

Actions

175

Love & Serve

Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021



DEAR FRIENDS,

Our Founder, Cornelia Connelly, wrote, "In all troubles and anxieties, He (God) is your friend and advisor and will help you to bear the cross whenever it may come."

This year, 2020, has required all of us to bear heavy crosses, both individually and collectively. Our faith and beliefs have been tested by the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating realities of racial and social injustices.

Throughout her life, Cornelia faced adversities and isolation, as well as significant loss and heartbreak. Yet, with the motto of Actions Not Words, she continued to grow in faith, love, and service. With God by her side, she was resilient. For these reasons, and despite her imperfections and trials, Cornelia's life inspires us today. Just as Cornelia did before us, we turn to God as a friend and advisor. We ask Him for His grace to help us respond to today's crises with active love and joy.

In the midst of the challenges of 2020, we celebrate and give thanks for our many gifts. For the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, this includes a year-long celebration of its 175th Anniversary to **Love & Serve**, from October 2020 – October 2021. In this edition of *Actions*, the feature story provides a brief history of the Society's founding and expansion. We hope you enjoy learning about our past, present, and future, and invite you to participate in prayer and events throughout the upcoming year.

We rejoice knowing that our Holy Child schools, ministries, and programs continue to face today's challenges with an unwavering commitment to **Love & Serve**. They are doing a superb job "to meet the wants of the age." Beginning on page nine, Marcia Sichol, SHCJ, provides an update on the Wants of the Age committee's outreach during the pandemic.

With the hope of building a future on racial and social equality, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province seeks to be transparent about its connection or complicity with slavery and racism. While the Society did not benefit from the enslavement of people, the Connelly family did. On page 11, you will find background on the Society's founding and Pierce and Cornelia's history with slavery. The Province will continue to research and reflect on the Society's historical role with systemic racism in an attempt to reconcile its sinfulness.

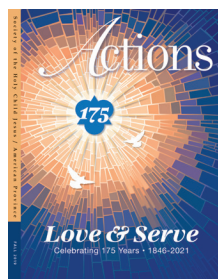
We were deeply disappointed to cancel this year's 2020 Awards Dinner in New York City, due to COVID-19. On page 13, we spotlight this year's award recipients – Nonie Glennon Murphy and Mairead Jones-Kennelly, Esq. – for their amazing work and spirit. We also thank our sponsors, donors, and friends for their support and understanding.

While our plans and schedules are unpredictable these days, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus are certain that the Society's Anniversary will bring together our Holy Child family to **Love & Serve** with joy, gratitude, and zeal. We look forward to joining all of you in prayer and at upcoming events as we celebrate our founding and history.

Happy 175th to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus!

Gratefully,

Carroll Juliano, SHCJ



On Our Cover:
Celebrating the founding
of the Society of the Holy
Child Jesus in 1846.

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CELEBRATING 175 YEARS!

Brief History of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

This fall, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus will join with friends, family, Holy Child Associates, alumnae/i, schools, and ministries worldwide to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. The year-long celebration will offer opportunities for prayer, service, and gatherings that center on the Society's past, present, and future to **Love & Serve**. Many activities will incorporate a call to care for all of God's creation and our common home.

Below we share a brief history of the Society's founding in 1846 and its expansion since then. As you will read, the Society's history is significantly abbreviated in the article, but its mission remains global and its impact wide-ranging. We extend our appreciation to Judith Lancaster, SHCJ, in the European Province, Philomena Aidoo, SHCJ, in the African Province, and Emily Siegel, Archivist for the Society, for their contributions to the article.

Page seven features a calendar of events to mark this special year in the American Province, which will begin October 2020 and continue through October 2021. Similarly, the European and African Provinces will host additional events with their communities. Throughout the year, we will join

together as one Society for mission through prayer. We hope you will celebrate with us!

THE SOCIETY'S FOUNDING

On October 13, 1846, at the request of Pope Gregory XVI, Cornelia Connelly began what would become an international congregation of women religious in the Catholic Church in Derby, England. Two days later, on October 15, Cornelia and three postulants assisted at their first Mass as a religious community. October 15, 1846, is formally recognized as the date of the founding of the Society. For 175 years, the Society's members have lived out Cornelia's vision to "meet the wants of the age."



Today, the Society's ministry spans four continents, where our Holy Child family lives the mission **to rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world**. The Sisters work collaboratively with others in educational, spiritual, pastoral, social justice, and healthcare ministries. The Society's leadership resides in Rome, Italy, with Province Leadership teams in Europe, America, and Africa.



[continued on page 3]

OUR PRESENCE IN EUROPE

Given the Society of the Holy Child Jesus was founded in Europe – in Derby, England – by Cornelia Connelly, who was an American, you might say we were international – aware of the wider world – from the beginning.

During Cornelia's lifetime, convents were established up and down England, and Sisters were sent to establish new works in France and the United States. Cornelia wanted her congregation to reflect the love and mercy of God, as they responded to whatever pressing needs they encountered. From the beginning, the Sisters were concerned for women and girls. Wherever they went, the Sisters opened schools, worked in parishes,

taught factory girls in night schools, and educated women to be teachers.

Among those of us in Europe now, there are women from France and Germany and Switzerland, though most of us are British or Irish, and it is in England and Ireland that we have most of our communities.

Today – as we celebrate 175 years since our founding – we are a much older group of women than the Sisters were during Cornelia's time, but the invitation that has shaped our lives remains undiminished. Whoever we meet, whatever we do, our desire is to help others grow strong in faith and live fully human lives.

*The Society of the Holy Child Jesus
was founded in Derby, England, in 1846.*



(Right) Layton Hill in Blackpool, England, is the only school and convent that Cornelia was involved in designing and building from scratch.

(Below) Junior students gather at Layton Hall in 1948 for a photo.



(Right) St. Leonards-on-Sea in southern England was Cornelia's home from 1848 until her death in 1879.



(Left) In 1879, during her last spring, Cornelia chose from nursery lists and planted cuttings for the kitchen garden of St. Leonards. To Cornelia, the little plants "seemed as they shot up in all their variety to be the very last image of the beauty of God." Many Sisters took up her vision, and in 1918, Mayfield School in England transformed a "grassy wilderness" into allotments to grow vegetables.

[continued on page 5]

OUR PRESENCE IN THE AMERICAS

In August of 1862, 16 years after Cornelia Connelly founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in England, she missioned six Sisters to America. They described their first night as one of “warfare with mosquitoes, which left their marks of victory on their faces.” A week later, in Towanda, Pennsylvania, they arrived at the “small mansion” they had been promised to establish a school and convent. Upon arriving, however, they found a rat- and spider-infested house. Nonetheless, the women persevered and opened the school within a week.

Early struggles and challenges proved to be indicative of what lay ahead. Yet, with determination, the Sisters pushed forward, and many of the laity found their spirit to be infectious. By 1879, 55 women had entered the Society.

After establishing schools on the East Coast, the Sisters traveled west to Minnesota,



In 1862, Holy Child Sisters arrived in the United States from England for the first time and settled in Towanda, Pennsylvania, where they opened their first convent and school.

Nebraska, Oregon, Wyoming, and California, where they continued to open schools and live out their mission to help individuals identify and develop their God-given gifts. The Society expanded its presence to include South America, where the Sisters started ministries in Chile in 1967 and the Dominican Republic in 1995.

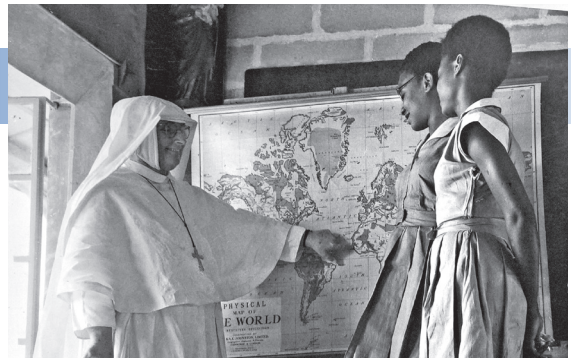
Currently, the Sisters, joined by Holy Child Associates, heads of schools, faculty, staff, administrators, benefactors, and friends, remain alert to the needs of the 21st century and continue to reach out with love, compassion, joy, and zeal.



Holy Child Sisters enjoying a picnic in Cheyenne, Wyoming, circa early 1930s.

OUR PRESENCE IN AFRICA

In 1930, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus arrived in West Africa at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Shanahan, an Irish-born priest of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. European and American Holy Child Sisters began their work in Calabar, Nigeria. Sixteen years later, our Sisters were missioned to Cape Coast in Ghana and later spread to other parts of the country. In 1992, the first Sisters of the Holy Child convent was opened in Chad.



Sister Mary St. Henry Parker taught at Holy Child Secondary School Marian Hill, Calabar, Nigeria, in 1966.



Teresa Okure, SHCJ, is the first African Sister to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus - African Province. Today, Sister Teresa is a well-known and distinguished theologian in the Catholic Church.



In 2019, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus built a new school and convent in Goaso, Ghana.

Ninety years after arriving on the African continent, the Society is represented in many communities and institutions of learning. In 1963, the first African member of the Society entered the novitiate. Every year, new candidates and novices are welcomed.

Today's Society Leadership Team (left to right), Sisters Pauline Darby, Veronica Openibo (Society Leader), Marie Ursino, and Cecilia Nya, live and serve in Rome, Italy. The team is formed from the European, African, and American Provinces to promote a spirit of mutuality, collaboration, and interdependence.

The African Province now has 122 perpetually professed members, and 62 in the various stages of initial formation.

Province ministries involve mostly teaching children and young adults and overseeing the administration of educational institutions; running women's centers; providing health care in clinics and hospitals; and engaging in pastoral ministries, such as counselling, training spiritual directors, running retreat centers, and contributing to parish life.

As we look to the future of **Love & Serve**, the Society's priorities include supporting lifelong formation; enabling sustainable growth of ministries; undertaking capital projects to build, expand, or improve schools; and providing accommodation for Sisters, including retirement facilities.



175th Anniversary Calendar of Events

October 2020 – October 2021

October 10, 2020	Opening of 175th Anniversary Saint Luke Church, Mint Hill, North Carolina <i>Mass in person and via live stream with Holy Child Associates and parishioners</i>	Spring 2021	Handing on the Spirit Presentation <i>Carrying on the Holy Child mission, legacy, and charism with Associates, schools, sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, friends, and supporters</i>
October 2020 - October 2021	Litany of the Holy Child Jesus <i>Holy Child Network of Schools pray on the 25th of every month</i>	April 18, 2021	Cornelia Connelly's Anniversary of Her Death <i>Society-wide prayer offered by the American Province</i>
Winter 2021	"Living Sustainably" Webinar		
January 3, 2021	Epiphany Celebration for Holy Child Associates <i>Associates renew their commitment</i>	April 22, 2021	Earth Day Celebration
		June 19, 2021	Jubilee Mass & Celebration Springfield, Pennsylvania
January 6, 2021	Epiphany Celebration <i>Society-wide prayer offered by the African Province</i>	August 7, 2021	Society-wide Prayer <i>Offered by the Society Leadership Team</i>
January 15, 2021	Cornelia Connelly's Birthday <i>Society-wide prayer</i>		
		October 17, 2021	Closing Liturgy Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 18, 2021	Holy Child Awards Dinner Aronimink Golf Club Newtown Square, Pennsylvania		

For more information, please contact SHCJ175th@shcj.org.

Be sure to check the American Province's website www.shcj.org/american and social media for updates.



Prayer to Beatify Cornelia Connelly

In 1992, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recommended to Pope John Paul II, now Saint John Paul II, that he proclaim the heroic virtue of Cornelia Connelly as a Servant of God. Cornelia was declared Venerable.
The next step in the canonization process is beatification.

As we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, please join the Sisters in praying the Prayer to Beatify Cornelia Connelly.

PRAYER TO OBTAIN THE BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE CORNELIA CONNELLY

O God, who chose Cornelia Connelly
to found the Society of the Holy Child Jesus,
inspiring her to follow the path
marked out by your divine son,
obedient from the crib to the cross,
let us share her faith, her obedience and her
unconditional trust in the power of your love.

Grant us the favor we now implore
through her intercession...
and be pleased to glorify, even on earth,
your faithful servant, through the same
Christ our Lord.

Amen.



If you have found praying through the intercession of Cornelia helpful and believe that your prayer has been answered, please report this to the Generalate Office by emailing Generalate@shcj.org or via mail, Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Casa Cornelia, via Francesco Nullo 6, 00152 Rome, Italy.



MEETING THE WANTS OF THE AGE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Marcia Sichol, SHCJ
Chair, Wants of the Age Committee

In the spring 2020 edition of Actions, the lead article featured the American Province's response to today's crises through prayer, action, and advocacy. In this edition of Actions, we provide some background and an update of the Province's efforts to "meet the wants of the age" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

In March 2017, the American Province Leadership Team appointed a committee to implement the Province's response to Cornelia Connelly's direction for her Sisters to "meet the wants of the age." The forming of this committee flowed from the mission of the 2016 General Chapter of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus 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."

Specifically, we commit ourselves as a Society to:

- **Allocate funds strategically**
- **Mission Holy Child Sisters and/or send others in our name to undertake this work**
- **Facilitate the integration of migrants into the receiving communities**
- **Meet both emergency and long-term needs, locally, regionally, and internationally**

The American Province Leadership Team allocated a \$1 million gift to meet this challenge. The Leadership Team established a Wants of the Age (WOTA) committee to oversee the use of these funds. The WOTA committee agreed on the direction it would take to distribute the

(Top) The Society's grant to Kino Border Initiative (KBI) supports social and pastoral education to communities on the United States and Mexico borders.

Photo by Gary R. Firth/Kino Border Initiative.

(Left) The Wants of the Age fund supports counseling services to Syrian refugee children who are traumatized from war and separation.

Photo by Nikki Gamer/Catholic Relief Services.



generous gift in the form of grants that offered the greatest impact.

- **International, up to \$300,000**
- **National, up to \$250,000**
- **Local requests, up to \$200,000**
- **Future needs, to be determined, up to \$250,000**

UPDATE ON GRANTS AWARDED BY WOTA COMMITTEE

A total of \$743,000 was distributed in just under three years. The first grant went to the international group Catholic Relief Services, to assist in the education and care of pre-school and kindergarten-age Syrian children who had escaped to Jordan. Three hundred thousand dollars helped to support schools in the refugee camps and to pay for counseling services for children who had experienced the trauma of war and separation.

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars went to the Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience (CARE), a national volunteer program that supports undocumented immigrants during ICE check-ins and other court proceedings related to deportation. CARE is a project of Migration and Refugee Services, under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. WOTA funds provided capacity building by financing the salaries

of the District of Columbia national coordinator and coordinators in San Francisco, California, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Camden, New Jersey.

Sisters and Holy Child Associates submitted domestic grant applications for 19 projects, totaling \$193,000, across the country and beyond. These efforts provided shelter, food, clothing, and legal services for countless refugees, largely from Latin America and the Middle East.

Then in March 2020, a new reality surfaced, one that affects not just migrants and refugees, but the whole world: the COVID-19 pandemic. The quarantine unifies the wants of our age in unexpected ways. It has uncovered the injustice laid upon persons of color in the United States and throughout the Western world. This injustice clearly underlies poverty, which, in turn, has revealed the increased risk of COVID-19 infection and death. WOTA grants are expanding to projects that reach beyond their original mission to meet needs presented by the pandemic, such as the African Sisters Education Collaborative, which recently received a grant to assist three pandemic-related projects in Africa.



The WOTA committee anticipates future requests related to COVID-19 as it continues to meet Cornelia's challenge.

(Above) Through the Wants of the Age fund, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus support the education of Syrian children living in refugee camps.

Photo by Nikki Gamer/Catholic Relief Services.

(Left) The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is one of several recipients to receive funding from the SHCJ Wants of the Age fund. KBI provides humane, just, and workable migration between the United States and Mexico.

Photo by Gary R. Firth/Kino Border Initiative.



Reconciling Social and Racial Injustices in Our Histories

As our country and world seek racial justice and equality, the Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus are reflecting on the Society's historical role and their own modern-day complicity with systemic racism and inequality. Like many religious communities, organizations, and individuals, the Holy Child Sisters are examining their hearts, minds, and actions to more clearly identify and thereby reconcile their sinfulness.

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus was founded by Cornelia Connelly in 1846 in Derby, England, 13 years after the United Kingdom's Slavery Abolition Act. In 1862, three years before slavery was abolished in the United States, Cornelia sent Sisters from England to America. In 1930, the Society expanded its ministry to West Africa, and in 1963, the first African member of the Society entered the novitiate. To date, the Sisters have found no evidence that the Society supported or participated in the enslavement of people.

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus acknowledge and have publicly

documented that Cornelia's husband, Pierce, was given two enslaved people – Phoebe Grayson and her daughter Sarah (Sally) Gough – while living in Natchez, Mississippi, and serving as Episcopalian rector. Phoebe and Sally were a “gift” from one of Pierce's sponsors, Dr. Newton Mercer, after Cornelia delivered their first-born son in 1832. Pierce and Cornelia named their son Mercer, in honor of Dr. Mercer. In 1842, when the Connells were living in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, Pierce had decided to become a Roman Catholic priest and move to Rome, Italy. He sold or transferred ownership of Phoebe and Sally to the neighboring Jesuit College, where Sally's husband, Ignatius, was a slave.

In 2018, Rosemont College, located in a suburb of Philadelphia and founded in 1921 by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus as a female Catholic college, established a commission to research the College's history with enslaved people. The commission found that there was “no concrete evidence of the impact of slavery on Rosemont College.” The commission confirmed the Society's published findings that Pierce was given

and had sold or transferred ownership of enslaved people.

With deep sadness and remorse, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus believes that the Connelys were blind to the sin of racism. The Sisters recognize that Cornelia's early life led her in directions that were often challenging and sometimes difficult to reconcile.

When Cornelia founded the Society, she stressed the importance of honoring the dignity and uniqueness of every person.

This reverence and respect for all individuals remains the hallmark of her educational legacy and is carried forward by the Sisters today as they continue to "meet the wants of the age" and help those in need.

In the Society's 175th Anniversary year, we stand in solidarity with all those who work to dismantle systemic racism, including in our Holy Child schools and ministries. We reaffirm our commitment to creating a more just and harmonious world through our actions and with reverence for all.

Roseanne McDougall, SHCJ, American Province Leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, Erin Brown, and Jeanne Marie Hatch, SHCJ, pose for a photo at Rosemont College in



November 2019. Ms. Brown is the descendant of Phoebe Grayson and Sarah (Sally) Gough, two enslaved people who worked for the Connelys for approximately eight years between 1832-1842. Since the 1930s, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus have been in contact with the descendants of the Grayson/Gough family. The family has been doing research with the American Province Archives to further understand their heritage and family tree. The family has also been collaborating with the American Province to learn more about the Connely's history. Ms. Brown is the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Phoebe Grayson and great-great-great granddaughter of Sally Gough.

Handing on the Spirit

2020 Holy Child Awards Dinner

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus are filled with gratitude for the kindness and support of their friends and sponsors of the 2020 Holy Child Awards Dinner, which was scheduled to take place on March 26, but cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for the graciousness, messages of support, and generosity of all those who had planned to join us at this year's celebration.

We extend a special thank you to our Holy Child schools and ministries for helping us throughout the planning and decision-making process, especially Cornelia Connelly Center for Education in New York City; Cristo Rey New York High School in New York City; Holy Child Academy in Old Westbury, New York; Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey; and School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York.

While deeply disappointed to cancel this important event, we acknowledge and celebrate the transformative works of this year's awardees, Nonie Glennon Murphy and Mairead Jones-Kennelly, Esq. The outpouring of love and respect for Nonie and Mairead was evident in the many heartfelt messages and congratulatory ads from family members, colleagues, and friends. The presenters of the awards also prepared lovely speeches to honor these amazing women.



2020 Faith in Action Honoree
Nonie Glennon Murphy



2020 Holy Child Spirit Honoree
Mairead Jones-Kennelly, Esq.

Cynthia Vives, SHCJ, who was scheduled to present the Faith in Action Award to Nonie, shared the following about Nonie.

... in addition to the plethora of awards Nonie has received for her civic contributions...what is equally, if not more significant to me, is that Nonie continues to serve quietly and humbly – never calling attention to herself.

We members of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus sign SHCJ after our names and refer to ourselves as "SHCJ." Those among us this evening may have other definers for these four letters. However, these letters make me think of simplicity, humility, charity, and joy. Nonie is living testament to each of these virtues, simply by her very being.

Fiona Kelly, Mairead's mother and Director of Learning Services at School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York, prepared a beautiful speech and offered the following about her daughter.

Cornelia Connelly said, "what one is called to do, one is called to do with all her might." Those of us who know Mairead know she does EVERYTHING with all her might. Mairead is a champion of everyone. Most importantly, she is a champion of those on the margins.

From an early age, Mairead was driven by a commitment to social justice and standing up for others. And like everything she committed to, she committed to social justice with all her might...There is no doubt that Holy Child (at Rye) encouraged her to become the friend, the advocate, and the woman she is today.



Handing on the Spirit

Congratulations to Nonie and Mairead!

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Love and Serve

Help the Sisters Continue the Holy Child Mission!



Educational Ministries



Ensuring the Holy Child spirit and educational philosophy of rich spiritual traditions, service to others, and a love of learning continues in Holy Child Schools across the United States.



Social Justice Ministries



Providing critical legal assistance, humanitarian protection, and educational programs for marginalized children and adults across the United States and Chile.



Spiritual & Healing Ministries



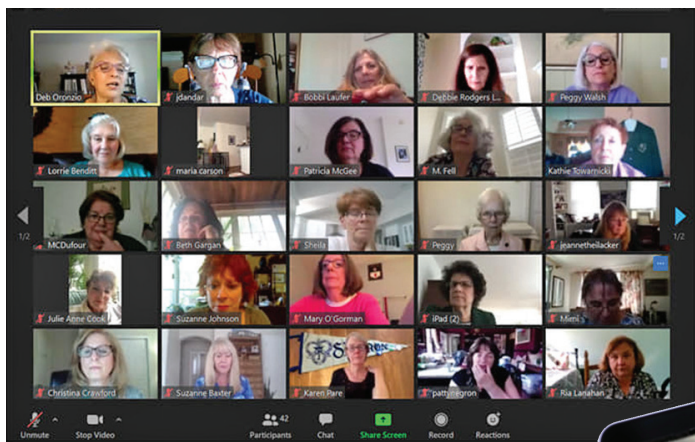
Offering prayer, support, and spiritual direction, providing love and comfort to others, and living the Holy Child spirit in daily life.

Donate today by mail: Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Mission Advancement Office, 1341 Montgomery Ave, Rosemont, PA 19010 or online: www.shcj.org/american/donate

Questions? Contact Joanna Pelizzoni: 610.626.1400 x315 or jpelizzoni@shcj.org.

Class of '70 Celebrates 50th Reunion

In the meantime, the Class of 1970 hosted a “Rezoomiun” on June 6, 2020, with 40 of the original 61 classmates. Peggy Doherty, SHCJ, attended the virtual reunion and offered an invocation prayer. The gathering lasted two hours where the alumnae reminisced, offered a moment of silence for six deceased classmates, and celebrated the fruits of a Holy Child education.



Reunions

Remembrances



LORRAINE DEVILLER, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Donald)

October 18, 1928 – May 24, 2020

As a lifelong educator, Sister Lorraine thoroughly enjoyed and embraced her teaching ministry. Reverend Michael Olivere,

who worked with Sister Lorraine at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, recalled Sister as a "...dedicated and excellent teacher, a team player. She always had a smile on her face and was a pleasure to work with."

During her four decades as a teacher, Sister Lorraine taught at Saint James School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1949-51); Saint Anastasia School Waukegan, Illinois (1951-54); and Saint Mary School in Melrose, Massachusetts (1954-56 and 1973-79). She then moved to Portland, Oregon, where she taught at Saint Charles School (1956-64), Saint Rose School (1964-71), and Holy Child Academy (1971-73), before returning to the East Coast to teach at Our Lady of Lourdes School in New York City (1980-84) and Saint Edward School in Philadelphia (1987-93).

When not in the classroom, Sister Lorraine served the aging Holy Child Sisters in Rye, New York, and Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Eventually, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont. One of the nurses at Holy Child Center shared that Sister's hopeful spirit lasted until her final days. "Despite her illness, Sister Lorraine's patience prevailed. She spoke to the staff with great encouragement, sometimes even rhyming. Her deep love of God was notable."



MARY KATHLEEN GROH, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Kathleen)

July 21, 1924 – March 29, 2020

"Sister Kathleen was the kindest and gentlest person I have ever known, with all her kindness and goodness wrapped in

a wonderful sense of humor," shared Maureen Duffy, SHCJ.

Sister Kathleen served as an educator for more than 25 years. She began her teaching ministry at Assumption School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1947-55), before moving to Portland, Oregon, where she taught at Saint Rose School (1955-56) and Saint Rita School (1956-70).

In 1973, Sister Kathleen discovered a new ministry at Mt. St. Joseph's Retirement Home in Portland. At Mt. St. Joseph's, she served in many roles, including as an aide to an

occupational therapist. During that time, Sister Kathleen's creativity and sewing skills flourished, as she produced a variety of items, from huggable stuffed animals to smocked baptismal robes. She lived and served in the Portland area for more than 30 years.

In 1987, Sister Kathleen moved to the Holy Child Sisters' community in Rye, New York, where she continued her sewing projects for both the community and School of the Holy Child. In 2013, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she shared her many gifts with the Sisters and local ministries.



ANNE RUSH, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Kiernan)

July 8, 1924 – April 19, 2020

For 27 years, Sister Anne happily taught the little ones, starting at Saint Elizabeth School in New York City (1947-56), before moving to

Pennsylvania, where she taught at Saint Lucy School (1956-67) and Saint Leonard's Academy (1969-70), both in Philadelphia, and then at Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill (1970-74).

From 1974 to 1989, Sister Anne was called to care for the older Sisters at both Cornelian House in Sharon Hill and Holy Child Center in Rosemont. Following her 15 years at Cornelian House and Holy Child Center, Sister Anne's next assignment was at the Cornelia Connelly Association, where she directed a group of individuals who made vestments to send to missions worldwide.

In 2000, Sister Anne became a member of the Holy Child Sisters' community at Saint Eugene Parish in Primos, Pennsylvania, where she remained for 14 years. These were happy years for Sister Anne, when her prayerful presence and cheerful participation won the hearts of the parishioners. After moving to Holy Child Center in 2014, Sister Anne could be counted on to pray for special intentions with the same cheerfulness and devotion that characterized her entire apostolic life.

*You must not hide the gifts
God has given, but use them
in his service.*

- Cornelia Connelly



HELEN SCHWARZ, SHCJ

(Mother Mary Carl)

August 13, 1927 – May 10, 2020

While born and raised on the East Coast, Sister Helen considered herself a “California girl” after living and serving there for nearly 45 years.

Sister Helen began her teaching ministry on the East Coast, where she served in numerous schools, including Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1949-54); Annunciation School in Washington, D.C. (1954-55); Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey (1955-57); and Saint Leonard’s Academy in Philadelphia (1957-66).

In 1966, Sister Helen moved to the West Coast and continued her teaching ministry at Holy Child Academy in Portland, Oregon (1966-68); Connelly School of the Holy Child in Anaheim, California (1968-74); and Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California (1974-76).

Beginning in 1977, Sister Helen served as the Supervisor of Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, a position she held for 18 years. In 1996, Sister Helen helped with the development program at the newly launched Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego, a ministry founded by the Holy Child Sisters. Despite her diminished capacity in recent years, Sister Helen maintained her interest in world events and those around her. She is sorely missed by those who knew and loved her.



SUZANNE SNYDER, SHCJ

(Mother Gregory Mary)

February 20, 1936 – June 28, 2020

Throughout her life, Sister Sue brought great compassion and a wonderful sense of humor to everything she did.

Sister Sue began her teaching ministry at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey (1956-58). In 1958, Sister Sue was missioned to the West Coast, where she would remain for the next 57 years. During that time, she taught at Assumption School in Pasadena, California (1958-60 and 1962-64), as well as at Saint Charles School (1964-66) and Holy Child Academy in Portland, Oregon (1966-69). She returned to California to teach at her alma mater, Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child in Pasadena (1969-73).

Although a highly effective teacher, Sister Sue’s passion was working with marginalized communities. This led her to serving in prison ministry and pastoral work.

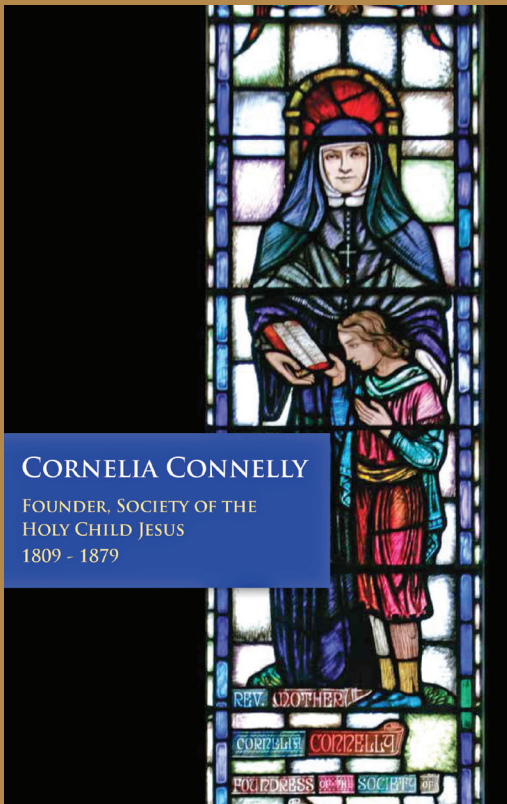
In 1984, Sister Sue founded and directed the Social Service Center of Holy Cross Parish in South Central Los Angeles. In 1999, Sister Sue moved to San Diego, where she became a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Voices for Children, an organization that serves abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

Sister Sue returned to the East Coast in 2014 to live in Rye, New York. In August 2016, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she shared her fun-loving and generous spirit and enthusiasm for sports with all.

As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst.

– Pope Francis on “building a better world together” and caring for the environment, April 2020





THE LIFE OF CORNELIA CONNELLY

By Judith "Judy" Talvacchia
 is now available in English and Spanish!

*To receive a copy, please send an email
 to holychildsisters@shcj.org.*

"Thank you so much for the book on Cornelia Connelly. I first read about Cornelia during my school days at Saint Leonard's. Many times my children heard her quotes, especially 'be yourself but make that self just what our Lord wants it to be.' My husband and I both read the book and then discussed it. Now I will pass it on to others and trust that Cornelia will also inspire them." – Nannette

"The book is beyond informative. Every page captivated me. Kudos to Judith A. Talvacchia! I shall keep my copy on the coffee table for the rest of my eighty-four years! The twelve of which have made me ever grateful for the education the Holy Child Sisters imparted to me." – Katharine

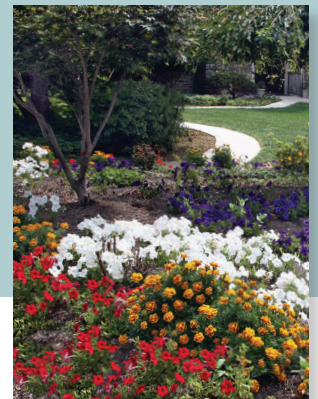
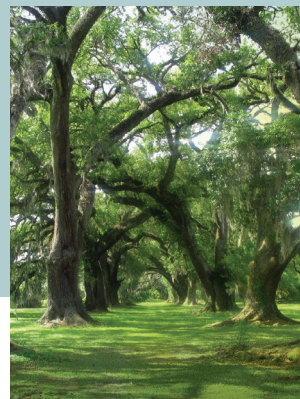


Prayer Cards from the Holy Child Sisters

The Holy Child Sisters' prayer cards provide a meaningful way to remember your friends and family in times of sorrow or happiness, including special occasions such as a birthday, anniversary, or new job. The Sisters find joy in knowing that their prayers serve as a source of love and support.

To order prayer cards, please contact the Sisters at holychildsisters@shcj.org or 610.626.1400, or visit the Province's website at www.shcj.org/american. Any donations received through this program are directed to Holy Child ministries.

Thank you!



Meeting the Wants of the Age for 175 Years

Help the Sisters continue their
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"We give appreciated stock investments to a Donor Advised Fund in years that we do not take the standard deduction. Then we donate each year to the Sisters. For us, that is easy and enables us to contribute more and save on taxes."

- Edward & Marjorie Kennedy

"Bless a hundredfold all of our benefactors
and friends!" - Cornelia Connelly

Thank you for your support! Your charitable giving advances
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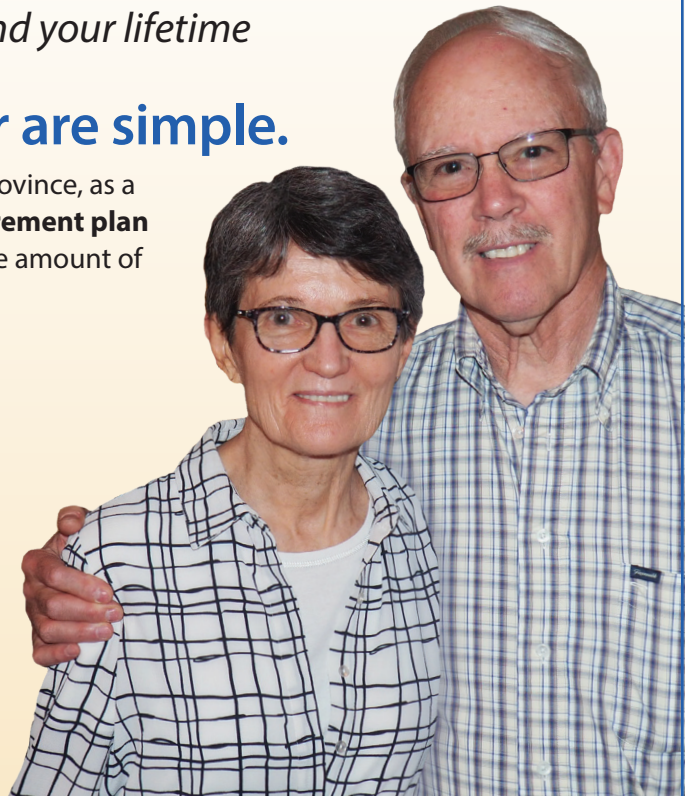
Ways to become a member are simple.

Name the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province, as a beneficiary in your **will** or **trust**, **life insurance** or **retirement plan assets**. Gifts of all sizes are welcome! It is not about the amount of the gift, but the spirit of the giver.

For more information about membership into the Cornelian Society, contact the Mission Advancement Office at 610.626.1400 x301 • slovascio@shcj.org
www.shcj.org/american

"The act of leaving a gift speaks quietly but lastingly of the gratitude I have for the women who enriched my life and instilled a life-long love of learning. Long after I'm gone, the bequest left on paper will reflect the appreciation in my heart."

- Joanne Parrilli, St. Ignatius, IL



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

- Cornelia Connelly





Thank You

Holy Child Center Staff
You Are Awesome!



The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus thank all essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic for their **ACTIONS NOT WORDS!**

We extend a special thank you to the Holy Child Center employees in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, for taking great care of our retired and aging Sisters.

Thank you!



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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Holy Child Ministries

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and their colleagues serve in educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries. The Society of the Holy Child Jesus in the Americas sponsors or co-sponsors the ministries below:

CALIFORNIA

Casa Cornelia Law Center
(San Diego)

Mayfield Junior School
of the Holy Child Jesus
(Pasadena)

Mayfield Senior School
of the Holy Child Jesus
(Pasadena)

South Central Los Angeles
Ministry Project
(Los Angeles)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Africa Faith and Justice Network
Washington School for Girls

ILLINOIS

Cristo Rey St. Martin
College Prep
(Waukegan)

MARYLAND

Connelly School of the Holy Child
(Potomac)

NEW JERSEY

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child
(Summit)

NEW YORK

Cornelia Connelly Center
(New York City)

Cristo Rey New York High School
(New York City)

Holy Child Academy
(Old Westbury)

School of the Holy Child
(Rye)

UNANIMA International
(NGO, United Nations)

PENNSYLVANIA

African Sisters Education Collaborative
(Scranton)

Holy Child Academy
(Drexel Hill)

Holy Child School at Rosemont
(Rosemont)

Hope Partnership for Education
(Philadelphia)

Providence Center
(Philadelphia)

Rosemont College
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(Santiago)

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to actions@shcj.org.

Save the Date

**175th Anniversary
Opening Celebration**
Saturday, October 10, 2020
Mint Hill, North Carolina

Advent Reflection
December 2020
Virtual

Sharon Christmas Sing-Along
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Rosemont, Pennsylvania

Holy Child Awards Dinner
Thursday, March 18, 2021
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

**St. Leonard's Academy
All-Class Reunion**
Saturday, March 20, 2021
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Visit www.shcj.org/american
or social media for updates