



## Venerable Cornelia Connelly Lesson Plan Grades 4-5

### Objective

Introduce students to Cornelia Connelly. Students will learn how Cornelia placed her trust in God, who loved and helped her, including in challenging situations.

### Values

Resilience and Love

### Time

Fifteen Minutes

### Materials

[Historical Images](#)

### Activity

Read aloud the following short story.

*Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, lived an amazing, joy-filled life, but it was not always an easy life.*

*Cornelia's story begins in Philadelphia, where she was born on January 15, 1809, more than 200 years ago. As a young child, she grew up in a lively, happy household, surrounded by lots of siblings. She loved to play the piano and dance. Just like many of you, Cornelia was creative, kind, and hard-working. ([Show image of Cornelia as a young woman.](#))*

*Cornelia loved God with all her heart, and she knew that God loved her, too. She showed her love for God in many ways. She answered God's call to become a Catholic nun and to start the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, a religious community of sisters.*

*Cornelia was asked to start the Society of Holy Child Jesus in England, where she would be far from her family and friends in America. Even though she was a little worried, she agreed, seeing this as God's will. Cornelia had to start the Society in a building that needed a lot of repairs and was filled with rats. Cornelia did not complain. She and three other Sisters worked hard to clean it up. ([Show image of the school and convent in Derby, England.](#))*



*One way Cornelia served God was by starting schools, including to help poor children. Cornelia believed schools should be joyful places where children can study art and music, as well as get plenty of fresh air and exercise. She wanted her students to learn everything! Most of all, she taught them that God loved them. ([Show image 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. Cornelia liked to play the piano, draw, and dance. What creative things do you like to do?*
- 3. When Cornelia had to do hard things, she trusted in God to help her. What hard things do you have to do? How can God help you?*
- 4. Cornelia showed her love for God by helping lots of people, especially 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 (below). Before reading the prayer, ask your students if they can name any saints, including their patron saints.

*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.*

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