



Venerable Cornelia Connelly Lesson Plan Grades 1-3

Objective

Introduce young learners to Cornelia Connelly by focusing on one age-appropriate theme and time in her life.

Value

Love

Time

Fifteen Minutes

Materials

[Images for Lesson](#)

Activity

Read aloud the following short story.

Cornelia Connelly was born in Philadelphia in 1809. That's more than 200 years ago! As a little girl, she was hard-working, creative, and kind, just like all of you. ([Show Cornelia's picture as a young woman.](#))

Cornelia loved God with all her heart, and she knew God loved her, too. She showed her love for God in many ways. She became a Catholic Sister and started the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, so more Sisters could join her in serving God. ([Show image of Cornelia in her habit and picture of convent and school in Derby, England.](#))

One way Cornelia and the Sisters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus served God was by starting schools, including to help poor children. Cornelia believed schools should be joyful, happy places where children study art and music. Cornelia loved to play the piano, so the children could sing and dance. She wanted her students to learn everything! Most of all, she taught them that God loved them. ([Show picture of students at Saint Leonards-on-Sea.](#))

Cornelia was just like all of us. Sometimes she was hungry or tired, but she still worked hard. She did what God asked of her and helped a lot of people, especially children.



Discussion Questions

1. *Were you born in Philadelphia like Cornelia? If not, where were you born?*
2. *Even as a little girl, Cornelia was kind. How are you kind to your classmates and/or your family member or friend?*
3. *Cornelia showed her love for God by helping lots of young children. What is one thing you can do today because you love God?*

After a brief discussion, end the lesson by reading the [prayer to obtain the beatification](#) of Venerable Cornelia Connelly. See below.

Cornelia is in heaven with God. I will read a special prayer to ask God to make Cornelia a saint.

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.

End the lesson by asking the students the following question.

Can you name any saints? (Prompt students about their patron saints.)

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