migrants and refugees around the world. The SHCJ Wants of the Age (WOTA) committee has identified a few specific ways to "share the journey". The committee has looked at efforts from a global, domestic and local perspective.

As a result of a generous gift to the Society, the WOTA committee has earmarked dollars to educate vulnerable Syrian refugee children living in Jordan, as well as dollars to support undocumented immigrants and their families in the U.S.

In addition, SHCJ Associates are welcome to apply for funds for local organizations that assist migrants and refugees where you may volunteer or work in some way. If you have questions, please reach out to the committee at wota@shcj.org.

The Share the Journey campaign has an excellent website with educational and pastoral resources, including videos, reflections, activities and prayers. Visit www.sharejourney.org to learn more and to connect in a real way with the lives of persons affected by migration and their struggles.

An additional way to impact the lives of migrants and refugees is to advocate and use your voice as a citizen. On Saturday, March 10th, there will be an Advocacy Workshop sponsored by WOTA and presented by Catholic Relief Services in the Solarium, Holy Child Convent, 1341 Montgomery Avenue in Rosemont. The workshop will be taped for those who are interested and unable to attend. For more info, contact Anne Healy Ayella at aayella@archphila.org.



For 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 Lenten prayer and reflection.

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>

From the Director

by Cathi Duffy

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey. May it be a time of conversion of heart in small and big ways for each of us. As we are bombarded daily with the 'wants of the age', it can be overwhelming. It is helpful to remind ourselves that God does not ask us to solve all the world's problems but to act in ways that God calls us for making a difference, i.e., to individually and collectively help create a more loving world. With our unique gifts and life circumstances, our responses will be diverse. I pray that we will each take time this Lent listening to God's call for us going forward – affirming current activities or nudging us in new directions of living out "Actions not Words". May each of us find our spiritual journey renewed and re-created when Easter arrives!

I hope that many of you are making plans to join me in Rosemont in late June for our National Gathering. It is bound to be a special time especially with Sisters Judith Lancaster and Elizabeth Mary Strub sharing their wisdom on living our mission with a 'love full of action'.

I am completing six years (2 terms) on the Board of Directors for the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR). It has been a wonderful learning experience as well as giving me a special perspective of the Associate relationship across the religious congregations in the United States and Canada. As religious congregations find themselves at a critical moment in their history, Associates too are experiencing the need to transform themselves. More on this in the future.

Let us pray for each other this Lent!

Cathi



Ray and Phyllis Mennitt

Barbara Bernardi

This issue we have the pleasure of introducing you to Phyllis and Ray Mennitt from North Carolina. Phyllis grew up in an Italian Catholic family in Milburn, N.J, the oldest of three children, having two younger brothers. Ray grew up in an Irish Catholic family, the youngest in a family of ten. While working at Kemper Insurance in Summit N.J., the two met in 1962. The young couple married in October 1963 and had 4 children, Ray Jr, 53, Twins Mark and Chrissy, 51 and David, 46. They now have 10 grandchildren.

In 1969 Ray and Phyllis were transferred to North Carolina. Although there were not many Catholics there, they still met many good friends at Assumption Church. These friends soon became family. This is also where they met Sister Alma Cornely and Sister Veronica Grover. Thirty years ago, the Mennitts were one of the founding families of St Luke's Catholic Church in Mint Hill, NC. The founding pastor was Fr Joe Mulligan whose aunt was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus.

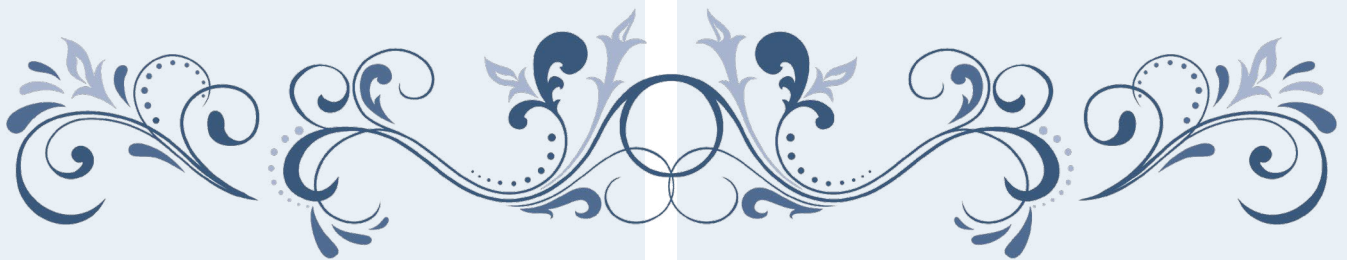
Before the couple knew it, Sister Veronica, a very forceful woman, had them involved in RCIA, as well as chairing the monthly dinner at the local men's shelter in Charlotte. This dinner is still going on today, currently chaired by Associates Greg and Cindy Platko.



*Ray and Phyllis with Sr Anita Quigley (l-r)
St. Luke's Parish Center
October 2017*

After meeting Sisters Jay McCann and Jean Marie Guerin, Phyllis and Ray decided that it was time for them to become Associates. This outstanding couple, who have dedicated most of their adult life to the Church, are still going strong. They continue to work steadfastly for the faith and we are so lucky they decided to answer God's call to become SHCJ Associates.

Thank you for your years of service, dedication and love!



Praying in (Un)likely Places

by Sarah Brabant

Anita Martineau's wonderful article on praying in the shower brought back memories of my own prayer journey. For years my praying was pretty much limited to exclamations of "Oh my God!" and various requests. This meager prayer life, coupled with my lukewarm spirituality, prompted me to attend my first silent retreat at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau. I thought surely I would be asked to kneel for hours in daily prayer and/or memorize long passages of scripture. I was ready to show God that I was willing to do either or both. I was in for a surprise. All of my spiritual directors picked up on the fact that reading was my drug of choice. I was given nothing to read except a short bible verse and told to focus on this verse several times a day. I was encouraged to walk, to bicycle, and to swim. That was it. I found myself thinking about my daily verse as I walked and walked and walked and one day in the pool, I realized that I was saying the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the 23rd psalm as I swam. And then I found myself talking to God and then at last listening to God. Each summer I returned for a three-day retreat, then five-day retreats, then eight-day retreats, and finally thirteen years after my first retreat I returned for the thirty-day retreat. When I had signed up for the original retreat I was determined to do all that was asked of me. I would show God what I was willing to do for Him. Little did I know that this wish to "show God" was finally to be tested.

In each room was a pre dieu and one day I decided that I would kneel on this for the entire hour of one prayer period. It was a miserable hour. My back hurt, my knees hurt, and I grew increasingly thirsty. But I was determined to show God. Later at my meeting with my spiritual director, I shared what had happened with, I admit, some pride in my perseverance. She was particularly interested in my thirst and inquired whether there was something wrong with the water fountain just outside my room. When I responded, "No," she said, "Well why didn't you get a drink and then resume your prayers?" Before I thought, I said, "I wanted to show God what I was willing to do." Her eyes rolled up as she dryly commented, "Well I'm certain He was impressed. Turn the page."

At long last I understood that prayer time was an opportunity to be alone with God, not an attempt to show God anything. There is a story about St Ignatius that when he prayed he often lay on the floor. One day one of his followers noted that he often fell asleep and the holy man replied, "Well I must have needed sleep." I don't know if this is a true story, but it rings true for me. Now when I retire to my prayer chair, a comfortable old plush but worn rocker, I look forward to being with God. I read the psalms and lessons for the day. I watch the birds feeding at the feeder outside my window. If I am restless, I gather my colors and my coloring book and begin to color. Slowly I find myself quieting down. Sometimes I ask God something. Most of the time I sit in silence and sometimes God speaks to me. Sometimes a person will come into my mind. I always call this person when I arise from my chair and am amazed at how often the individual will thank me for calling and tell me s/he really needed a call.

Thank you Anita for sharing your prayer time in the shower. At eighty-five, I no longer swim, but it was while swimming that I was first really able to be with God in prayer.



Pablo Neruda

by Michelle Dugan

Keeping Quiet

*Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be a fragrant moment
without hurry, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden uneasiness.
Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the laborer gathering salt
would look at his broken hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on fresh clothes
and walk with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.
What I want should not be confused
with final inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want nothing to do with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness,
this never understanding ourselves
and threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I'll go.*

Translated by Alastair Reid/ed. M. Dugan

Both the life and the work of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) reflect the cultural and political upheavals of the 20th century. By 1958, when his poetry collection *Extravagaria* was published, Neruda had achieved inter-

national renown. Passionate and controversial, a prominent figure in politics and diplomacy as well as in the arts, Neruda received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1971. "Keeping Quiet" ("A Callarse") was published in a bilingual edition by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 1974.

Almost as if we are playing a game, the poem opens and closes with the same count to twelve, but with a slight yet meaningful variation in wording: we are to keep "still" and "quiet." Both language ("let's not speak") and activity ("let's stop...and not move our arms so much") are impediments to the epiphany that Neruda is urging us to experience. The tradition of finding interior peace and insight through retreat and silence is a longstanding one; here, however, the key is in the communal nature of the pause. We must be "together/in a sudden uneasiness" in order for the magic to work.

In the fourth stanza, Neruda points out the harmful effects that human activity can have on nature (the whales) and on ourselves (the laborer in the salt mines). He follows in the next with a powerful antiwar statement: "victories with no survivors" versus the beautiful image of brotherhood, walking together in the shade, "doing nothing." Our own incarnational spirituality reverberates in Neruda's insistence that "Life is what it is about." The vision of quiet and stillness that he presents does not contradict our commitment to "a love full of action" but rather becomes the basis for it. The "huge silence" brings an awareness, shared among all of us, that our "sadness" is caused by our lack of understanding. If we could interrupt business as usual, we might wake up to the true nature of our vaunted military might, our nuclear arms race, and stop "threatening ourselves with death."

This is the time of year "when everything seems to be dead/and then proves to be alive." The Lenten journey takes us from death to life, and "the earth can teach us" what the Resurrection teaches. It's true that a certain "uneasiness" comes from stopping to attend to the mystery. We are more comfortable being "single-minded/about keeping our lives moving." The great poets promise us that it's worth keeping quiet, keeping still – just long enough for the epiphany to happen: life! God lives and acts in us and our world. "Now I'll go."



Care of Creation

Kay Rowan and Linda Tarney



*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait
a single moment before starting to improve
the world. Anne Frank*

What can you start in your church or community in 2018 to protect our common home? Begin 2018 by taking or recommitting to the Laudato Si Pledge. Pledge to: pray for and with creation; live more simply; and advocate to protect our common home.

There are numerous ways you can protect our common home. A great example is the action taking place at the St. Luke Catholic Church in Mint Hill, North Carolina by the Mint Hill Associates. The Mint Hill Associates wanted to take action to start recycling at St. Luke's. Two of the Mint Hill Associates, Steve Uzzell and Tom Darcy began by meeting with the Servant Leadership Team to discuss their plan of action with a "Care of Creation" article in hand. The SLT was in agreement that there should be recycling done at St. Luke's, but there was no recycling pick up in the area. They were very willing to let Steve and Tom implement their plan of action for recycling at the church.

The Recyclers of The Cosmos (R.O.T.C.) was born and consisted initially of the SHCJ Associates of Mint Hill. Steve and Tom created a team and implemented a weekly schedule for the R.O.T.C. to collect the recyclables from the church. They bought and put into place 3 recycle bins in various places in the church. Also, by various means of communications introduced the recycling program to the parishioners and staff. This action is in the initial stages of promoting the care of our precious resources for future generations to come. Take a look around your community, your church and see what action is waiting for you to start.

What was your initial response to reading this wonderful story? Did it call to your heart to do something more for creation? Maybe not to do exactly the same thing or even something as big as this, but did it call to you?

Laudato Si states that "social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds." (#219)

The new year is calling for a new commitment or perhaps your Lenten prayers are nudging you to do more. The challenge is there. Are you ready to answer?

Take the Care For Creation Challenge.

Spend some time prayerfully observing your environment. Look around your home, your apartment complex, neighborhood, church, community center, work place. Is there some small way you can make a difference? Then reach out to one or two others – family members, other associates or friends – to join you.

Be creative, start small or large but take the challenge. Become actively involved with and for creation.

Lastly, share your efforts by sending a note or picture to krowan1@cox.net or ltarney@carolina.rr.com so that more stories can be shared to encourage others to continue to look for ways to become actively involved in caring for creation.

"What action is waiting for you to start?"



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

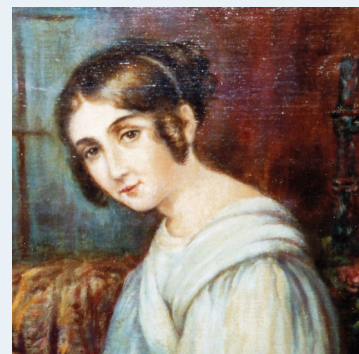
Scholarships available. Contact Cathi Duffy now for information.

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.