

Actions

*175th Anniversary
Blessing of the New
Holy Child Shrine
and Memorial
to Venerable
Cornelia Connelly*

Society of the Holy Child Jesus / American Province

WINTER 2022



DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for sharing in our yearlong 175th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus! We are grateful to our Holy Child Associates, schools, ministries, alumnae/i, friends, benefactors, and staff for joining us in mission to **Love & Serve**! We also acknowledge the 175th Planning

Committee for their outstanding work. Thank you!

On October 17, 2021, with Archbishop Nelson Pérez as our honored celebrant, the American Province's 175th celebration closed with a Liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following Mass, Archbishop Pérez blessed the Cathedral's beautiful, new Holy Child Shrine and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly. With the new shrine and memorial, Cornelia's life and faith will have greater visibility and offer hope to anyone seeking God's presence, especially during difficult times. We encourage you to visit the Cathedral and join us in prayer for Cornelia's beatification. The prayer for beatification can be found on page nine. We are deeply grateful to the Archdiocese for marking the Society's 175th Anniversary in an enduring and reverent way.

A major focus of the 175th Anniversary was a call to care for God's creation. We appreciate our Holy Child Associates, schools, ministries, and extended Holy Child family who participated in this past year's Eco-Actions. A special thank you is extended to our Holy Child Associates for donating and planting trees in honor of the 175th Anniversary. On page 23, we offer suggestions to continue the practice of caring for the environment and each other.

This year's Holy Child Awards Dinner honored Margaret Dalesandro, Ph.D., Palmer Dalesandro, and Kimberly Curtis. We are thankful to Margaret, Palmer, and Kim for embodying

and sharing our Holy Child values of compassion, love, joy, and zeal. On pages 21-22, we invite you to read about our awardees and the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

On page 26, we remember the life of Megan Rice, SHCJ. Rejoicing in God's presence and living fully, Sister Megan dedicated her life to serving others and enthusiastically embraced the Society's motto "Actions Not Words." Her zeal and great smile are missed by many!

Inspired by Cornelia's legacy of service, the Province is already planning for the next 175 years! On pages 19-20, you can read the three directives adopted by the Sisters at the American Province's 19th Provincial Chapter. Please pray for our Province as we begin to implement our plans.

The Society's 175th Anniversary year faced many twists and turns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but our joy and gratitude were steadfast. So, as we go forth in 2022, let us continue to **Love & Serve** each other and with courage, hope, and joy!

Gratefully,

Carroll Juliano, SHCJ
American Province Leader



On Our Cover: Blessing of the Holy Child Shrine, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the 175th Anniversary Closing Liturgy, October 17, 2021. Photo by Mike DiTrollo.

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175th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Closes with Liturgy & Reception



Most Reverend Nelson Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, celebrated the closing Liturgy of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Liturgy took place just two days after the Society's official founding on October 15, 1846, in Derby, England. To view the Liturgy and 175th Anniversary video presentations, visit www.shcj.org/american.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions were in place for the day's events. Despite the restrictions, the Liturgy and reception

were jubilant, acknowledging the contributions of the Holy Child Sisters, Holy Child Associates, schools and ministries, and all those who have joined with the Society during the last 175 years to *Love & Serve*. Enjoy the photos on the following pages!



Photos at Liturgy and Blessing by Sarah Webb and Mike DiTrollo

*Guests Arrive at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
for the 175th Anniversary Closing Liturgy and Blessing of the
Holy Child Shrine and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly*





*Members of Our Holy Child Community
Participate in the 175th Anniversary
Closing Liturgy*



Symbolism of the Roses on the Marble Pedestal

The five roses below the Holy Child statue symbolize Cornelia and Pierce Connelly's five children, three who died tragically at a young age. Their other two children were separated from Cornelia by Pierce. Cornelia's greatest sorrow was the loss of her children, and her words speak to the heartache, "The remembrance of my children never leaves me."





Our Holy Sisters, Friends, Colleagues, and Family Gather at The Union League of Philadelphia for a Luncheon Reception

*Our Holy Child Community Enjoying
the 175th Luncheon Reception*



Reception Photos by Mike DiTrollo



Cathedral Establishes Holy Child Shrine and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly

Most Reverend Nelson Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, solemnly blessed the Holy Child Shrine and memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul after the 175th Liturgy on Sunday, October 17, 2021. The blessing was incredibly joyous and emotional, especially for the Sisters, Holy Child Associates, alumni, schools and ministries, and those in attendance. Please

visit the Cathedral Basilica to offer your intentions and petitions and pray for the beatification of Cornelia. A miracle is needed to confirm her holiness and declare her Blessed. Cornelia offers inspiration to all who seek God in their vocations, especially those with difficult marriages and who suffered the death of children.



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.

Please join us in Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable 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 Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, at info@cathedralphila.org.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

A Brief History of the American Province

The Society's Expansion into Cornelia's "Own Dear Country"

In 1846, at the age of 37, Cornelia Connelly was called by God to start a religious order to "meet the wants of the age." At the request of Pope Gregory XVI, Cornelia founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in Derby, England, instead of in her "own dear Country," the United States of America. Sixteen years later, Cornelia sent six Sisters to the United States to establish what is now the American Province.



Holy Child Academy, Towanda, PA (circa 1862)

As we mark the 175th Anniversary of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, we commemorate the Society's expansion into America, where Cornelia was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1809, and lived until the age of 22. As a wife, mother, and convert, and with her trademark verve for life, Cornelia would remain in the United States until the age of 35.

We hope you enjoy this brief history of the American Province and are inspired to advance the Society's mission to "rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world."



Assumption Parish School, Philadelphia, PA (circa 1900)

American Province Takes Root

In August of 1862, six Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sisters traveled from England to America, where they were tasked with establishing a Catholic school for girls and women. Upon their arrival in Towanda, Pennsylvania, the Sisters, who had been promised a "small mansion," found a dilapidated house infested with rats and spiders. Despite their dire circumstances, the Sisters persevered and opened the Society's first American school within a week.



Holy Child Academy, Avoca, MN (circa 1883)



Cheyenne, WY (circa 1919)

Just one year later, in 1863, a second band of Holy Child Sisters arrived in America. Father Charles Carter, Vicar of the Philadelphia Diocese and Pastor at Assumption Parish on Spring Garden Street, had persuaded Cornelia to send the Sisters to staff his parish school.

Despite early struggles, the Sisters pushed forward with grace and determination. Their mission-driven spirit and love for God was so infectious that by 1879, 55 women had entered the Society.

During the early years and beyond, the Sisters' educational ministry expanded greatly throughout the United States. In all, they ministered in numerous parish schools, private elementary schools, diocesan high schools, schools for Native American children, and colleges in 18 states and the District of Columbia. In 1931, they joined with the European Sisters in founding schools and colleges in West Africa.

Since its inception, the Society's primary ministry has been education. However, wherever the Sisters served, spiritual services were core to the Society's mission. Sisters prepared children to receive the sacraments, moderated sodalities for women, and hosted prayer meetings. 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. Some volunteered at Philadelphia General Hospital and at the Red Cross. During the Spanish flu epidemic, two Holy Child Sisters died volunteering.

Time of Great Growth: American Province's Expansion in Mission

In the mid-1960s, Vatican II, the twenty-first Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, ushered in profound changes. The Sisters embraced these changes and planned for increased engagement in the modern world. With the motto "Actions Not Words" as their guide, the Sisters reflected on their roots and charism and responded with energy, creativity, and joy. They shed their habits, increased their professional education, and collaborated with lay women and men. They developed innovative responses to new realities and society's emerging needs.



*School of the Holy Child, Rye, NY
(circa 1957)*

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 nonprofit organizations, as well as administrative positions in parishes and diocesan offices. Their work extended to Chile and the Dominican Republic.



Holy Child Sisters' ministry in Chile (circa 1983).



Fe y Alegría, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (circa 2015)

During the final third of the 20th century, many situations called for not only educational solutions, but also spiritual, social, economic, and legal responses. Eager to meet the needs of the new age, the Society's American Province collaborated with other organizations to staff and/or finance separately incorporated ministries, including foundations, colleges, and universities.

Spirit and Charism

In response to the spiritual longings of religious and lay women and men after Vatican II, the American Province established the Rosemont Spiritual Center (later known as the Cornelia Connelly Spirituality Center), where retreats, conferences, and spiritual direction were offered. 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 of hospitality and spiritual enrichment. Likewise, Centro Cornelia Connelly, founded in 1995 in Santiago, Chile, began offering spiritual ministry.



Holy Child Associates National Gathering, Philadelphia, PA (2018)

In 1970, the Holy Child Sisters welcomed their first Holy Child Associate. Thirty-two years later, the Holy Child Associates American Province was formally established in 2002. Holy Child Associates, lay women and men, are rooted in the charism of Cornelia Connelly and want to grow in her spirit and mission. Collaborating with the Sisters to **Love & Serve**, the Associates carry Cornelia Connelly's charism in their everyday lives.



Holy Child Center, Rosemont, PA (2019)

At this time, the Sisters also moved into the fields of social work, pastoral care, criminal justice assistance for children, and hospital and nursing services, as well as ministering at health clinics in Chile and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, they established the Holy Child Center, a care center for aging Sisters at the New Sharon campus in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Sisters residing at the Center continue their apostolic ministry through prayer, letter writing, and campaigning to support social justice issues. With open hearts and a desire to serve, the Sisters maintain a deep spiritual life until the end of their lives.

Partnership in Mission

Venerable Cornelia Connelly depended on lay colleagues for wisdom and friendship, as well as legal and financial support, to fulfill her mission of education. Today, the Sisters continue this tradition and collaborate with lay women and men.

In 1970, the Sisters established the Holy Child Network of Schools, which relies on local boards of trustees to govern individual schools. These sponsored Catholic schools share a common mission and governance structure, rooted in Holy Child traditions and heritage. However, each school incarnates the Holy Child Spirit in its own unique way.

In 1974, the Response-Ability program was created as a summer volunteer program for college students to serve in marginalized communities across the United States. In 1993, Response-Ability became a full-time volunteer program designed for recent college graduates to teach in parish schools for a year or two. The young people lived in faith-



Holy Child Academy, Drexel Hill, PA (circa 2013)



Cornelia Connelly School, New York City (circa 2013)



Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), Pacoima, CA (circa 1971)

based communities with a shared commitment to prayer, social justice, and education. In 1996, Response-Ability expanded its mission to serve in the Society's Dominican Republic ministries. While Response-Ability ended in 2011, volunteers and teachers in the Dominican Republic are now Holy Child Associates and have initiated projects to continue to support the Dominican Republic community.

In 1986, at a conference in Oxford, England, Holy Child Sisters from around the world addressed social justice issues using the

expression “Justice With Compassion.” As a result, Dalton Center for Mission and Peace, an American Province ministry, began 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 support for their mission work in the Dominican Republic and Chile. Dalton Center offered hospitality not only to the Society’s international Sisters, but also to



Providence Center, Philadelphia, PA (circa 2018)

With a “Love Full of Action,” the Sisters established Providence Center, located in the same Fairhill/ West Kensington area. The Center, in the most depressed and crime-ridden zip code of Philadelphia, continues to serve the community by providing afterschool, leadership, and summer programs, as well as English language classes, family and women only retreats, and prayer groups.

Continuing their expansion in the ministry of justice with compassion, the Sisters founded Casa Cornelia Law Center in 1993. 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.



Casa Cornelia Law Center, San Diego, CA (circa 2013)

others who came from all corners of the world to attend meetings at the United Nations.

For more than 125 years, the Sisters of the Holy Child served Saint Edward Parish in the Fairhill/ West Kensington section of Philadelphia. When the parish closed in 1993, the Sisters feared the poverty-related ills of the neighborhood would go unaddressed.



Hope Partnership for Education, Philadelphia, PA (circa 2003)

A Legacy of Education and a Reverence for All

With its legacy of education and heritage of trust and reverence for all God's people, the Society of Holy Child Jesus American Province continues to flourish.

Rosemont College, founded by the Society in 1921, has evolved to "meet the wants of the age" by fostering a community of life-



*Washington School for Girls, Washington, D.C.
(circa 2018)*

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, provides educational opportunities for women religious in Africa. To date, ASEC has served over 5,000 sisters and students through its programs.

The Holy Child Sisters' contribution to the field of early childhood, elementary, and high school education is recognized for its innovative and student-centered approach. Rooted in an educational philosophy that focuses on the reverence and dignity of every person, the Holy Child Network of Schools continues on the path set out by Cornelia Connelly 175 years ago.

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



Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA (circa 2018)

long learners with a sense of responsibility to our global society. The college community regularly addresses pertinent issues through curricular programs, and the Campus Ministry Office commonly develops ad hoc volunteer programs to respond to emerging social justice issues.

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and Rosemont College are founding members of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC). ASEC,



*Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus,
Pasadena, CA (circa 2019)*



Holy Child School at Rosemont, Rosemont, PA (circa 2019)



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

To broaden the response to “meet the wants of the age,” the Sisters also collaborate with other religious congregations to **Love & Serve** children and adults in underserved areas through their educational co-sponsored ministries.

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 these and other challenges.



Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD (circa 2016)



Care and Spiritual Life 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, with the need to address the aging population of Holy Child Sisters, the American Province began utilizing alternative independent and assisted living facilities. These living situations have opened new apostolic possibilities for the Sisters, who experience the value of “elevator ministry” in mediating God’s love and peace.

Marian Woods, Women Religious Retirement Community, Hartsdale, NY (circa 2018)

Holy Child Associates: Living the Gospel Values in Daily Life



Holy Child Sister (center) and Associates volunteered at a shelter for migrant families, San Diego, CA (2019)

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

Care of “Our Common Home”

Just as Cornelia spoke of her “own dear Country,” today the Holy Child community cares for our “own dear planet.” The Sisters, Holy Child Associates, and Holy Child schools and ministries **Love & Serve** by sharing creative and simple suggestions 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 mission and commitment to the Incarnation in light of scientific discoveries. Today, the group includes Sisters, Holy Child Associates, and friends, who, in their personal lives and corporate ministries, commit to **Love & Serve** our common home.



South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP), Los Angeles, CA (circa 2016)

During the Society’s yearlong 175th Anniversary celebration, the Sisters and Holy Child Associates in the American Province probed and responded to three interconnected realities: the environment, the COVID-19 pandemic, and racial injustice. They organized opportunities for prayer, service, and action that incorporate a call to care for all of God’s creation.

Cristo Rey New York High School, New York, NY (circa 2019)



Looking to the Future to Love & Serve

For a relatively small religious community, the Society's vision and mission have been far-reaching. With education at its core, the Society continues to flourish more than 140 years after Cornelia's death in 1879, with nearly 400 Sisters carrying on her legacy in Africa, Europe, North America, and South America. 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. Instead, Cornelia responded, "I belong all to God." Her deep faith, courage, trust, zeal, and generous response to **Love & Serve** God and God's people remain the charism of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Society's legacy endures through the people who make up the Holy Child community: Holy Child Sisters, Holy Child Associates, alumnae/i, benefactors, colleagues, and friends. Guided by Cornelia's vision and spirit, they are unwavering in their journey to **Love & Serve**, with God by their side. As Cornelia said, "*In each place, at all times and in every action...consider God as present within you.*"



*Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, Pasadena, CA
(circa 2017)*



Holy Child Academy, Old Westbury, NY (2017)



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

Future Directives



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

Set at 19th Provincial Chapter Meeting

This past June, Holy Child Sisters gathered for their first virtual Chapter meeting in the history of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

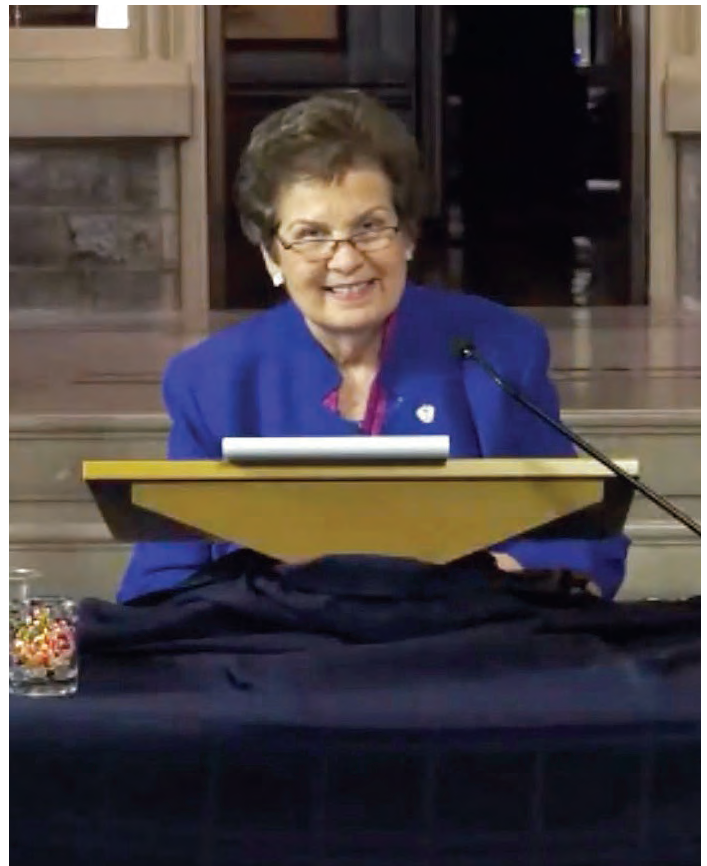
2021 marked the 19th Provincial Chapter in the American Province, when Sisters from California, Chile, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. successfully connected for the four-day meeting using their computers, tablets, and phones. Historically, Chapter meetings are held in-person every six years.

Inspired by the theme *In the spirit of Courageous Hope and Joy, we envision the future*, the Sisters endeavored to “more clearly see what we have to leave behind and what we have to create and offer the Province and the Society.”

Province Leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, opened Chapter reminding the Sisters of the Society’s anniversary theme to **Love & Serve** and posing the question, “At this time in the life of the American Province, how are we being called to love and serve as we move into the future?”

After four days of prayer, reflection, and dialogue, the American Province envisions a future guided by the following directives:

1. **Plan realistically for what the future requires** of us with regard to such matters as ministries,



On June 22, the first day of Chapter, Province Leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, addressed the Sisters.

community, retirement, finance, and governance. Include in the planning process those who share our spirit and mission.

2. **Foster communication and connectedness** within the Province and the Society and with the wider Holy Child family, including colleagues, Holy Child Associates, alumnae/i, and others who share our spirit and mission.

3. Our incarnational charism impels each of us to **address the issues of justice** and other pressing matters of the day. We will use our corporate voice and resources in collaboration with other religious congregations and organizations. Such issues include racism, immigration, human trafficking, gender, and the environment.

Just like Cornelia Connelly, the Society's Foundress, the Sisters are drawn by the Spirit and embrace this time in the life as a Province with *Courageous Hope and Joy*.

Right: Dr. Christine Bochen, professor emerita of religious studies at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, gave the keynote address. Professor Bochen is a founding member and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Below: Over 50 Holy Child Sisters participated in the first virtual Chapter meeting in the Society's history.



Courageous Hope and Joy!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Our 2021 Holy Child Award Recipients!

On Thursday, March 18, 2021, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus honored Margaret R. Dalesandro, Ph.D., Palmer A. Dalesandro, and Kimberly Curtis at its first-ever virtual Holy Child Awards celebration. Margaret, Palmer, and Kimberly were recognized by the Sisters for exemplifying the Holy Child values of love, joy, dignity, zeal, and compassion. We thank and congratulate Margaret, Palmer, and Kim for their love and service!

Margaret R. Dalesandro, Ph.D., and Palmer A. Dalesandro, Faith in Action Honorees

A graduate of Holy Child Academy, Sharon Hill, and Rosemont College, Margaret received her doctorate in biochemistry from Bryn Mawr College and completed post-doctoral work in immunology at Wake Forest University. She is founder and president of Brecon Pharma Consulting LLC, as well as serves on several boards and committees, including the Finance Committee for the American Province.

Palmer, a Villanova University graduate, is a retired vice president of Capgemini Consulting. He has held executive-level positions at Ernst & Young, Merck, and Thomas Jefferson University. He was also associate dean of Wake Forest University Medical Center and founding Chairman and Trustee of the Board of Devon Preparatory School.



(Above on right) American Province Leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, presents the Faith in Action Award to Margaret and Palmer Dalesandro.

Committed to service, Margaret and Palmer are active volunteers at Providence Center, a Holy Child Jesus ministry that helps people from Philadelphia's most disadvantaged neighborhoods to transform their lives and community through education. They also serve their parish and community through a variety of roles and local organizations. Margaret and Palmer have been married for 52 years and are the proud parents of three children and four grandchildren.

Kimberly Curtis, Holy Child Spirit Honoree

In the spirit of the Holy Child, Kimberly Curtis, a 2005 graduate of Holy Child Academy, Drexel Hill, spent a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as a housing advocate after graduating from Boston College in 2013. This experience opened her eyes to the affordable housing crisis in the United States and sparked her desire to serve those living in poverty and experiencing homelessness.

Kim's commitment to public service led her to internships at the White House, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. She has contributed to pro bono projects with the Virginia Innocence Project and Virginia Poverty Law Center. She is an active volunteer at the local shelter in Charlottesville.

In May 2021, Kim earned a dual degree in law and public policy (JD-MPP) from the University of Virginia. She now



(Above on right) Anita P. Coll, former head of school at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, presents the Holy Child Spirit Award to Kimberly Curtis.

works for a firm in Washington, D.C., that focuses on the development of affordable housing.

Kim's desire to serve the community can be traced to her days at Holy Child Academy, where she embraced Venerable Cornelia Connelly's motto "Actions Not Words." She is grateful to the Holy Child Sisters and the Holy Child Academy community for instilling in her a passion for service and Catholic values.



Thank You to Our 2021 Awards Donors!

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The Practice of Caring for Creation Continues

In honor of the 175th Anniversary of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, our Holy Child community organized and participated in weekly Eco-Actions – opportunities for prayer, service, and action that featured practices to help care for “our common home.” We are grateful to all those who joined us and are actively caring for our beloved planet. Thank you!

While the Society’s 175th Anniversary celebration officially closed in October, the Holy Child Jesus Sisters hope you continue to join them in caring for and protecting our planet, ourselves, and future generations.

Below, we share examples of the hundreds of practices offered throughout our anniversary year on how to **Love & Serve** all of God’s creation, including:

- Marveling at God’s gift of nature and how everything and everyone are interconnected. God lives and acts in all of us;
- Learning how our actions affect others and our common home. Every purchase we make affects someone, including vulnerable children and adults, such as migrants, refugees, those experiencing homelessness, minorities, and the impoverished;
- Reading/Re-reading Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* and participating in the *Laudato Si’* Action platform;



- Contacting legislators and joining groups that advocate for the care of Earth and her people, as well as voting for legislators who prioritize the care of creation;
- Reducing your carbon footprint by using renewable energy for heating and transportation, advocating for investments in renewable energy, and supporting companies that are truly “green;”
- Reducing the use of plastic, especially one-time-use items, such as water bottles, straws, and cutlery; and
- Eating organic foods and less meat, as well as conserving water.

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.

– Pope Francis,
Laudato Si’, paragraph 42



In 2021, Philadelphia's Providence Center, founded by the American Province in 1993, hosted a summer leadership program where local teens worked in their community garden. The teens planted fruits, vegetables, and herbs and routinely maintained the area by pulling weeds and removing trash.

Help the Sisters Continue the Holy Child Mission!



Courageous Hope & Joy

“It is not presumption to have hope and joy and confidence in God’s grace.” – Venerable Cornelia Connelly



Education Ministries

Ensuring the Holy Child spirit and educational philosophy of rich spiritual traditions, service to others, and a love of learning continue in Holy Child schools throughout the United States.



Social Justice Ministries

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



Spiritual and Healing Ministries

Embracing the Holy Child mission and spirit in daily life through prayer, spiritual companioning, service, and compassion.

YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS

Our Holy Child Mission!

To donate, contact Sandy Lovascio at
610.626.1400, x1301 or slovascio@shcj.org.

Remembrances



MEGAN RICE, SHCJ

(Mother Frederick Mary)

January 31, 1930 – October 10, 2021

Sister Megan believed deeply in equity and justice for all. As a Sister of the Society of Holy Child Jesus, she dedicated her life to serving others, enthusiastically embracing the Society's guiding principle "Actions Not Words."

Sister Megan's first ministry was as an educator. She taught for 12 years at various schools across the country including Saints Peter and Paul School in Fleetwood, New York (1950-1952 and 1956-1957), Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1952-1954), Holy Spirit School in Philadelphia (1954-1956), and Saint Mary School in Melrose, Massachusetts (1957-1962). While she loved teaching, Sister Megan's great desire was to minister in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus – African Province. In 1962, she was filled with joy when assigned to serve in Nigeria.

For 23 years, she worked as a teacher, catechist, pastoral guide, and administrator in impoverished West African communities, which often lacked clean, running water and electricity.

On her return to the United States in 1986, Sister Megan continued her work with marginalized communities including at the Catholic Worker in New York City, Saint Mary Parish in Syracuse, New York, Jonah House in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Franciscan Center for Peace in Las Vegas, Nevada. Eventually, Sister Megan returned to the Society's African Province where she served in religious education and pastoral care for several more years between 1991-2003.

Sister Megan's missionary zeal and independent advocacy led her to peacefully protest for nuclear disarmament, as Catholic teaching condemns the use of nuclear weapons. Sister Megan earned international recognition for her nuclear disarmament activism.

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY...

...hand on the Holy Child Spirit beyond your lifetime.

- *Honor a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus*
- *Express gratitude for your Holy Child education*
- *Hand on the Holy Child Spirit*
- *Continue your charitable giving beyond your lifetime*

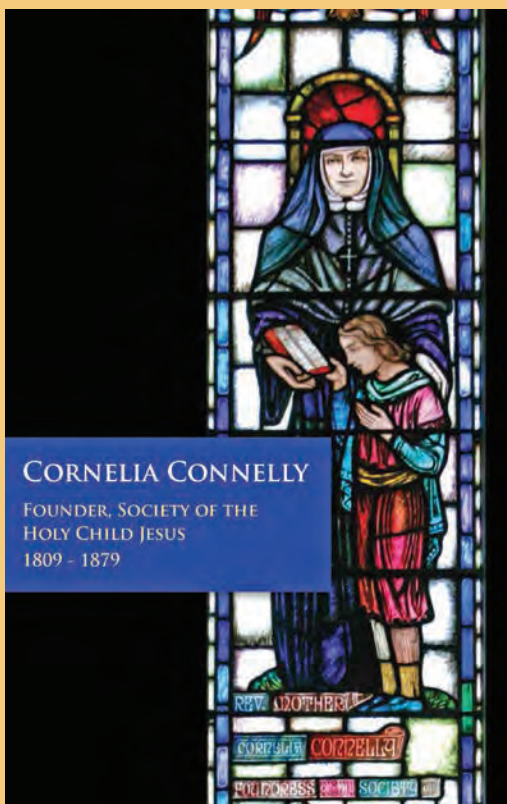
Ways to become a member are simple.

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 size 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 x1301, 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





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 holychildsisers@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 holychildsisers@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
work with a grant from your
Donor Advised Fund.



"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
the Society's ministries. Please use the following information for
your **Donor Advised Fund** giving and other donations.



Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province, Federal Tax ID: 23-6271012



Love & Serve

Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

ph 610.626.1400 | fx 610.525.2919 | www.shcj.org/american | www.facebook.com/HolyChild



Reunions

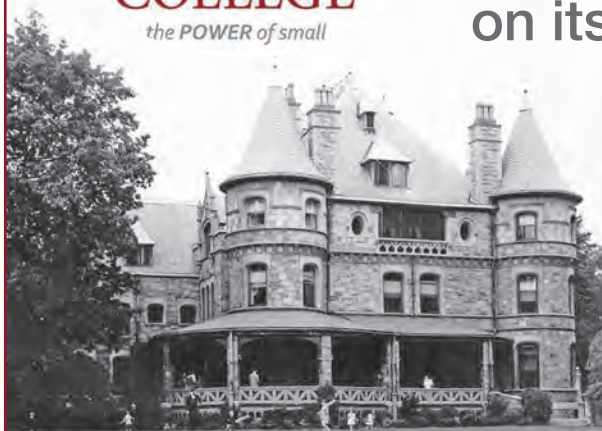


Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child, Anaheim, California, 50th Reunion, Class of 1970 in June 2021



**ROSEMONT
COLLEGE**
the POWER of small

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Congratulates and Rejoices with
ROSEMONT COLLEGE
on its 100th Anniversary!



Rosemont College, founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in 1921, is a community of learners dedicated to excellence and joy in the pursuit of knowledge. Rosemont is guided by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus to meet the wants of the age.



Saint Leonard's Academy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 50th Reunion, Class of 1970 and Class of 1971

Congratulations



Love & Serve
Celebrating 175 Years • 1846-2021

**The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus
congratulate our Holy Child schools on
their milestone anniversaries!**

**Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus
Pasadena, California • 90 YEARS**

**Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus
Pasadena, California • 90 YEARS**

**Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child
Potomac, Maryland • 60 YEARS**

Thank you for carrying forth our Holy Child education and spirit!



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010

Because the Society is committed to
caring responsibly for the environment,
Actions is printed on recycled paper.

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 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

Washington School for Girls
Africa Faith and Justice Network

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
(Rosemont)

CHILE

Centro Cornelia Connelly
(Santiago)

Have you moved or changed
your e-mail address?

Please send your
updated information
to actions@shcj.org.

Save the Date

Saint Leonard's Academy
All-Class Reunion
March 19, 2022

Holy Child Awards Dinner
The Westin Pasadena, CA
March 24, 2022

Holy Child Academy,
Portland
All-Class Reunion
April 23, 2022

Cornelia Connelly School
of the Holy Child, Anaheim
Class of 2010 Reunion
Spring 2022

SHCJ Jubilee Mass
June 18, 2022

