



**HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES**  
AMERICAN PROVINCE - USA

*LIVING LOVE FULL OF ACTION*

*Love  
&  
Serve*



In the spirit of  
*Courageous Hope and Joy,*  
we envision the future...

**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.*

*Thou Alpha-Omega, First and Last,  
In whose eternal love our lives are passed.  
Thou art the Christ, the Living God's own Son,  
Make us with Thee in heart and spirit one,  
O Holy Child.*

# From the Director

Dear Associates,

What a bountiful year we've had to date! Just a few highlights:

The Associate chapter process has been well-received and we are in the final phase.

A generous donor gave a \$10,000 restricted gift for Associates to create projects that preserve, promote, and/or advance the Associates. Are you submitting your project idea(s)?

The generosity of many Associates puts us within reach of our financial goal (\$10,000) to fund our administration budget (excluding my salary and benefits). We need more help to reach our participation goal of 100 (currently about 60 Associates have participated). Please consider a gift if you can.

The Retreat in Daily Life Together was a profound journey for many.

There is loss and sadness too with the death of Associates' family members and Sisters in the American Province. Let us continue to pray for all who are grieving.

May you enjoy rest and relaxation this summer!

With gratitude,

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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Cornelia and her Charism

# Sharing the Journey

by Anne Ayella

As this column's name implies, we have all "Shared the Journey" with each other in many ways. In the early years of the "Share the Journey" campaign, we tied some of our SHCJ efforts in with Pope Francis' 2017 campaign aimed at reaching out to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. Pope Francis challenged us "to pray and reflect and to use the awareness we build to take action both personally and publicly."

In this past year, through the weekly Retreat in Daily Living Together calls (RDLT), as well as through our Chapter discussions, my perspective on "sharing the journey" has changed. With whom we share the journey, as well as "how to share the journey" creatively has been broadened.

We are called to share the journey and make a difference to those affected by systemic racism- to learn more and to shine a light on the marginalization of people of color. We are called to share the journey and accompany the hungry, both locally and globally and those whose lives have been devastated by climate change and are forced to migrate. We are called to share the journey with the lonely and isolated in our world.



In the RDLT sharings in this post-Easter season, many of us have been touched by "Jesus as the consoler". He consoled his friends and disciples by bringing them some comfort and peace after their suffering and disappointment. Consolation is how Christ enables people to live lives of discipleship. We are called to "to console" as Jesus did. All of us may not be able to go to the border or volunteer at a shelter or soup kitchen but we can make a difference.

Our action may be as simple as making a phone call to someone who is isolated, writing a letter to our elected officials on behalf of others or praying for and walking with those who are struggling.

May we be people of action and joy  
as Cornelia was!

# Albert Goldbarth

by Michelle Dugan

## The Sciences Sing a Lullabye

*Physics says: go to sleep. Of course  
you're tired. Every atom in you  
has been dancing the shimmy in silver shoes  
nonstop from mitosis to now.*

*Quit tapping your feet. They'll dance  
inside themselves without you. Go to sleep.*

*Geology says: it will be all right. Slow inch  
by inch America is giving itself  
to the ocean. Go to sleep. Let darkness  
lap at your sides. Give darkness an inch.  
You aren't alone. All of the continents used to be  
one body. You aren't alone. Go to sleep.*

*Astronomy says: the sun will rise tomorrow,  
Zoology says: on rainbow-fish and lithe gazelle,  
Psychology says: but first it has to be night, so  
Biology says: the body-clocks are stopped all over  
town and*

*History says: here are the blankets, layer on layer,  
down and down.*

from *The Kitchen Sink: New and Selected Poems, 1972-2007*

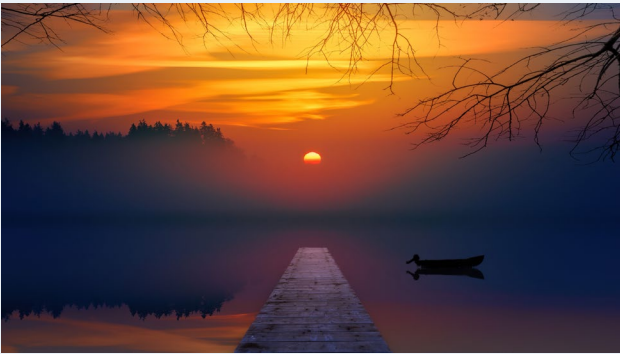
The prolific Albert Goldbarth was unknown to me, so it came as a surprise to discover, after I fell in love with this poem forwarded by a friend, that he is our contemporary as well as the only poet to have twice won the National Book Critics Circle award. Born in 1948 in Chicago to a middle-class Jewish family, Goldbarth earned this singular recognition for two works: "Heaven and Earth: A Cosmology" and "Saving Lives," titles that hint at a sensibility we might recognize as incarnational.

"The Sciences Sing a Lullabye" was published in 2007. When I read it, the consoling words of Jesus – "Peace be with you" – came to mind, though there is not a mention of God or faith in the poem. Nevertheless, it is possible to listen to these lines with ears attuned to the voice of the Spirit. Reassuring us that the natural world is orderly and safe, the message of the sciences translates for the believer into the embrace of the Cosmic Christ. In a universe of care, we can trust that we "aren't alone."

The first stanza belongs to physics – life's energetic underpinnings, constantly in motion, "dancing the shimmy in silver shoes." Stanza two creates quite the opposite picture as "inch by inch" geologic time moves ever so slowly. Yet at any pace, and whether on the scale of cells or continents, Goldbarth's wise scientists tell us again and again that "it will be all right." We are not what the ego insists, so central, so important that we must constantly strive. Does that negate our efforts to save the world? What are we to make of advice that validates the darkness lapping at our sides? Don't the Gospels warn us to "stay awake"? There is surely a discomfiting paradox at play in the imagery of "America...giving itself to the ocean."



The final stanza of the poem returns us to the light, the sun rising on a beautiful world, each creature – “rainbow fish and lithe gazelle”— precious in itself, as *Laudato Si* teaches. Life is cyclical, say the sciences; attend to the “body-clocks” and accept that “first it has to be night.” In that last line Goldbarth shifts gears to conclude with “History,” a discipline normally considered to be among the humanities rather than the sciences. With those sonorous cadences, “layer on layer, down and down,” it’s hard not to think about sleep as a familiar metaphor for death. That lapsing darkness still echoes here, but this poem is a lullaby, meant to soothe. Resurrection only happens afterwards. “Here are the blankets,” so rest well. “You are not alone.”



John Fowler on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)





# Meet the Associates: Chapter...

By Cathi Duffy

What an inspiring time 2021 has been! As Associates, we prayed, reflected, and shared how we hear God calling us into the future.

We spent February and March on aspects of our Associate relationship: Spiritual Growth & Prayer, Ministry in Daily Living, Community & Connectedness, Relationship with the Holy Child Family, and Leadership & Sustainability.

Since late March, we shared, through Zoom meetings, our reflections on articles provided from the Sisters' own provincial chapter discernment process. The conversations deepened our resolve to transform our world - personally, as community, and in collaboration with others.

Associates shared how important community is. The desire to connect across the Society with Sisters and Associates was communicated over and over again in all of our sessions - no matter the topic! We have a clear mandate to be creative in expanding and deepening connections and community! We learned through the pandemic that technology can help.

At a strategic level, we heard the following.

## **Community & Connectedness**

Creating and deepening our sense of community, of belonging with Associates throughout the United States and the Society, with Sisters, and with the broader Holy Child family.

- Projects (mission & ministry) for bringing us together for a common purpose
- Educational series (Zoom) bringing Associates and Sisters together across Society
- Social events for building community (use of technology as needed)
- Invitation to younger individuals to gather for projects (without commitment)

## **Spiritual Growth and Prayer**

Being a member of a community of faith is an important part of each SHCJ Associate's journey. Through many different offerings, Associates are invigorated to live, pray, and work in ways that reflect Cornelia's charism and love of the Holy Child.

Increasing the use of technology will enhance our ability to continue to provide Associates with different ways of gathering and growing spiritually.

## **Ministry in Daily Living**

Associates will impact the wants of the age that affect the most vulnerable on societal, local, national and global levels through prayer, education, actions, and/or advocacy work.

Wants of the Age (in alphabetical order) to focus efforts include: Care of creation, Food insecurity, Homelessness, Immigration, and Systemic Racism.

## **Relationship as a Charismatic Family**

Associates will develop and enhance our spiritual/social relationships with other Associates, Associate communities, and the larger Holy Child Family while sharing the mission, vision, and charism of Cornelia Connelly with others.

## **Leadership and Sustainability**

Associates will share their gifts in local/virtual and national leadership roles and activities. Associates will focus efforts on inviting individuals in the Holy Child extended family to embrace the Associate relationship as a sign of their unique call to holiness.

*As with all Associate plans, we follow the directives set out by the Provincial and General Chapters.*

*We want to hear your feedback. Will these be our directives for the next 6 years? If yes, the Core Team will be working to create concrete goals and timelines...Stay tuned!*

# Care of Creation: Too Much Screen Time?

by Linda Tarney

## Too Much Screen Time for You? For Your Screen?

As new electronic devices come on the market this spring, discern before running out to make a purchase. Be responsible with your electronics and screen time and do take a technology vacation regularly. Brenna Davis of NCR's *Earthbeat: Simple Advent, Abundant Life* column states, "In addition to the environmental and human rights issues associated with the mining of resources to create new phones and tablets, unconscious scrolling on our gadgets can make us less present to the people around us, rewire our brains to become addicted to distraction, increase anxiety, promote poor work-life balance and also disrupt our sleep patterns." In addition to these, too much screen time could increase the risk of obesity, lead to chronic neck and back pain from poor posture and "computer vision syndrome", as well as possible depression in children and adults. And it has been found by the National Institutes of Health that children who spend more than two hours a day on electronics scored lower on thinking and language tests. So, we need to be role models for our children and not keep the TV on in the background or be scrolling through our phones every spare minute. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends avoiding screens for children younger than 18 to 24 months, while children over 2 years should be limited to 1 to 2 hours of screen time per day. Also, stop using our devices one hour before bedtime and keep them out of our bedrooms. We need to take a technology vacation and reconnect with our loved ones and with God's gift of nature outdoors.

Now, if you do purchase new electronic gadgets, what are you going to do with your broken or obsolete ones? Don't add to the yearly 25

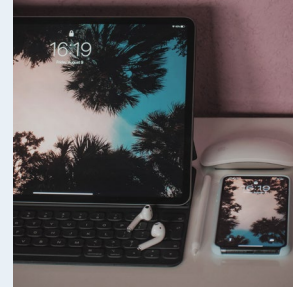


Photo by Alexander Todov on Unsplash

million tons of e-waste. These devices contain toxic chemicals like mercury, pvcs, flame retardants, solvents and lead. Repair or recycle responsibly and locally not overseas adding to the pollution of and the hazardous working conditions in other countries.

Laudato Sí, 6: "... [Pope] Benedict urged us to realize that creation is harmed 'where we ourselves have the final world, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone.'..."

Laudato Sí, 223: "...Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us, and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer."

### Resources to check out:

Check out *The Center of Humane Technology* site for a list of practical tips and tools to take control of your technology consumption.

Visit [www.sustainableelectronics.org](http://www.sustainableelectronics.org) to find a responsible electronics recycler or go to a local organization that repairs or refurbishes electronics.

SERI is a non-profit organization that is working to create a world where electronic products are reused and recycled in a way that results in resource preservation, the well-being of the environment, and the health and safety of workers and of communities.

# 2021 Jubilarians      Call to Holiness

Although the large celebration for the 2021 Jubilee was postponed, we still wish to 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!

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Sr. Inez Berger  
Sr. Virginia Skrdlant

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Sr. Elizabeth Clarke  
Sr. Joan Greany  
Sr. Roseanne McDougall  
Sr. Mary Alice Minogue  
Sr. Michele Puma  
Sr. Margaret Scholle  
Sr. Marcia Sichol  
Sr. Claire Smith

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Sr. Karen Gosser

## **Pope Francis from *Let Us Dream* (excerpts from page 15-18)**

*As Associates continue our prayerful chapter process into what God is calling us to embrace in the coming 6 years, some helpful words from Pope Francis about this time and our focus on Love & Serve:*

Sometimes, when I think about the challenges before us, I feel overwhelmed. But I'm never hopeless. We are accompanied. We are being sifted, yes, and it is painful; many of us feel powerless and even afraid. But there is also an opportunity in this crisis to come out better.

What the Lord asks of us today is a culture of service, not a throwaway culture. But we can't serve others unless we let their reality speak to us.

To go there, you have to open your eyes and let the suffering around you touch you, so that you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you from the margins...

[Narcissism, discouragement, and pessimism] are three ways that block you, paralyze you, and cause you to focus on those things that stop you from moving ahead... To act against them, you have to commit to the small, concrete, positive actions you can take, whether you're sowing hope or working for justice....

We have to find ways for those who have been cast aside to act, so that they become the agents of a new future.

