



**HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES**  
AMERICAN PROVINCE - USA

SPRING 2020 Volume XIX Issue II

## LIVING LOVE FULL OF ACTION

*Be  
generous  
and  
of  
great  
heart*

Cornelia



*In the service of God, nothing is little,  
and those things which appear  
trifling in our eyes are  
the very things which God loves.*

### **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.*

*Associates  
Embracing the Mission  
Living the Charism*

# From the Director

Dear Associates,

These past few months have been challenging. Many of us have been channeling Cornelia and praying for her strength, her singular focus on 'God alone', and her ability to live in joy and peace despite the circumstances.

Finding blessings in the "small" moments of our days has led to a deeper appreciation of God's presence in our lives. Listening to beautiful stories of service, i.e., love in action, has allowed us an expansive view of the goodness and generosity of others throughout our world.

May we continue to be grateful for our bounty despite inconveniences and hardships! May we continue to be generous toward others experiencing suffering in all its forms.

Abundant blessings,  
Cathi Duffy  
Director of Holy Child Associates, USA

*Photo on front page by Boris Smokrovic on Unsplash*

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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

During these past few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us have experienced a change in the rhythm of our daily life. Instead of sitting in traffic, we are walking and noticing the beauty around us; instead of attending Mass at our local Parish, we are live-streaming our Liturgies and instead of gathering with friends and family in person, we are zooming and face timing with them. One Associate shared "I have connected with family and friends all over the world - face to face - with a frequency unparalleled before we were forced to stay inside. With us all forced to be at home, our family found it easy for all of us to gather at one time for a Zoom call, whereas before the virus struck, our lives were so busy it was almost impossible to find time when we were all free."

This time or "pause" has afforded us more time to pray and reflect. For many of us Associates, it has been a wonderful opportunity to gather in prayer each weekday at 11 AM thanks to the creative and prayerful leadership of Cathi Duffy, Director of SHCJ Associates. Each day's opportunity gives us the chance to listen, enjoy amazing, thoughtful artwork, reflect, pray and share. In hearing from a number of Associates, they see it as "a transcontinental and international time to center themselves". One Associate shared that "our morning prayer time anchors her day and has brought her closer to other Associates and deepened her bond to the Society, the sisters and the Associates" while another Associate views it "as a real community of prayer and support for each other." The Virtual Prayer time has inspired another Associate to try something similar in her own Parish.

Each day's prayer gathering has a theme. One theme that really resonated with me was that of

Compassion. In that reflection, we were reminded with the help of Joyce Rupp's beautiful words in *Boundless Compassion* that three essentials comprise the movement of compassion... Awareness, Attitude and Action.

Unless we become aware of suffering, we cannot respond to it compassionately.

Compassion also requires a certain attitude, that of recognizing the inviolable oneness we have with all of life. We exist in a world of interconnectedness...What we think and feel about people who are suffering, especially if they do not match our notions of how they ought to believe and act, greatly affects our response.

The indwelling light of divinity unites us at a spiritual level.





This attitude of a common bond underlies each compassionate action. With our awareness of suffering, and an attitude of wanting to alleviate it, we then choose to act in a positive way for the benefit of all beings. We trust that each action taken for the good of one person or group benefits the good of all -- that, as we read in *Gaudium et Spes*, "the sorrows and anxieties of the women and men of this age...are the sorrows and anxieties of the followers of Jesus Christ."

As Associates who live out Cornelia's *Action not Words*, I learned that many of the Associates are using this time to ACT on behalf of others. Many are especially sensitive to those who have lost their jobs and are struggling to put food on the table. They have donated their Stimulus check to feeding programs, purchased Gift cards and organized food collections for area food cupboards and are making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on a weekly basis to share with those who are struggling.

Several are using their specific gifts to make a difference, such as phone support for active chaplains working in COVID facilities and assistance in research on COVID complications as part of a medical team. Many are making ongoing calls to check on neighbors and parishioners. All are reaching out with care and compassion.



Many SHCJ Associates and Sisters joined in a recent Catholic Relief Services Advocacy training to learn more about ways to be a voice for the voiceless in our global family. Whether reaching out locally or globally, all are doing it with a generous spirit.

May we continue to discover ways to recognize the sacred in one another and know that God's power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine !

Although the official celebration of the Jubilee was postponed until 2021, we thank and honor these Sisters of the American Province for the many ways they exemplify the Holy Child mission and spirit while serving the People of God with love and joy!

May you each experience the love of God in new ways during your Jubilee year!

## **75 Years**

Katherine Tracy

## **70 Years**

Jacqueline Jelley

Megan Rice

Therese Currie

## **60 Years**

Carlotta Bartone

Margaret Doyle

Virginia Gaine

## **50 Years**

Francine Gunther

Mary Sullivan

Marie Ursino

Barbara Foy

*Thanks and blessings on this milestone!*

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

124...After his resurrection, wherever the disciples went, there was "much joy" (Acts 8:8). Jesus assures us: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.... I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:20-22). "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

125. Hard times may come, when the cross cast its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved." (*Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*). That joy brings deep security, serene hope, and a spiritual fulfilment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.

### **Reflection**

1. Were you able to experience or not the truth of supernatural joy during our 'shelter in place'?
2. How did you live out of the 'flicker of light born of our personal certainty that...we are infinitely loved'?

# Rebecca Elson ANTIDOTES TO FEAR OF DEATH

by Michelle Dugan

Sometimes as an antidote  
To fear of death,  
I eat the stars.

Those nights, lying on my back,  
I suck them from the quenching dark  
Til they are all, all inside me,  
Pepper hot and sharp.

Sometimes, instead, I stir myself  
Into a universe still young,  
Still warm as blood:

No outer space, just space,  
The light of all the not yet stars  
Drifting like a bright mist,  
And all of us, and everything  
Already there  
But unconstrained by form.

And sometime it's enough  
To lie down here on earth  
Beside our long ancestral bones:

To walk across the cobble fields  
Of our discarded skulls,  
Each like a treasure, like a chrysalis,  
Thinking: whatever left these husks  
Flew off on bright wings.

Rebecca Elson was born in Montreal in 1960 and died of lymphoma in 1999 in Cambridge, England. Though her life was all too brief, her academic pursuits were rich and varied, encompassing biology, physics, astronomy, and creative writing at institutions including Smith, Radcliffe, and ultimately Cambridge, where her team's research involved work with the Hubble Space Telescope. "Antidotes to Fear of Death" appears in a posthumous volume of her previously

unpublished poems and essays entitled *A Responsibility to Awe*. It is unknown whether she wrote it before or after receiving her cancer diagnosis. Either way, her vision of the universe, linking science and spirituality, invites the reader to consider our human destiny within the larger story of the cosmos.

The first two "antidotes" in the poem are cosmic indeed: Elson will first "eat the stars" and "suck them from the quenching dark." This is not a soothing consolation, but one that feels "pepper hot and sharp," the stars "all, all inside of me." She tries the second antidote, moving out of herself instead and into the universe at the moment of creation. This is no cold and empty void but a place of light, brightness, and warmth, "warm as blood," the potential of life present. The poet conjures our original oneness, the "not yet" when we are "unconstrained by form," "all of us, and everything/Already there."

In the last two stanzas of the poem, Elson shifts gears away from vast and eternal space to images of earth and mortality: "long ancestral bones," "cobble fields," "discarded skulls," and "husks." She tells us that "sometime it's enough" to face our fear of death by embracing it, knowing that each life is a treasure, each soul destined to fly "off on bright wings." I cannot read these last lines without tears, nor have I ever encountered a more beautiful evocation of immortality than Elson has given us here. Can we imagine along with her that we contain the all, dissolve fully in the all, and yet remain ourselves forever? The Christian mystic Julian of Norwich writes, "The beloved soul was preciousy knitted to God in its making, by a knot so subtle and so mighty that it is oned in God." Faith is our antidote to fear of death!



# Care of Creation: Waste Not...

by Linda Tarney and Kay Rowan

Waste not, want not, a profound statement that resonates to the depths of our souls.

Food waste has been a major topic of those concerned with care of creation and climate warming for some time. We are all aware of the misallocation of food distribution in the world and the massive amount of food waste which in turn affects climate. We have all been doing our best to comply with that powerful adage, "waste not, want not". Many of us decided to take the Ignatian Lenten Food Challenge offered this year. We were receiving weekly emails which shared information and statistics, and creative ways of preventing food waste.

Then in mid March things changed. The Ignatian Lenten Food Challenge began to adapt its content to reflect the pandemic we were suddenly facing and soon everyone began to feel the effects of empty shelves in our super markets and restaurant closures. Suddenly we were all faced with the need to be more intentional in our food purchases and more creative in using what was already in our fridge.

What lies ahead as this pandemic hopefully draws its last breaths? We can continue to prepare more meals at home and to be intentional in our food choices and purchases. Perhaps with summer coming you are planning a home garden with your own fresh produce or you might want to join a community supported agricultural program (CSA) which provides a share in the community crops. You could decide to purchase "Ugly Produce", food that might go to waste because it is not aesthetically perfect.

However, if you check out the facts we have little control over food distribution on a world-wide level. That is a problem which requires systemic, radical solutions on a large scale.



Even some of the creative ways to help (Ugly Produce) are coming under attack. The issue of food waste and distribution needs to be redefined from a global perspective.

We may not have control over food distribution, but we can prevent food waste three times a day. Check out the resources at the end of this article.

Before closing, what are some of the other ways this pandemic has affected us as individuals and our world?

On the positive side Kilimanjaro is visible from the village below, the canals of Venice run clear, the LA skyline is clearing of smog, technology has allowed us to remain connected to those we love, parents are spending more time with their children and teaching them essential life skills like cooking, and we are learning a deeper gratitude and appreciation for the things we are missing such as handshakes, hugs, Mass, and Holy Communion.

On the negative side loved ones are gone, jobs have been lost, small businesses have closed, an overabundance of cardboard and



# Care of Creation (cont.)

plastic has been used for home delivery of just about everything.

The repercussions of these weeks of quarantine are tremendous and complicated. How do we move forward? We continue to do what we have been doing; following the guidelines of Laudato Si. This quote appeared on facebook a few weeks ago and resonates for me what we each need to do in our own unique way.

*Live simply so that others can simply live.*  
(author unknown)

## Resources:

Google.com or Yahoo.com

Ignatian Lenten Food Waste Challenge  
(All seven weeks are archived)

foodtank.com - list of 50 organizations  
fighting food loss and waste

## Ugly Produce:

Hungry Harvest (East Coast, since 2014)

Imperfect Produce (West Coast, since 2018)

Misfits Market (NJ & Phila. Area, since 2018)

Ignatian Solidarity Network.net for  
Corona Virus Resources

