

# *Love & Serve*

Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021



**Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
American Province**

**175th Anniversary Closing Celebration  
Sunday, October 17, 2021**



*Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

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Dear Friends,

A little more than 30 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, our Foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, was born in Philadelphia. As she grew up, her spirit seemed to mirror that of the city in which she lived—independent, resourceful, and courageous.

Throughout her life, Cornelia faced unimaginable adversities, loss, and heartache. With God by her side, she was resilient. In 1846, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, a wife, mother, and zealous convert, founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in England.

Over the past 175 years, Holy Child Sisters have independently and collaboratively founded educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries that “meet the wants of the age.” Today, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus spans four continents, and its heritage of trust and reverence for all God’s people has reached out in service through generations. Inspired by Cornelia’s vision and spirit, the Society continues to *Love & Serve*.

During this year-long celebratory time, we were challenged, as were our Foundress and the pioneer Sisters who came to America, by adversities, significant loss, and heartbreak. With an unwavering commitment to the Holy Child mission and vision, our Sisters, Holy Child Network of Schools, Holy Child Associates, alumnae/i, benefactors, friends, and ministries have shown resilience and resourcefulness in responding to today’s crises with active love and joy.

In this commemorative program book, we share the expansion of the Society in the American Province, beginning in 1862 when six Sisters traveled to the United States to establish a convent and school. We hope you enjoy this brief history and are inspired to continue journeying with us in advancing the Holy Child mission.

Thank you for joyfully celebrating our 175th Anniversary and partnering with us as we look to the future to *Love & Serve*!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carroll Juliano, SHCJ".

Carroll Juliano, SHCJ  
American Province Leader

*Holy Child Academy, Towanda, PA (ca. 1862)*



"Towanda"

*The First American House of the S.M.C.J.*

*First Mass by Archbishop Wood - Feast of St. Michael - 1862.*

*"I wish with all my heart I had five hundred to take over to America  
this year...if only you knew the wants of a vast and new country  
your heart would warm with zeal."*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



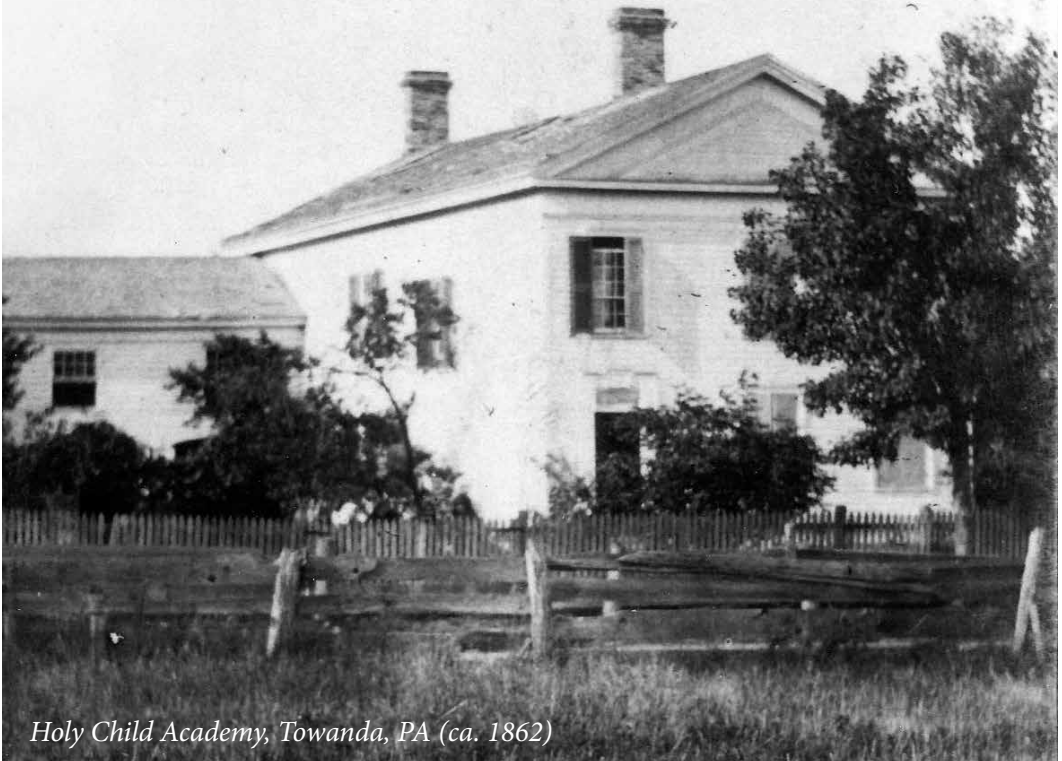
The Society of the Holy Child Jesus was founded in 1846 by Venerable Cornelia Peacock Connelly, who was born on Filbert Street in Philadelphia, PA. Cornelia envisioned a religious congregation that would begin in the United States to “meet the wants of the age.” God and the Holy Father (Gregory XVI) had a different plan. Instead, the Society was founded in Derby, England, and expanded from there. Inspired by Cornelia’s mission and vision, the Society has answered her call to *Love & Serve* for 175 years.

## *Society In America*

In August of 1862, Venerable Cornelia Connelly sent six Sisters from England to America with the task to establish quality education for Catholic girls and women. They had been promised a “small mansion” in Towanda, PA, to establish the school. Instead, the pioneers found a house in need of repair and infested with rats and spiders. Nonetheless, those Sisters persevered and opened the school within a week!

In 1863, a second band of Sisters arrived in America after Father Charles Carter, Vicar of the Philadelphia Diocese and pastor at Assumption Parish on Spring Garden Street, persuaded Cornelia to send Sisters to staff his parish school.

*“Our first night was one of warfare with mosquitoes, which left their marks of victory on our faces.”*





*Assumption Parish School, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 1900)*

*“...great things are achieved only by untiring labor and suffering... it is absolutely necessary to walk step by step, to teach line by line, to practice virtue little by little...Let us not want ‘to fly’ by ourselves, lest we leave our pupils behind to be lost in a mist. ...Let us joyfully take pains and accept of labour, piece by piece, week by week, and day by day, and thus make sure our victory.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

Early struggles and challenges proved to be indicative of what lay ahead; yet with determination, the Sisters pushed forward. Their spirit was so infectious that by 1879, 55 women had entered the Society in the United States.

Beginning in the early years and through the decades, the Sisters' educational ministry greatly expanded. The number of schools the Sisters founded and taught in during the first 100 years in America is astounding. In all, they ministered across the United States in 18 states and the District of Columbia in numerous parish schools, private elementary schools, private high schools, diocesan high schools, schools for Native American children, and a college. In 1931, they joined with the European Sisters in founding schools and colleges in West Africa.

Education has been the primary ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus since its inception. But it must be remembered that, within the schools and convents,



*Holy Child Academy, Avoca, MN (ca. 1883)*

spiritual services were offered by the Sisters. Older, retired Sisters also helped prepare children to receive the sacraments and moderated sodalities for women. Prayer meetings were held on weekends and in the afternoons. Chapters of the Christ Child Society, a ministry for needy and unwed mothers, flourished. In later years, the Sisters collected sacred vessels and other items for missionary priests.

Additionally, it is interesting to note that as the United States is recovering from the devastation of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in the early twentieth century, the Holy Child Sisters ministered to sick and dying people across the United States in the grips of the Influenza Pandemic. Sisters volunteered in medical facilities, including Philadelphia General Hospital and the Red Cross. They cared for parish priests and students who boarded in their academies and responded to calls from families in need. During the 1918 Flu Pandemic, two Sisters died as a result of volunteering.

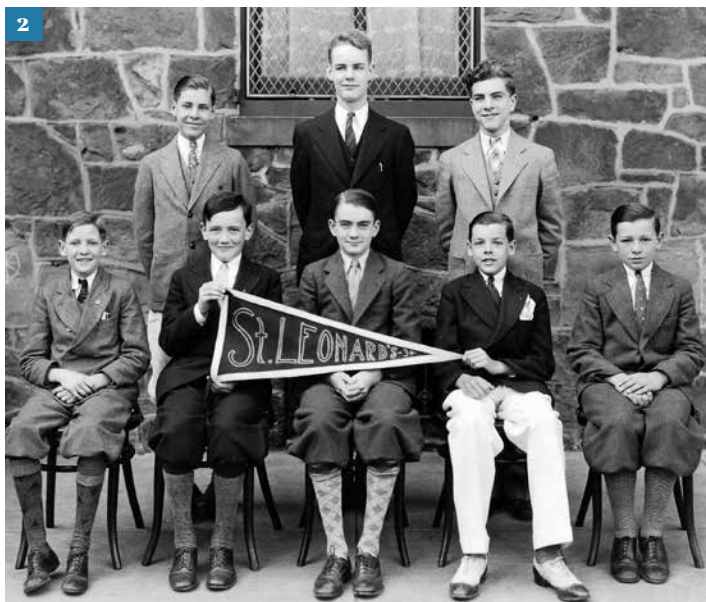


*1: Sharon Female Academy of the Holy Child (School of the Holy Child, Sharon), Sharon Hill, PA (ca. 1864);*

*2: Cheyenne, WY (ca. 1919).*



- 1: School of the Holy Child, Suffern, NY (1923);*  
*2: St. Leonard's Academy, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 1934);*  
*3: Holy Child Academy, Cheyenne, WY (ca. 1930).*





- 1: St. Walburga Academy, New York, NY  
(School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY) (ca. 1940);
- 2: NBC Television Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
(St. Leonard's Academy, Philadelphia, PA)  
(ca. 1957) *Come Little Children* was a weekly  
television presentation relating the life of  
Christ to children;
- 3: Holy Spirit Parish School, Sharon Hill, PA  
(ca. 1970).





1: St. Mary Parish School, Melrose, MA (ca. 1937);  
2: School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY (ca. 1957);  
3: St. Ignatius Parish School, Chicago, IL (ca. 1942).



*“To do anything well we must do it with our heart, with our mind and with all our strength for the love of God, of ourselves, and of our neighbor.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



- 1: Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA (ca. 1940s);
- 2: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' Diocesan High School, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 1944);
- 3: Rosemont College of the Holy Child Jesus, Rosemont, PA (ca. 1960);
- 4: Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, NJ (ca. 1946).



**1:** *Holy Child Academy, Cheyenne, WY (ca. 1933);*

**2:** *Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD (ca. 1960s);*

**3:** *St. Elizabeth Parish School, New York, NY (ca. 1950);*

**4:** *St. Anastasia Parish School, Waukegan, IL (ca. 1940).*



**1:** *Rosemont School of the Holy Child  
(Holy Child School at Rosemont),  
Rosemont, PA (ca. 1956);*

**2:** *Holy Family Parish School,  
Portland, OR (ca. 1940-1960);*

**3:** *School of the Holy Child  
(Holy Child Academy),  
Drexel Hill, PA (ca. 1940s).*



*“Give me, Oh Lord, a love full of action.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



## *American Province's Expansion in Mission*

In the mid-1960s, “the winds of change blew through.” Vatican II, the twenty-first Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, brought many surprises to the world. Among the documents emanating from the Council, those on the Church, Liturgy, Religious Life, and the Church in the World were challenging and invigorating for the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus.

*Previous page: Event recognizing Holy Child Sisters who served as Heads of School, Rosemont School of the Holy Child (Holy Child School at Rosemont), Rosemont, PA (ca. 1989).*

## The Winds of Change

For many Holy Child Sisters, statements from Vatican II brought great joy. Like other religious communities, the Sisters reflected on their roots and charism and began planning for a greater engagement with the modern world. The motto “Actions Not Words” urged the Sisters to respond with energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. They moved out of their habits, increased their professional education, and embraced greater collaboration with lay women and men. These years proved both difficult and freeing.

The Sisters developed innovative responses to emerging needs with available resources. Following Vatican II, the American Province established boards of trustees for its independent schools and Rosemont College, sharing responsibilities with lay colleagues. At the same time, the Sisters assumed key roles in universities, chaplaincies, and non-profit organizations as well as administrative positions in parishes and diocesan offices. This work was also mirrored in Chile and the Dominican Republic.

During the final third of the 20th century, many situations called for not only educational, but also spiritual, social, economic, and legal solutions. Eager to meet the needs of the new age, the Society’s American Province collaborated with others in staffing and/or financing an array of separately incorporated ministries. These included foundations, colleges, and universities.

## Spirit and Charism

In response to the spiritual hunger and longing of religious and lay women and men after Vatican II, the American Province established the Rosemont Spiritual Center (Cornelia Connelly Spirituality Center) where retreats, conferences, and spiritual direction were offered. Women, children, and



*Casa Caritas,  
Philadelphia, PA (ca. 2007)*

men enjoyed the hospitality of the Center and the simplicity of the spiritual ministry. Although the Center closed in 2008, the New Sharon campus that houses the American Province offices and Holy Child Center continues to be a place for hospitality and spiritual enrichment. Likewise, Centro Cornelia Connelly, founded in 1995 in Santiago, Chile, began offering spiritual ministry.

Following the 1970 General Chapter, Holy Child Sisters welcomed their first Holy Child Associates. Holy Child Associates are lay women and men rooted in the charism of Cornelia Connelly who want to grow in her spirit and mission. In 2002, the Holy Child Associates American Province were formally established. A large number of Holy Child Associates emerged as the result of spiritual ministry in Chile and the Dominican Republic. Collaborating with the Sisters to *Love & Serve*, they carry Cornelia Connelly's charism in their everyday lives while responding to "the wants of the age" with zeal and generosity.



*Fe y Alegría, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic (ca. 2015)*

In a less obvious but nevertheless important manner, the Sisters also moved into social work, pastoral care, criminal justice assistance for children, and hospital and nursing services, as well as ministering at a health clinic in Chile and the Dominican Republic.

In 1971, the American Province established a care center for aging Sisters at the New Sharon campus in Rosemont, PA, where the Sisters keep open hearts to the end of their lives. Sisters at Holy Child Center continue their apostolic ministry through prayer, letter writing, and campaigning to support justice issues. They utilize the telephone, texting, and email to assist them in their ministry.

*“To do anything well we must do it with our heart,  
with our mind and with all our strength for the love of God,  
of ourselves, and of our neighbour.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

## Partnership in Education

Venerable Cornelia Connelly depended upon lay colleagues for wisdom, friendship, and legal and financial support in her mission of education. Similarly, the Sisters embraced greater collaboration with lay women and men by bringing together the Holy Child schools under the auspices of the Holy Child Network of Schools in 1970. The Network schools are governed at the local level by boards of trustees. These sponsored Catholic schools share a mission and governance structure rooted in Holy Child traditions and heritage. In a way typical of Holy Child tradition, each school incarnates the Holy Child spirit in a unique way.

In 1974, the Response-Ability program was created as a summer volunteer program for college students to serve the poor across the United States. In 1993, Response-Ability became a full-time volunteer teaching program designed for new college graduates to offer a year or two as teachers in parish schools in the United States. The young people lived in faith-based communities, with a shared commitment to prayer, social justice, and education. In 1996, Response-Ability volunteers began serving in the Society's Dominican Republic ministries. Response-Ability volunteers and teachers in the Dominican Republic have also joined the Holy Child Associates.

Following a conference in Oxford, England, attended by Holy Child Sisters from around the world, the Sisters addressed social justice issues using the expression *Justice With Compassion*. At that time, Dalton Center for Mission and Peace, an American Province ministry, began its goal of educating school and parish communities on the missionary works of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Many Holy Child Sisters were an integral part of this educational process, thus gaining missionary support for Fe y Alegría in the Dominican

*Dalton Center for Mission and Peace,  
Rye, NY (ca. 2010)*



Republic and Centro Cornelia Connelly, Santiago, Chile. Dalton Center offered hospitality not only to the Society's international Sisters, but also to others who came from the four corners of the world to attend meetings at the United Nations.

For more than 125 years, the Sisters of the Holy Child served St. Edward Parish in the Fairhill/West Kensington section of Philadelphia, PA. When the parish closed in 1993, the Sisters feared the neighborhood would be adversely impacted by the area's poverty-related issues. With a "love full of action," the Sisters established Providence Center in the same Fairhill/West Kensington area. The Center is located in the most depressed and crime-ridden zip code of Philadelphia and serves the community by providing after-school programs, leadership programs, summer programs, English language classes, family retreats, and prayer groups and retreats for women.

Continuing their expansion in the ministry of *Justice With Compassion*, in 1993 the Sisters founded Casa Cornelia Law Center. The Law Center provides pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations, with a primary commitment to indigent women, children, and men within the immigrant community in southern California. The Center strives to educate others regarding the impact of immigration law and policy on society and the public good.



- 1: Providence Center,  
Philadelphia, PA (ca. 2018);  
2: Casa Cornelia Law Center,  
San Diego, CA (ca. 2013).



**1:** Sharon Female Academy of the Holy Child  
(School of the Holy Child, Sharon),  
Sharon Hill, PA (ca. 1950s);

**2:** St. Leonard's Academy, Philadelphia, PA  
(ca. 1969);

**3:** Sharon Female Academy of the Holy Child  
(School of the Holy Child, Sharon),  
Sharon Hill, PA (ca. 1970);

**4:** Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus,  
Pasadena, CA (ca. 1990).



- 1:** *Annunciation Parish School, Washington, D.C. (ca. 1968);*
- 2:** *School of the Holy Child Jesus ("Rosemont Senior School"), Rosemont PA (ca. 1970);*
- 3:** *St. Leonard's Academy, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 1974).*



- 1: Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, Waukegan, IL (ca. 2011);
- 2: Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD (ca. 1975);
- 3: Cristo Rey New York High School, New York, NY (ca. 2010);
- 4: Hope Partnership for Education, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 2003);
- 5: Cornelia Connelly Center, New York, NY (ca. 2013).

1: Mayfield Junior School  
of the Holy Child Jesus,  
Pasadena, CA (ca. 1950s);

2: Meet Each Need with  
Dignity (MEND),  
Pacoima, CA (ca. 1971);

3: Cornelia Connelly School  
of the Holy Child,  
Anaheim, CA (ca. 1990);

4: School of the Holy Child Jesus  
("Rosemont Senior School"),  
Rosemont, PA (ca. 1973).





*“It is a great thing to know God’s will  
and to be ready to do it generously.”  
– Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



*1, 2 and 3: Gardens at Holy Child Center, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2012-2016)*



- 1: Holy Child Associates at Jesuit Spirituality Center, St. Charles College, Grand Coteau, LA (2017);
- 2: Holy Child Chapel, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2013) Audio headsets available for Sisters with hearing impairments;
- 3: Jubilee Celebration at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Church, Villanova, PA (2018);
- 4: Holy Child Center, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2007).



- 1: *Washington School for Girls, Washington, D.C. (ca. 2008);*  
 2: *South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP), Los Angeles, CA (ca. 2016);*  
 3: *Holy Child Sisters' ministry in Chile (ca. 1983).*



**1:** *South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP), Los Angeles, CA (ca. 2016);*

**2:** *Fe y Alegría, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (ca. 2012);*

**3:** *Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child, Anaheim, CA (ca. 2010);*

**4:** *Holy Child Sisters' ministry in Chile (ca. 1983).*





*“Those things which appear trifling in our eyes  
are the very things which God loves.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



## *The American Province Today*

With the mission “to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world,” the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, with its legacy of education and heritage of trust and reverence for all God’s people, continues to expand and flourish.

*Previous page: Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA (ca. 2019)*

## The Holy Child Educational Legacy

The Holy Child Sisters' contributions to early childhood, elementary, high school, and higher education have been significant. Rooted in an educational philosophy that focuses on the reverence and dignity of every person, today the unique heritage of Cornelia Connelly's educational mission continues.

Rosemont College is a community of lifelong learners dedicated to academic excellence. The College seeks to develop in all members of the community a sense of responsibility to serve others in our global society.

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and Rosemont College are founding members of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC). ASEC was inaugurated in 1999 by the leaders of four congregations of women religious in Pennsylvania and the presidents of the colleges and universities founded by their congregations for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for women religious in Africa. ASEC has served over 5,000 sisters and students through its programs and continues to grow.



Planning for the future, in 2020, the Holy Child Network of Schools became independently incorporated. The American Province's partnership with Holy Child Network of Schools boards of trustees, administration, and faculty has built a strong foundation to move the Holy Child spirit and educational philosophy through the 21st century.

## Compassionate and Joyful Learning

To broaden the response to “meet the wants of the age,” the Sisters, in partnership with other religious congregations, collaborate to *Love & Serve* the needs of children and adults in under-served areas. These sponsored and co-sponsored ministries serve their local communities by providing excellent academic and family-centered programs in supportive, nurturing environments. In response to Cornelia's vision to encourage every individual to develop to their full potential, these ministries guide students in educational, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. Children and adults are empowered to transform their communities by leading lives of faith, purpose, leadership, and service.



*Oak Knoll School  
of the Holy Child,  
Summit, NJ (2020)*

The Network Schools, Rosemont College, and co-sponsored educational ministries continue to meet “the wants of the age” by implementing innovative ways to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The administration, faculty, and staff are tireless in their efforts to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of their students and school communities.

## **Peace, Justice, and Compassion**

In 2017, the American Province Leadership Team appointed a Wants of the Age (WOTA) committee to respond to the struggle and suffering of migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers. The committee oversees the use of donated funds allocated to meet this and other challenges.

The Society’s sponsored and co-sponsored social justice ministries are flourishing and responding with zeal to address the challenges faced by the communities they serve and continue to implement innovative ways to meet the needs of the people.

## **Reverence and Care of Aging Sisters**

Holy Child Center continues the heritage of respect for the dignity of every human being. The Center’s staff beautifully expresses the eight components incorporated in



the care of the Sisters: incarnation, hospitality, compassion, dignity, empowerment, joy, courage, and reverence.

In recent years, needing to address the aging population of Holy Child Sisters, the American Province has begun utilizing alternative independent and assisted living facilities. This solution allows the Sisters to remain independent and able to engage in meaningful pastoral and social engagement with other residents in their care facilities. Furthermore, these living situations open new possibilities to be apostolic. Sisters living independently in apartment settings experience the value of “elevator ministry” in mediating God’s love and peace to their neighbors. They participate in book clubs, prayer groups, and other social activities with a wide spectrum of older women and men.

### **Living the Gospel Values in Daily Life**

Today there are more than 200 Holy Child Associates in the United States, Dominican Republic, and Chile. Holy Child Associates respond to the call for a “love full of action” that is unique to their personal gifts, passions, and life circumstances. These women and men embody the charism of Venerable Cornelia Connelly while responding to the “wants of the age” through prayer, action, and advocacy. They cultivate a spirit of joy, compassion, and reverence and an awareness of God’s presence in their daily lives.



## Care of “Our Common Home”

Cornelia spoke of her “own dear Country,” and today the Holy Child community cares for our “own dear planet.” The Sisters, Holy Child Associates, and Holy Child ministries *Love & Serve* by sharing creative and simple suggestions to renew and strengthen commitment to care for the Earth—what Pope Francis calls “Our Common Home.”

In 2001, the Sisters formed the EcoSpirituality Group to explore the Society’s commitment to the Incarnation in light of scientific discoveries. The group now includes Sisters, Holy Child Associates, and friends who, in their personal lives and corporate ministries, commit to caring for all creation.

During the Society’s year-long 175th Anniversary celebration, the Sisters and Holy Child Associates in the American Province worked tirelessly to probe and respond to three interconnected realities: environment, pandemic, and racial injustice. Suggestions of ways to take action were shared to increase awareness and provide practical ways to respond to today’s challenging needs.



*Providence Center,  
Philadelphia, PA (ca. 2006)*



- 1: School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY (2020);
- 2: Haverford Estates, Haverford, PA (2021);
- 3: Cristo Rey New York High School, New York, NY (ca. 2019).



- 1: Holy Child Academy, Drexel Hill, PA (ca. 2013);*  
*2: Cornelia Connelly Center, New York, NY (2019);*  
*3: Holy Child Academy,*  
*Old Westbury, NY (ca. 2015);*  
*4: Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child,*  
*Summit, NJ (ca. 2017).*



- 1: Holy Child Academy, Old Westbury, NY (2017);
- 2: Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD (ca. 2018);
- 3: Holy Child School at Rosemont, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2019);
- 4: Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, NJ (2019);
- 5: School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY (ca. 2019).



*“Make acts of love, and one day you will find yourself inundated with His love.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



- 1: A Nun's Life Ministry, Motherhouse Road Trip Podcast at New Sharon, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2015);*
- 2: Holy Child Awards Dinner, Villanova, PA (2019);*
- 3: St. Luke Catholic Church, Mint Hill, NC (ca. 2017)*
- 4: Holy Child Awards Dinner, New York, NY (2016);*
- 5: Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA (ca. 2017).*

- 1: Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD (ca. 2016);
- 2: Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA (2020);
- 3: Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA (2020);
- 4: Cristo Rey New York High School, New York, NY (2019);
- 5: Holy Child Sister and Associates volunteer at a shelter for migrant families, San Diego, CA (2019).





- 1: Providence Center, Philadelphia, PA (ca. 2019);
- 2: Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep, Waukegan, IL (ca. 2014);
- 3: South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP), Los Angeles, CA (ca. 2019).



- 1: Washington School for Girls, Washington, D.C. (ca. 2018);
- 2: Marian Woods, Women Religious Retirement Community, Hartsdale, NY (ca. 2018);
- 3: UNANIMA (NGO at the United Nations), New York, NY (ca. 2015);
- 4: Holy Child Center, Rosemont, PA (ca. 2017);
- 5: Casa Cornelia Law Center, San Diego, CA (ca. 2015).

## *Reflection: The Society's Future*

“Let us only love and serve God.” - Venerable Cornelia Connelly

For a relatively small religious community, the Society's vision and mission have been far-reaching. How has this been possible? By God's grace and the generous response of one American woman, Venerable Cornelia Connelly.

When God called, Cornelia did not waver, though it meant sacrifice and suffering for her as well as mysterious and pervasive joy and peace. Cornelia responded, “I belong all to God. There is nothing in the world that I would not leave to do His Holy Will and satisfy Him.” Her deep faith, courage, trust, zeal, and generous response to *Love & Serve* God and God's people are the foundation for the charism of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Society's educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries continue to advance to “meet the wants of the age,” and its legacy endures through the people who make up the Holy Child community: Holy Child Sisters, Associates, alumnae/i, benefactors, colleagues, and friends who, guided by Cornelia's vision and spirit, are unwavering in their journey to *Love & Serve*.

*How will you respond to Venerable Cornelia Connelly's vision to Love & Serve and share her charism?*

## *Places Holy Child Sisters Have Founded and/or Loved & Served in the American Province, 1862-present*

*Listings in blue indicate today's Holy Child schools, sponsored ministries,  
and co-sponsored ministries.*

- Academy of the Holy Child  
*Lincoln, NE*
- Academy of the Holy Child Jesus  
*Waseca, MN*
- Africa Faith and Justice Network  
*Washington, D.C.*
- African Sisters Education Collaborative  
*Scranton, PA*
- Annunciation Parish School  
*Washington, D.C.*
- Archbishop John Carroll Diocesan  
High School  
*Radnor, PA*
- Archbishop Prendergast Diocesan  
High School  
*Drexel Hill, PA*
- Assumption Parish School  
*Pasadena, CA*
- Assumption Parish School  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- The Batey  
*Batey Lecheria, Dominican Republic*
- Casa Cornelia Law Center  
*San Diego, CA*
- Central Catholic  
High School for Boys  
*Portland, OR*
- Centro Cornelia Connelly  
*Santiago, Chile*
- Connelly School of the Holy Child  
*Potomac, MD*
- Cornelia Connelly Center  
*New York, NY*
- Cornelia Connelly School  
of the Holy Child  
*Anaheim, CA*
- Cristo Rey New York High School  
*New York, NY*
- Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep  
*Waukegan, IL*
- Dalton Center for Mission and Peace  
*New York, NY*
- EcoSpirituality Group  
*Rosemont, PA*

- **Fe y Alegría**  
*Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*
- **Henriette DeLille Middle School**  
*New Orleans, LA*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Avoca, MN*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Cheyenne, WY*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Drexel Hill, PA*  
*(formerly School of the Holy Child)*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Old Westbury, NY*  
*(formerly Old Westbury School of the Holy Child)*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Portland, OR*
- **Holy Child Academy**  
*Towanda, PA*
- **Holy Child Associates**  
*Rosemont, PA*
- **Holy Child Center**  
*Rosemont, PA*
- **Holy Child Center at Assumption School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Holy Child High School**  
*Waukegan, IL*  
*(formerly Holy Child Academy “6585,” Chicago, IL)*
- **Holy Child School at Rosemont**  
*Rosemont, PA*  
*(formerly Rosemont School of the Holy Child)*
- **Holy Family Parish School**  
*Portland, OR*
- **Holy Spirit Parish School**  
*Sharon Hill, PA*
- **Hope Partnership for Education**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ Diocesan High School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Little Academy of the Holy Child**  
*Chicago, IL*
- **Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus**  
*Pasadena, CA*
- **Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus**  
*Pasadena, CA*
- **Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND)**  
*Pacoima, CA*
- **Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child**  
*Summit, NJ*
- **Our Lady of Humility Parish School**  
*Zion, IL*
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School**  
*New York, NY*

- **Providence Center**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Response-Ability**  
*Rosemont, PA*
- **Rosemont College of the Holy Child Jesus**  
*Rosemont, PA*
- **School of the Holy Child**  
*Rye, NY*  
*(formerly St. Walburga Academy, New York, NY)*
- **School of the Holy Child**  
*Suffern, NY*
- **School of the Holy Child Jesus**  
*(“Rosemont Senior School”)*  
*Rosemont, PA*
- **Sharon Female Academy of the Holy Child**  
*(“School of the Holy Child, Sharon”)*  
*Sharon Hill, PA*
- **South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP)**  
*Los Angeles, CA*
- **SS. Peter & Paul Parish School**  
*Fleetwood, NY*
- **SS. Peter & Paul Parish School**  
*Towanda, PA*
- **St. Agatha Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Anastasia Parish School**  
*Waukegan, IL*
- **St. Charles Borromeo Parish School**  
*Kellyville, PA*
- **St. Charles Borromeo Parish School**  
*Portland, OR*
- **St. Clement Parish School**  
*Paschalville, PA*
- **St. Edward Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Elizabeth Parish School**  
*New York, NY*
- **St. Ignatius Parish School**  
*Chicago, IL*
- **St. James Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Leonard’s Academy**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Lucy Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Luke’s Parish**  
*Mint Hill, NC*
- **St. Maria Goretti Catholic Diocesan High School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **St. Mary Parish School**  
*Cheyenne, WY*  
*(formerly St. John the Baptist Parish School)*
- **St. Mary Parish School**  
*Melrose, MA*

- **St. Michael Parish School**  
*Chester, PA*
- **St. Patrick Parish School**  
*Wadsworth, IL*
- **St. Philip Neri Parish School**  
*Portland, OR*
- **St. Rita Parish School**  
*Portland, OR*
- **St. Rose of Lima Parish School**  
*Portland, OR*
- **St. Rose Parish School**  
*Avoca, MN*
- **St. Teresa Parish School**  
*Lincoln, NE*
- **St. Veronica Parish School**  
*Chicago, IL*
- **St. Veronica Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Tijuana, Mexico**
- **UNANIMA**  
*(NGO at the United Nations)*  
*New York, NY*
- **Visitation Parish School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*

- **Washington School for Girls**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- **West Catholic Preparatory Diocesan High School**  
*Philadelphia, PA*



*Washington School for Girls,  
Washington, D.C. (ca. 2019)*

*“Let us love one another  
and be filled with the charity of God.”  
— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

## PRAYER CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS

God of all time

–the same yesterday, today and forever –  
we give thanks for Cornelia Connelly  
and for all who have lived and ministered in  
the Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
over the last 175 years.

We give thanks for all they received from you  
in times of hardship and times of joy;  
for their commitment to living out and  
making known the reality of the Incarnation;  
for their courage and creativity and constancy.

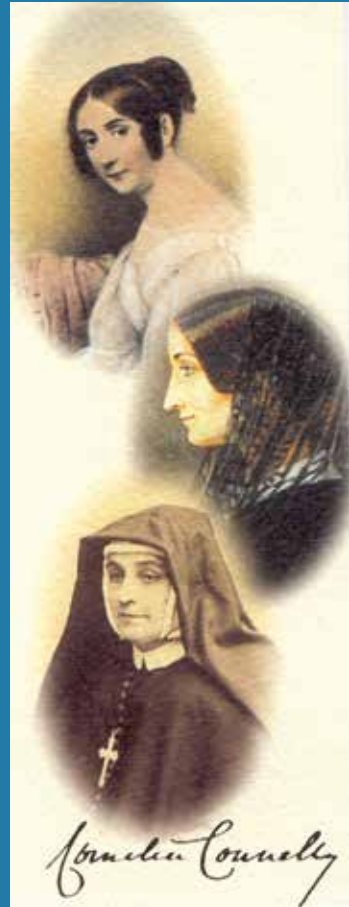
We pray that, today and tomorrow, learning from  
Cornelia and all those who followed her,  
and drawing on their rich heritage  
each member of the Society will continue to live  
in the same spirit of freedom and fidelity taking  
forward into the future an uncompromising  
commitment to the gospel.

We pray too for the Associates and all who, across the world,  
are inspired and encouraged by Cornelia's story and her vision.

Drawn by the Spirit in the same way she was, may we continue to grow as a united  
community of faith and service, supporting one another in our mission, inherited  
from Cornelia, to witness to God's presence in our world and in our hearts.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, risen and present with us.

Amen



# THANK YOU

*to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus -American Province  
175th Anniversary Planning Committee*

Anne Healy Ayella  
Colleen Carroll  
Carroll Juliano, SHCJ  
Sandra Lovascio  
Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ

Helen McDonald, SHCJ +  
Eileen Moughan, SHCJ +  
Joanna Pelizzoni  
Anita Quigley, SHCJ  
Emily Siegel

## SPECIAL APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION

We extend deep gratitude to those who exemplified our theme  
of *Love & Serve* through their significant contributions to the production  
of the 175th Anniversary Commemorative Program Book:

### *Photography*

Active Image Media, LLC  
Robert Caldwell  
Holy Child Network of Schools  
Holy Child Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Ministries  
Michael Leslie  
Rosemont College

### *Graphic Design*

Incompra Design

### *Printing*

Conner Printing, Inc

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of our knowledge. We regret any historical or typographical errors, inaccuracies, or omissions.*

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Tom and Virginia Jones

Mary J. McLaughlin

Patrick Waide

*A special thank you to all those who have generously  
supported the 175th Anniversary.*

*“In each place, at all times and in every action...  
consider God as present within you.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

**As members of the Holy Child  
Network of Schools, we thank  
the Sisters for their dedication  
and educational ministry over  
the past 175 years.**

*Connelly School of the Holy Child (Potomac, MD)*

*Cornelia Connelly Center (New York, NY)*

*Holy Child Academy (Drexel Hill, PA)*

*Holy Child Academy (Old Westbury, NY)*

*Holy Child School at Rosemont (Rosemont, PA)*



**We are proud to  
“meet the wants of [this] age”  
as we joyfully continue the Sisters’  
rich educational legacy in our  
Holy Child Schools.**

*Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus (Pasadena, CA)*

*Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus (Pasadena, CA)*

*Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child (Summit, NJ)*

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**Proud to have been the Designers, Fabricators,  
and Installers of the Christ Child Shrine  
In Honor to Venerable Cornelia Connelly**

*“My God, help me to know Thy Will and  
give me the grace and the strength to accomplish it.”*

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

# *Congratulations*

**SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS**

on the celebration of your

**175TH ANNIVERSARY**

May God continue to bless your ministry!



**Archbishop José H. Gomez,**  
the Auxiliary Bishops, the clergy, religious and laity  
of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles rejoice upon your anniversary.

# The Augustinian Friars of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Extend heartfelt congratulations to the

— *Society of the Holy Child Jesus* —

On the 175th Anniversary of its founding.



May God bless the Society and its works  
To **Love & Serve** in actions and words.



**Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
and the Archdiocese of Newark**

Proudly Support  
***The Society of the Holy Child Jesus***  
in celebration of its  
***175th Anniversary***

**With heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters  
and their mission to *Love & Serve*.**



ARCHDIOCESE  
of NEWARK

*+ Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.*  
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Newark

# CONGRATULATIONS



The Society of the Holy Child Jesus

**175**  
years  
of love and service

My God, bless us and fill us  
with thy spirit. Oh how can  
we ever be grateful enough  
for His making use of us!  
– Cornelia Connelly



*"Years full of happiness . . ."*

**St. Leonard's Alumnae Association**

**Philadelphia, PA**

*Hometown of Cornelia Connelly*

*Congratulations and a loving thank you  
to the*

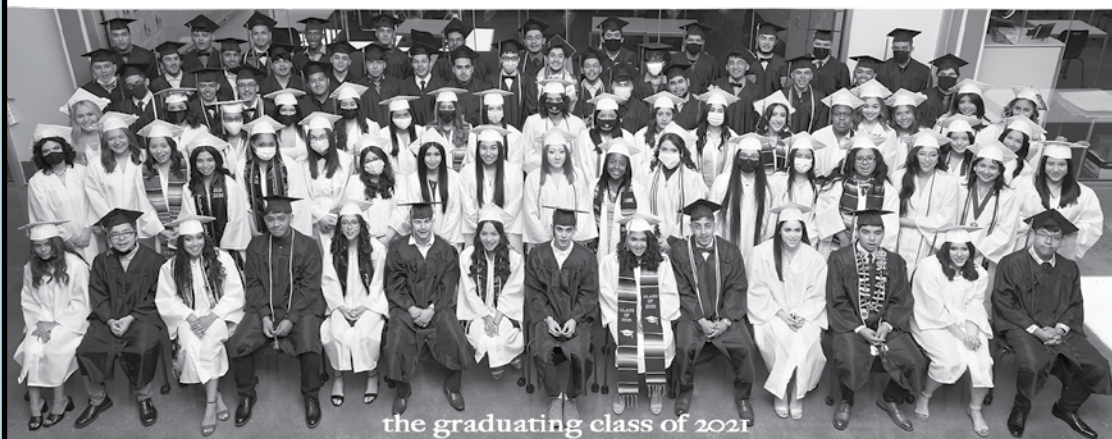
*Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus  
for 175 years of service.*

*The Sisters taught us well.*

*Actions not words!*

**Congratulations on 175 Years of Love & Service**

Thank you from all of us at



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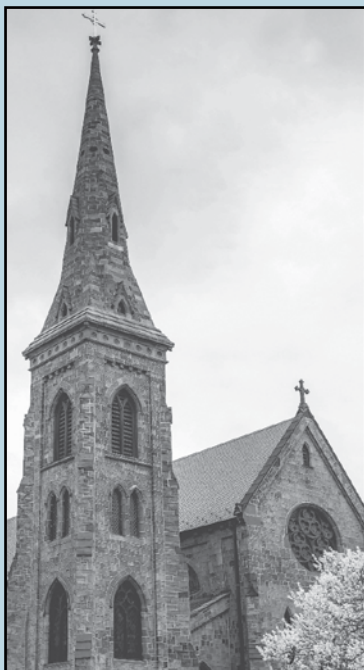


**Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez**  
together with the bishops, priests,  
deacons, religious and laity  
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia,



offer prayerful best wishes to  
**the Society of the Holy Child Jesus**  
on the occasion of the order's 175th Anniversary.

May God continue to bless the Sisters  
and their ministry abundantly for many years to come.



*We offer joyous and prayerful  
best wishes to the*  
**Society of the Holy Child Jesus**  
*as they celebrate their*  
**175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



**MOST REVEREND DENNIS J. SULLIVAN**  
*BISHOP OF CAMDEN*  
*and the priests, deacons, seminarians,  
religious and laity of the Diocese of Camden*



Congratulations on your anniversary,  
celebrating 175 years of love & service.  
Our gratitude for your dedication to educational excellence.  
God's blessing on all SHCJ.

Sr. Kathy Cordes, SHCJ  
Sr. Karen Gosser, SHCJ

Sr. Ruth Dawley, SHCJ  
Sr. Sandra Lincoln, SHCJ

Holy Child Academy  
(Save the date: HCA All-School Reunion: 4/23/2022)

Holy Family, St. Charles, St. Rita, St. Rose Schools  
Portland, Oregon

*Oregon*



*"A love full of action"*

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# Congratulations

to the Sisters on their 175th Anniversary!

Thank you for raising us to be  
thoughtful, independent women!

Many thanks from the  
Sharon Alumnae Association!



WE JOIN IN SOLIDARITY WITH THIS  
MILESTONE EVENT FOR THE  
SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS  
IN THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

WE CELEBRATE YOU IN  
LOVING AND SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE  
ON FOUR CONTINENTS

WITH EDUCATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
SPIRITUAL AND HEALING MINISTRIES.



The Parish Community of St. Thomas of Villanova  
1229 East Lancaster Ave. | Rosemont, PA



## *A Poem: SHCJ's 175th Anniversary*

From 1846 to present,  
Meeting “the wants of the age”  
SHCJ Sisters from around the world  
Serve, gather, and pray.

Their motto “Love and Serve”  
Is what motivates their days.  
AFJN is forever grateful  
To participate in this way:



On the continent of Africa  
Together, serving those in need -  
Educating, empowering, and advocating;  
Uniting through thought, word, and deed.

For your support, we thank you  
And pray God heed our request  
For SHCJ Sisters around the world  
Health, peace, love, and work be blessed!

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Our congratulations to the Society  
of the Holy Child Jesus and  
gratitude for their dedication and  
loving service to Saint Mary of  
the Annunciation Parish,  
Melrose, Massachusetts,  
over the past 112 years.  
We continue to be blessed to have  
Sister Mary Samson, SHCJ present  
and active in our community.



CASA  
CORNELIA  
LAW  
CENTER

We send our love and deepest gratitude to  
the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and join  
in the joyous and prayerful celebration of  
the 175th Anniversary. Casa Cornelia Law

Center's Staff and Board of Directors is  
forever thankful to the Society of the Holy  
Child Jesus whose founding spirit and  
continuing support have enabled Casa  
Cornelia to pursue its mission of service  
and address the challenges of these times.

*Celebrating*  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
AMERICAN PROVINCE



ACTIONS NOT WORDS



Sisters of Saint Joseph™  
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*“How much we must all pray for each other that we may prove our gratitude to God for all God has done for us and our little Society of the Holy Child Jesus.”*

*– Venerable Cornelia Connelly*



## *Venerable Cornelia Connelly* *Foundress of the* *Society of the Holy Child Jesus*

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 15, 1809, Cornelia Augusta Peacock Connelly was a wife, mother of five children, and Catholic nun. Her life was filled with challenges—the loss of her parents before she was 14; her marriage and subsequent separation from her husband, Pierce, when he became a Catholic priest; and the tragic deaths of three of her young children.

Even in the midst of the suffering and loss that Cornelia experienced, she was able to embrace life, and even joy, through her unshakeable faith. When Cornelia and her husband, Pierce, separated due to his belief in a call to the Catholic priesthood, Cornelia put her trust in God. In spite of her breaking heart, she used her gifts of wisdom and generosity to found the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1846.

On Easter Friday in 1879, Cornelia died at the age of 70. She had lived an extraordinary life and left behind a rich legacy of service and faith. Her approach to educating the whole child is still considered a model of excellence today.

As early as 1911, petitions for cures through Cornelia’s intercession were recorded. She was declared Venerable by the Church in 1992. A miracle is needed to confirm her holiness and declare her Blessed.

To learn more about Venerable Cornelia Connelly and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, please visit [www.shcj.org/american](http://www.shcj.org/american). For historical information, please contact the American Province Archives at 610.525.8951.

# A Special

*thank you*

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus are grateful to Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez for celebrating the 175th Anniversary Closing Liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. We extend gratitude to Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, as well as the parish staff and community for welcoming us for the special Liturgy.

We are also deeply grateful to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for establishing a “visible presence” in the Cathedral Basilica in honor of Mother Connelly. Today, during the 175th Anniversary Liturgy, Archbishop Pérez blessed the Venerable Cornelia Connelly devotional area, which includes a commissioned portrait of Mother Connelly and a statue of the Holy Child. The five roses below the Holy Child statue are symbolic of Cornelia’s five children.

Please visit the Cathedral Basilica to offer your intentions and petitions and pray for the beatification of Mother Connelly.

To learn more about Venerable Cornelia Connelly, visit [www.shcj.org/american](http://www.shcj.org/american). For historical information on the Society and Cornelia, contact the American Province Archives at 610.525.8951.

Proud to be part of the  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus'  
mission to Love and Serve  
through its

**175 years**

providing  
educational, social justice, spiritual  
and healing ministries  
guided by the principles of  
foundress Cornelia Connelly



# *Love & Serve*

Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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