



**HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES**  
AMERICAN PROVINCE - USA

**LIVING LOVE FULL OF ACTION**

*Be  
generous  
and  
of  
great  
heart*

Cornelia

*Season of Creation  
September 1, 2020 - October 4, 2020  
Year of Jubilee for the Earth*



**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,

We continue to live in uncertain times. Unlike the spring when we waited for an end to the pandemic, summer has awakened a new perspective, our current reality. Now we are creating our 'new normal' aware that we continue our lives in the midst of the many challenges and injustices that the pandemic has opened bare for us all.

We live in faith aware that we too have to be part of the change that is needed. How is God calling you to create a world of peace and justice for all?

May the articles in this issue open you to new, and perhaps unimaginable, possibilities!

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

*Photo on front page by Gerry Tarney near Erie, PA*

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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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Cornelia and her Charism

# Sharing the Journey

by Anne Ayella

Our "Share the Journey" column began several years back and tied in with the US Catholic Conference of Bishop's two year Share the Journey campaign that challenged all of us to better understand the journey of our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers. Although the official campaign ended in 2019, many SHCJ Sisters and Associates continue in the work.

The pandemic has curtailed the efforts of some. Associate Dian Pringle shared "I volunteer for Upwardly Global, a Washington DC based organization assisting refugees and immigrants seeking professional positions in the US. Since 30% of our physicians battling Covid-19 are immigrants, it is extremely important to help these individuals by providing resources, networking opportunities, coaching, mock interviews, etc. to help them secure positions in their field." Dian shares that this work helps her demonstrate love in action although unfortunately, not too much activity has taken place in the past few months.

The WOTA (Wants of the Age) committee continues to receive funding requests and supports the efforts of Sisters and Associates involved in efforts that reach out to migrants and refugees. A recently funded effort is supporting the efforts of transitional housing at the former St. Martin of Tours Convent in the Oxford Circle neighborhood of Philadelphia.

The housing initiative is being sponsored by many religious congregations within the Philadelphia area including the Holy Child Sisters. Back in the winter in pre-Covid days, a group of Sisters and Associates spent several hours organizing and documenting some of the donations received.

At this time, Holy Child Associates have been asked to supply 32 new blankets for regular twin beds to continue in the support of the effort. SHCJ Associates Director, Cathi Duffy shares "the response has been overwhelming. So many Associates responded and so quickly. At the time this article was written, over 50 blankets are in Cathi's office and more are on the way- thanks to online shopping options." Cathi reminds us that "the pandemic has made all of us even more aware of the multitude of needs in our world - near and far, big and small! May the residents of St. Martin of Tours House feel peace in their new surroundings!" Hopefully by the time that you receive this newsletter, the new blankets will be at St. Martin of Tours ready for the change to cooler temperatures.



*Generosity, generosity,  
generosity  
must be the beginning and  
the ending of our life.  
Cornelia Connelly*

# On These Uncertain Times

By Anne Ayella

In these uncertain times, we all look forward to better days ahead. During a recent Associates' virtual prayer gathering, we reflected on an image of a person walking on a path covered with dead leaves into an area that was somewhat misty and unknown and yet green and alive - looking like new growth lay ahead. We took a few minutes to share and pray. I used that image as the starting point of a question to Associates asking about their hopes for future days. The responses were varied and unique but most shared the similar sentiment that this time has taught us many valuable lessons and has reminded us that we are all inter-connected as one global family and we are called to share our gifts with others.

Associate Ann Donovan shared "We have been in a sort of "dead period" and have had to cancel and miss out on events but I believe God has surprises and great plans for us as we emerge from the pandemic." Ann's positive spirit is a blessing to all of us!

Many Associates shared their hopes for the days to come, including Judy Talvacchia who shares, "My hope for the future is that we find life-giving ways of moving forward as individuals, as a nation, as a global community. I hope that we can regain a sense of the common good and the ways in which we are all connected and make choices accordingly. There is a lot of tragedy right now, but so much opportunity! In a similar spirit, Eugenia Ukpo shares, "Going forward, my hope is for a more united (together) world; a greater appreciation for the everyday things of life - hygiene, interaction with nature and people, time with family etc., and better service of neighbor out of love.

*See, I am doing a new deed;  
even now it comes to light,  
can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road  
in the wilderness,  
paths in the wild.  
Isaiah 43:19*



Looking at building relationships with others, Dian Pringle adds "I truly hope that people will emerge from this crisis stronger physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I hope they will be dedicated to living lives of purpose, loving more, giving more of their time, treasures, and talents, and with the full knowledge that our focus should not be on material things, but in building and strengthening our relationships".

Similarly, Nonie Murphy shares "My hopes as I look beyond these 'Corona times' are that we may emerge with a new appreciation for the value of community, a heightened awareness of the inequities in our world, and a commitment

# Call to Holiness

to doing something to address them.

Taking time to look back at the past and look ahead to the future, Associate Linda Tarney reminds us, "We need to learn from our past while looking at the present to hear where God is calling us to serve Him in the future. Through my faith foundation and now through Cornelia, I have always had hope in Him. He will lead us to Him by serving others for Him. He just wants us to love Him and all that He created. He will take care of everything else. We need to be hopeful and trust in Him to lead us to our new "normal" in the future.

"In gathering the thoughts of other Associates, my faith in the goodness of others has been strengthened and I am encouraged to "sustain a bright and joyful spirit" even in challenging times knowing God is with us always. "- Anne Ayella



## Excerpt from Pope Francis' *General Audience* on June 3, 2020

*Dear brothers and sisters in the United States, I have witnessed with great concern the disturbing social unrest in your nation in these past days, following the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd.*

*My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that "the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost".*

*Today I join the Church in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in the entire United States, in praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and of all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism. Let us pray for the consolation of their grieving families and friends and let us implore the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, intercede for all those who work for peace and justice in your land and throughout the world.*

*May God bless all of you and your families.*

### Reflection

1. How are you different because of the light being shown on systemic racism this summer?
2. How do Pope Francis' words speak to you at this time?
3. What would you hope that Associates as a community would undertake?

# Denise Levertov

## BEGINNERS

by Michelle Dugan

"From too much love of living,  
Hope and desire set free,  
Even the weariest river  
Winds somewhere to the sea—"

But we have only begun  
To love the earth.

We have only begun  
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?  
— so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?  
— we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,  
only begun to envision

how it might be  
to live as siblings with beast and flower,  
not as oppressors.

Surely our river  
cannot already be hastening  
into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot  
drag, in the silt,  
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet—  
there is too much broken  
that must be mended,

too much hurt we have done to each other  
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know  
the power that is in us if we would join  
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must  
complete its gesture,

so much is in bud.

*Dedicated to the memory of Karen Silkwood and Eliot Gralla*

Toward the end of June, Sr. Catherine Callaghan sent the Denise Levertov poem "Beginners" to Sr. Terri MacKenzie, who then forwarded it to all of us on the EcoSpirituality Group email list. Less than a month previously, the murder of George Floyd had galvanized a protest movement, bringing Americans into the streets to demand an end to police brutality and racism. What Terri aptly called "these timely words" of Levertov's were published in 1982 in her anthology *Candles in Babylon*. By this time Levertov, who was born in England in 1923, had moved to the U.S. and established her reputation as an American poet fiercely committed to social justice and peace. So it is no surprise that she dedicates "Beginners" to Karen Silkwood, the union whistleblower who died in a suspicious car accident while on her way to provide a reporter with documentation of health and safety violations. Eliot Gralla, whose memory she also honors, appears to have been a personal friend who, like Silkwood, died at a tragically young age.

With these losses in mind, Levertov starts "Beginnings" by quoting lines from "The Garden of Persephone," a rather dark meditation on death by British Romantic poet Algernon Charles Swinburne. "But," she challenges immediately, there is never "too much love"; in fact, "we have only begun/To love the earth" and "To imagine the fullness of life." Using the image of the bud, Levertov encourages us to be hopeful, to envision with her a world of justice and mercy where we "live as siblings with beast and flower." When she returns to the image of the river, it is "our river," no longer simply moving wearily and passively "into the sea of nonbeing," nor capable of dragging down what is innocent. Instead, what is broken can be mended and hurts can be forgiven "if we would join/our solitudes in the communion of struggle." Always a voice of the resistance, Levertov keeps faith with us and our trust in God by saying "yes" to the unfolding promise that "so much is in bud."



# Care of Creation: Soil & Season

by Linda Tarney and Kay Rowan

## Soil: A Carbon Sink or A Carbon Source

Soil can be a carbon sink or a carbon source depending on how we manage this necessity for life. Sequestering carbon in soil is a relatively natural way of removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, according to Renee Cho of the Earth Institute. The Earth's soils contain 2,500 gigatons of carbon. Putting that into perspective: that's more than 3x the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and 4x the amount stored in all living plants and animals.

Now, if we can manage that soil carbon, it may be effective for the climate. Currently, soils remove about 25% of the world's fossil fuel emissions each year. And most of this carbon is stored as permafrost and peat in the Arctic and moist regions (tundra). To sequester this carbon source, we have to prevent deforestation, the thawing of the permafrost and the draining of the peatlands.

These land management practices, as well as agricultural practices that disturb the soil (tilling, planting monocrops, removing crop residue, excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, and overgrazing) expose carbon in the soil to oxygen and creates CO<sub>2</sub>. Better agricultural practices and land management are a must to prevent soil from becoming a carbon source and adding to the current climate crisis. The world's soils have actually lost 50 to 70% of the carbon they once held which has contributed about 1/4 of all the manmade global greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet.

Source: *Can Soil Help Combat Climate Change?*  
Renee Cho: State of the Planet; Earth Institute, Columbia University. Feb 21, 2018.



**Season of Creation**  
**September 1, 2020 – October 4, 2020**  
**Year of Jubilee for the Earth**

*You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you.*  
*(Leviticus 25:10, NASB)*

In this Year of Jubilee we are being invited “to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We yearn for the moral imagination that accompanies the Jubilee.”

The Season of Creation 2020 is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. For more information about this worldwide, month-long celebration go to:

[seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org)

At the top under Resources, you can download the 2020 celebration guide for information, prayers and media resources.

At the bottom, subscribe to the Global Catholic Climate Movement to receive updates of the season.

# Opportunities This Autumn

## **Prayer and Spiritual Growth**

Hopefully you received the initial mailing about “A Retreat in Daily Life Together” in which the Society has invited us to participate. This opportunity will give all of us a chance to join together with Sisters, Associates, and the broader Holy Child charismatic family to pray together. When you receive additional details, please consider how you can participate and with whom you might like to journey in this retreat.

## **Ministry in Daily Living**

We also would like to engage initially in conversation on the racial injustices that are part of our American culture - as community, as individuals. Our hope is education will open up our mind, heart, and soul in new ways. Then, we move to loving action for social change. We look forward to hearing more about your perspective, ideas and efforts.

As the 2016 SHCJ General Chapter enactment calls the Sisters (and also Associates), we must “strive for the continual conversion of heart that our responses to crises calls us to and pray constantly for people and places in the grip of fear and violence.”

*Be Open to Possibilities*

