



HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES
AMERICAN PROVINCE - USA

LIVING LOVE FULL OF ACTION

*The universe
as a whole, in all
its manifold
relationships,
shows forth the
inexhaustible
riches of God.*

Pope Francis
Laudato Si #86



Vision of Associates

*One in Spirit,
Holy Child Associates
collaborate with the Society
of the Holy Child Jesus to
embody the charism of
Cornelia Connelly
in our everyday lives while
responding to the
wants of the age
with generosity.*

Season of Creation 2019
Web of Life:
biodiversity as God's blessing
September 1 - October 4

From the Director

Dear Associates and Sisters,

Summer is ending and autumn is beckoning. September, with its cooler weather, is a time of new beginnings!

The Church recognizes September 1 – October 4 as the Season of Creation. In the Care of Creation article beginning on page seven, Linda Tarney and Kay Rowan provide background on the Season and ideas on entering the season more fully. Michelle Dugan invites us to reflect on creation with her poetry on page six.

On page three, Anne Ayella and Cindy Platko share the journey of Associates volunteering their time and resources to helping asylum seekers. Their experience reflects the Holy Child spirit of A Love Full of Action!

Beginning on page four, Barbara Bernardi interviews two relatively new Associates – Desmondé and Dian Pringle.

For the next issue, we are seeking writers for the popular feature, Praying in (Un)likely Places. In this segment, Associates share their unique (or not) prayer experiences. If interested, please contact Anita Martineau or me; otherwise, we sadly may have read the last of that feature.

I appreciate all who organized and contributed to this edition. The Associates Newsletter first started in 2002, and we continually seek to create interesting and reflective articles that encourage Associate relationships and support spiritual growth.

May you enter September feeling relaxed and rejuvenated & ready to embrace the Season of Creation with 'courage, confidence, and cheerfulness!'

Abundant blessings,
Cathi Duffy

Director of Holy Child Associates, USA

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Mission

Holy Child Associates of the United States are women and men rooted in the charism of Cornelia Connelly who want to grow in her spirit. The Associates strive to bear witness to a life grounded in the Incarnation. Associates are called to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and to rejoice in God's presence in our midst.

The charism of Cornelia Connelly is grounded in the gospel message of the Word Made Flesh and centered in the mystery of God's life and presence in the lives of women and men.



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Sharing the Journey

by Anne Ayella with Cindy Platko

In the spirit of Cornelia Connelly and living a love full of action, Holy Child Associates Cindy Platko and Stephanie Fielder could not let their work stop at the border. Rather, they took the lessons learned home to North Carolina and continue to reach out and make a difference. In addition, they have recruited additional Associates to become involved. As a follow up to the Spring newsletter, their continuing story of service is shared by Cindy:

As Stephanie and I left San Diego after our two weeks serving at the border, we left knowing that our journey had just begun. We couldn't go home and forget Sandra and her children or the many families we met and served. We set about trying to learn more about what was going on in Charlotte and where we could plug in. Stephanie immediately got recruited to be the Immigration Chair for Charlotte Women's March while I set about connecting with our Spanish speaking members at St. Luke's Parish. We quickly learned there's a lot more to immigration than we saw with our asylum seekers and there's a lot of fear.

In recent months we've both been serving with the Migrant Alliance Project (MAP) a local grass roots group that meets traveling asylum seekers and feeds them, provides needed supplies, medicines, and information about their rights. MAP has served over 10,000 travelers here in North Carolina since January 2019.

We've met so many folks who hadn't eaten in days, who had babies without needed supplies, who were sick, scared, and hungry. When we put people on the bus in San Diego, we gave them a bottle of water and a snack for each day they'd be on the road—we knew it was insufficient but it was all we had. So, it feels like we're going full circle to be able to feed them on their journey. We've partnered with a friend Kate to start a combined St. Luke/St. Matthew's group and on average we serve at least once a week. We have a number of Holy Child Associates who are regular supporters of this ministry whether it's in person serving or by collecting needed supplies. An additional benefit of this ministry has been that Bob McHugh invited our Spanish speaking parishioners to join us. Our shared work has resulted in new friendships and a breaking down of walls.

Recently, as part of the Charlotte Women's March, Steph coordinated an education night for 140 attendees called

You must not hide the gifts God has given
but use them in His service.

Cornelia Connelly



Associates Janie Uzzell and Cindy Platko with another St. Luke parishioner waiting to help those in need.

"Trump vs. Immigration" highlighting how policy changes are resulting in a decrease of all forms of immigration. For example, refugee resettlement has been dramatically impacted with decreased refugees being allowed. The session focused on education, real life stories (hopefully building empathy), and actions that each attendee could take. Our approach was Education+ Empathy = Advocates. We are in the process right now of doing the follow up to engage attendees in specific actions. On that same day, I went to be an observer at immigration court to bear witness to the actions of the court which was both disturbing and enlightening.

And so, our journey continues, whether it's serving traveling asylum seekers, inviting and facilitating others in being able to serve, providing facts and data to help others to have crucial conversations, or advocating for our immigrant brothers and sisters. We're both just trying to be open to where we are called to serve.

Desmondé and Dian Pringle

by Barbara Bernardi

In this issue we introduce Desmondé and Dian Pringle. They are one of several couples who are both Associates. Dian has graciously accepted to join the Core Team this autumn so it seemed an ideal time to meet them both. We thank them for sharing their stories.

Desmondé Pringle

I was born in the United Kingdom to Edmond and Coreen Pringle, formerly of Jamaica, who met each other on their way to Europe to study. The Pringles in Jamaica are descendants of John Pringle born in the Scottish Outer Hebrides in 1849, and who traveled to Jamaica in the early 1870s as a recently graduated medical doctor from the University of Glasgow. During summer vacations, my brothers and I would spend the summers in Negril, Jamaica visiting our family. One of the joys of spending summers with family was the opportunity to be with our cousins. Additionally, because my family reared animals (cows, goats, and chickens) and grew a vast variety of fruits and vegetables, this afforded us the opportunity to learn about planting, growing, and rearing animals, and appreciate what is now known as the “farm to table” movement.

Looking back, I realize that during the formative years of our childhood, the social network for my brothers and I revolved almost exclusively around the Catholic Church. We attended a Catholic school for boys, we served as acolytes, were members of The Legion of Mary, and CYO, and joined the scout troop sponsored by our church. These organizations, in addition to providing a sense of belonging, developed and fostered my love of learning, my intellectual curiosity, and simultaneously instilled self-confidence and cultivated my leadership ability.

In the early 1970s, the Pringle family immigrated to the United States and resided in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. In addition to acclimating to a new culture, I had to make new friends, and also adjust to new pedagogical methodology.

Of the many things that have impacted my life in my adopted country, nothing has equaled the fortuitous circumstance of meeting my soul mate. Dian and I met in the summer of 1983 when I went to be interviewed for a job. Dian was the individual who conducted the initial interview. While I was struck by her beauty, I had no idea I was sitting across from – and being interviewed by – the person that was my future wife.

I did get the job, and after working within the organization for some time, we became casual friends. Months later, to

my surprise, I realized that my feelings for Dian began to evolve and I was hesitant to let her know because I didn’t want to possibly ruin our friendship. I eventually confessed, professed my feelings to her, and a little over five years after initially meeting her we were married. We have been married for over 30 years, have three grown sons, and now three grandchildren.

I am a proud graduate of Pennsylvania State University, where I obtained a degree in Human Resources, and I work in the field specializing in organization development and change management. Additionally, I serve as council member for Lansdowne Borough and as chair for the borough’s Public Health and Safety Committee.

I was always familiar with the Holy Child academies, and became even more so after my wife was hired as Director of Human Resources for the Society. As I learned about the Society in general and its mission specifically, I recognized that I agreed and identified with its belief that God lives and acts in all people. Assisting others to recognize this fact and to help them “lead meaningful lives and make a difference in the world” is a way of radiating the charism of Cornelia Connelly. Also, being the heir of a family that believes in the concept of service, and as a child watching them “walk the walk,” and having it reinforced by Catholic teachings, means that it was a natural progression for me to desire to serve as a Holy Child Associate.

Serving as an Associate, is a privilege and a way to connect with like-minded individuals who desire to recognize and develop the “transcendence and endless horizons” (Richard Rohr) within ourselves, and to assist others in acknowledging and accepting their divine attributes and the possible world that could come about with such self-actualization.





Dian Taylor-Pringle

I was born and raised in Philadelphia along with my two sisters and one brother. I was educated in the Philadelphia public schools, and my leisure time revolved around piano lessons, reading, church activities and Girl Scouts. In the summer, our family would travel to Mount Olive, North Carolina, to visit our maternal grandmother. There, we would assist our cousins with farming and planting chores, canning, and making homemade ice cream. Living in the country was vastly different from our life in the city, however, the time spent with our cousins and grandmother made those visits truly memorable and special. It was during one of those visits that my grandmother informed me of my family's legacy of dedicated service to the community. In recognizing the great need in her community to provide a quality education for its youth, my grandmother, along with several members of her family who were also educators founded the first "Black School" in Mount Olive in 1925. The school later became the first and only high school in that era of segregation. She spearheaded the campaign to establish a library for the school and secured funds to purchase updated textbooks for each student. My mother and grandmother impressed upon me the necessity of living a life of servanthood. Using the example of Jesus performing a humble act of service by washing the feet of his disciples, I was taught to serve others in need with a heart of compassion and humility.

I became a candy striper in high school for a nursing home for people with terminal illnesses. I enjoyed working in a health care environment so much I decided to pursue a career in medicine. After graduating from high school, I began my pre-med studies. My career goal, however, took a precipitous turn after I had completed an elective course in Employee Relations. I felt that a career in an administrative role rather than a clinical one would be more compatible with my interest and skill set.

After receiving my B.S. degree from LaSalle University in Personnel/Labor Relations Management, I began my career in Human Resources Management as a Generalist in the insurance and banking industries. After several years, acting on my earlier desire to work in a health care environment, I accepted consecutive roles in human resources management with three healthcare hospital systems. Additionally, I obtained a M.S. degree in Healthcare Administration at St. Joseph's University.

While searching for a new job opportunity closer to home, I saw a posting by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus for a Director of Human Resources for its American Province. I eagerly applied and was invited in for an interview with the selection team. I met with Sr. Helen McDonald and was impressed by Sr. Helen's joyful spirit and warm hospitality and learning more about the compelling story of the Founder, Cornelia Connelly. When I was offered the position I graciously accepted.

During my tenure with the Society, I had the privilege of working with and getting to know Sisters in the Holy Child Center, Province Office, sponsoring ministries, the Dominican Republic, the Province Leadership teams, and the Society Leadership team based in Rome. I continue to be inspired and motivated by their accomplishments, and their ongoing commitment to address the social ills and injustice in our society. I, too, strive to live my life according to SHCJ's mission: "to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in God's presence."

When Cathi Duffy, Director of Holy Child Associates, talked to my husband and I about becoming Associates, we were very interested in exploring this ministry. After having met several Associates at Jubilee Celebrations, and attending the 2018 Associate Gathering, we were pleased and honored to accept the invitation. We are energized and encouraged by being part of a faith community that shares the Holy Child Spirit, both individually and collectively, with acts of love and compassion for others.

Rubén Darío

POETS! TOWERS OF GOD!

by Michelle Dugan

Poets! Towers of God
Made to resist the fury of the storms
Like cliffs beside the ocean
Or clouded, savage peaks!
Masters of lightning!
Breakwaters of eternity!

Hope, magic-voiced, foretells the day
When on the rock of harmony
The Siren traitorous shall die and pass away,
And there shall only be
The full, frank-billowed music of the sea.

Be hopeful still,
Though bestial elements yet turn
From Song with rancorous ill-will
And blinded races one another spurn!
Perversity debased
Among the high her rebel cry has raised.
The cannibal still lusts after the raw,
Knife-toothed and gory-faced.

Towers, your laughing banners now unfold.
Against all hatreds and all envious lies
Upraise the protest of the breeze, half-told,
And the proud quietness of sea and skies...

Translation by Thomas Walsh and Salomón de la Selva.



Photo by Casey Horner on unsplash.com

With the drama of its opening lines, “Poets! Towers of God” grabs our attention: here is a prophetic voice, confident in the urgency of its message. Nicaraguan poet Rubén Darío (1867-1916) rose to fame as the father of “modernismo,” a Spanish-American literary movement that impacted Spanish literature well into the 20th century. American Thomas Walsh (1875-1928) and Nicaraguan Salomón de la Selva (1893-1959) were themselves accomplished poets as well as translators. “Poets! Towers of God” was published in English in 1916, a cultural moment that pictured the artist facing a new century in defiance of all “bestial elements.” Lover of the arts that she was, Cornelia would likely have resonated with such a vision of the poet’s role.

It is God who gives the poet this power to resist “the fury of the storms.” A bulwark against all evil forces, the tower draws its strength from “hope, magic-voiced.” In contrast to the wild images in the first stanza, the second “foretells the day” when “there shall only be...music of the sea.” Nonviolence – “the rock of harmony” – prevails, and the traitorous Siren perishes. That scenario, however, lies in the future; Darío goes on to tell us in stanza three that hope does not rest on the absence of evil but on remaining steadfast in spite of it. Because he trusts in the ultimate power of holy Song, the poet does not flinch at detailing the horrors unleashed by the “rancorous ill-will” of those “knife-toothed and gory-faced” who turn perversely from beauty and goodness. At last in the concluding stanza, the “laughing banners” are raised “against all hatreds and all envious lies.” We rest in a final image of sublime peace: “the proud quietness of sea and skies...”

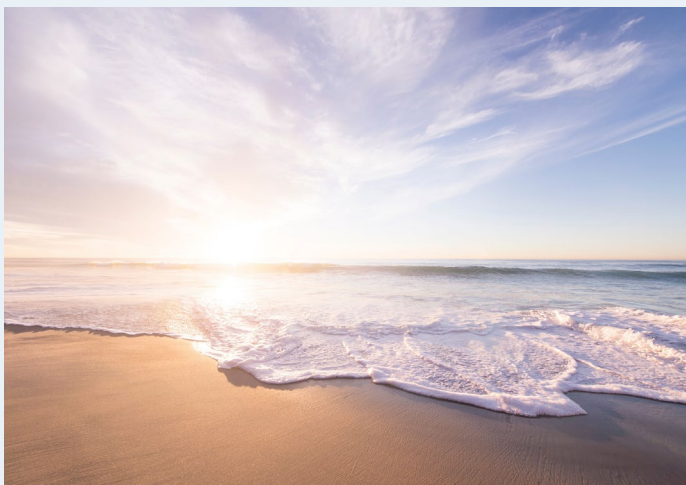


Photo by Frank McKenna on unsplash.com

Care of Creation

by Linda Tarney and Kay Rowan

What is the Season of Creation? It is a time of prayer and action for the care of our common home beginning September 1st (World Day of Prayer for Creation) and ending on October 4th (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology).

This Creation Time was started in 1989 by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in the Eastern Orthodox Church, then was embraced by many major Christian European churches in 2001, and finally Pope Francis embraced it for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, the year of his encyclical, "Laudato Si: Care of Our Common Home". Today the Season of Creation is a worldwide ecumenical network of environmental organizations of different faiths, including the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and more. The steering committee offers resources from worship services and action suggestions to bulletin announcements and poster ideas. All these and more can be found at www.seasonofcreation.org.

The **2019 Season of Creation** theme is the **Web of Life: biodiversity as God's blessing**.

"We are all part of a complex, delicate and interdependent web of life that is created, sustained and redeemed by God.(seasonofcreation.org)" The primary reason that biodiversity matters is that God places a value on every creature that He creates. To live here on earth, humans depend on stable and thriving ecosystems and their services; from clean water and food to clothing and climate regulation. A collapse in an ecosystem can lead to a biodiversity loss and to an extinction of created species in the web of life. Biodiversity loss is a major driver of human migration. Pope Francis stated, "*We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.*" Two examples of how we can take responsibility for the prevention of biodiversity loss are to take part in and/or pray for the success of International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21st. People across the world work together to clean our beaches and to follow the proceedings of the UN Climate Summit September 23rd through 29th.

For the 2019 Season of Creation and beyond, let us unite as a Christian family to till and keep the gardens of the world!



Observing the World Day of Prayer and celebrating the feast of St. Francis are easy enough but what about the other thirty some days of the season? And biodiversity is a vast and complicated topic. Where to start?

First, stop at Season of Creation website. The purpose of this movement is to encourage Christians to pray, to become involved in hands-on projects, and to advocate. If this is new to you, the magnitude of this event can seem daunting. Praying is a good starting point. In their letter announcing this year's theme, the

steering committee points out how quickly creatures are disappearing from our earth stating "Contemplation on this loss and prayers for its stopping is the theme we want to suggest as a particular focus for this year's prayers."

Next, the Global Catholic Climate Movement describes itself as a group which "works within the Catholic Church to better care for our common home." The goal of this movement is to promote spiritual growth (ecological conversion), lifestyle changes (personal and communal projects) and public policy (advocacy) which furthers care for creation. Their founding document is *Laudato Si* and they consider the Season of Creation their "flagship project." Here you will find a network of over 900 Catholic organizations and surely some activities with which you can identify. The resources include a map covered with events and organizations so you can find something in your geographical area.

Lastly, as biodiversity is such an enormous topic to cover, a specific focus is suggested for each week of the season:

week 1	oceans
week 2	flora and fauna
week 3	storms
week 4	universe

Consider learning some new aspect for each area.

Resources

seasonofcreation.org

ecospiritualityresources.com

ecologicalexamen.org (This site offers a printable prayer card with an examen.)

Simply search for ecological examen for a variety of examens including one for the feast of St Francis.



Call to Holiness; Associates today

Excerpt from *On the Call to Holiness in Today's World* by Pope Francis

144. Let us not forget that Jesus asked his disciples to pay attention to details.

The little detail that wine was running out at a party.

The little detail that one sheep was missing.

The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins.

The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay.

The little detail of asking the disciples how many loaves of bread they had.

The little detail of having a fire burning and a fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at daybreak.

145. A community that cherishes the little details of love, whose embers care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan.

There are times when, by a gift of the Lord's love, we are granted, amid these little details, consoling experiences of God...

Reflection

1. What are little details that I noticed today?
2. What little details motivate my focus toward the web of life for the Season of Creation and beyond?
3. What little details expressed gifts of God's love for me recently?

In the June e-newsletter from the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR), Sr. Rita Woehlcke, SSJ (NACAR vice-president) shared the following:

Like the first disciples, we are living in the "between time." The sweet and reassuring Easter appearances give way to the Ascension, another loss. The fire and breath of the Spirit has not yet descended upon them. Both sisters and associates are living in turbulent times with no clear road map. We no longer experience the familiar consolations of youth and numbers. Yet like those first disciples, we are all God has and exactly who God wants for these times.

Transitional times are fraught with tensions that stir up our personal and communal insecurities and self-doubt. We tend to see only loss and our limits. The challenge is to immerse ourselves intentionally on the gifts we have been given, on the trustworthiness of the giver, on Jesus' promise to remain with us and send the Spirit "who will teach you what I taught you."

Our God has recognized and affirmed that the charism is alive in each of us. Ours is the work of nurturing that charism within ourselves and others, of attending to the Spirit's invitation to step up and become what we have revered.

NACAR has a clear set of beliefs about this moment in the unfolding journey of association.

We believe that God desires to permeate our culture with the charisms and missions of our various congregations and that God is serious about the future of the associate way of life as a transformative presence in the Church and the world.

We thank Sr. Rita and NACAR for permission to share this reflection with our readers.

What speaks to you in this reflection of our unique time and our unique call?

Share your ideas by email, associates-usa@shcj.org. Thanks!

