

# Actions



## Promoting Cornelia Connelly in the American Province

*Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child students make a pilgrimage from Summit, N.J., to the Shrine of the Holy Child and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly in Philadelphia, Pa.*





## DEAR FRIENDS,

The Sisters and I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year, and, in the words of Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, "... all the graces needed to pass the coming year."

We also want to thank you for your support and commitment to our Sisters and Holy Child schools and ministries. We are deeply grateful to

you for sharing in our Holy Child mission in 2022. Be assured of our continued prayers for you and your loved ones in 2023.

We kick off this edition of *Actions* with an update on the American Province's efforts to promote Cornelia. We hope it inspires you to explore our new online educational resources, tour "Cornelia's Philadelphia," visit the Venerable Cornelia Connelly Memorial and Shrine of the Holy Child, and join us in praying for her beatification. We were delighted that students and staff from Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, N.J., visited the shrine and memorial this past fall – thank you!

As we seek to share Cornelia's life, the American Province is excited to announce that the Province's mission advancement office is organizing three separate pilgrimages, where travelers can "Walk the sacred paths of Venerable Cornelia Connelly." The upcoming pilgrimages will take place in Pennsylvania; Louisiana and Mississippi; and England, where the Society was founded in 1846. For more information, please see page nine.

Beginning on page six, we share the inspiring story of Sarah Brabant, Ph.D., who, through the intercession of Cornelia and her relationships with the Holy Child Sisters and Associates, learned to connect more deeply with Christ and to live a joyous life. Dr. Brabant shared, "The order (Society of the Holy Child Jesus) became my North Star ... Through Cornelia, I am now a joyous woman." Thank you, Sarah, for sharing your personal journey.

The American Province is blessed to have so many people share their God-given gifts with us. In honor of the Season of Creation, Sept. 1 – Oct. 4, Holy Child Associates held three retreats themed "Behold God in Everything!" The staff at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pa., where our retired and aging Sisters live, organized several life-giving events to bring greater awareness to cognitive impairments. Casa Cornelia Law Center in San Diego, Calif., founded by the Holy Child Sisters, hosted its 15th Annual La Mancha Awards. And we congratulate our own Patricia (Pat) Phillips, SHCJ, who retired from WordNet Productions after 40 years of service. In the following pages, enjoy images of these important events and milestones.

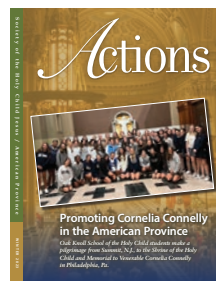
I am also pleased to announce that the American Province's first-ever Holy Child Network of Schools Board of Trustees met in person at the annual Holy Child schools' heads and chairs meeting in Pasadena, Calif., in November. Please see photos from this historic meeting on the inside back cover.

On page 10, we invite you to remember the lives of Sisters Jeanne Adams, SHCJ, and Margaret Mullin, SHCJ. Both women embodied a love full of action and are deeply missed.

Again, many thanks for your support and love for the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. We wish you God's blessing and "all the graces needed" for a joyful, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Gratefully,

Carroll Juliano, SHCJ  
American Province Leader



### On Our Cover:

Students from Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, N.J., pose in front of the Shrine of the Holy Child at Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Pa., October 2022.

Photo credit: Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child

## CONNECT WITH US



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
[www.facebook.com/HolyChild](http://www.facebook.com/HolyChild)



WATCH US ON VIMEO  
[www.vimeo.com/shcj](http://www.vimeo.com/shcj)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER  
[www.twitter.com/holychildsister](http://www.twitter.com/holychildsister)



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM  
[www.instagram.com/holychildsisters](http://www.instagram.com/holychildsisters)



SEE OUR PHOTOS  
[www.flickr.com/photos/holychildsisters](http://www.flickr.com/photos/holychildsisters)



## AMERICAN PROVINCE PROMOTES THE CANONIZATION OF

# Venerable Cornelia Connelly



Venerable Cornelia Connelly's life offers a powerful inspiration and an enduring connection to people in the United States. Cornelia's resourcefulness, verve for life, and perseverance embodied the values and spirit of her birthplace, Philadelphia, Pa., where both the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed. She faced tragic losses and significant obstacles with determination, grace, and humility.

In the spring of 1846, Cornelia's deep faith and love for God led her to found the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in Derby, England. With few resources, but a total trust in God, Cornelia started the Society under enormously challenging conditions. While living in extreme poverty, Cornelia and three other postulants managed to establish a day school, a night school, and a Sunday school for hundreds of poor girls, most of them recent immigrants. Throughout her life, Cornelia continued to establish schools and train Sisters, urging them and the students to model themselves on the Holy Child and

to live their lives fully and with a love full of action.

In 1862, Cornelia sent Sisters to America to begin a foundation in Cornelia's "own dear country." One year later, the Society took root in Philadelphia, Cornelia's hometown. The Society eventually spread to Nigeria, Ghana, Chad, Kenya, Chile, and the Dominican Republic.



*Shrine of the Holy Child in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Photo credit: Sarah Webb*

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 spirituality that inspires us today. Education was the cornerstone of her work and continues to be the central mission of the Society today. Cornelia's innovative, joyful approach to educating the whole child is still used as a model of excellence in teaching and learning.

While born more than 200 years ago, Cornelia's life remains relevant. Her steadfast faith, commitment to serve, and reverence for all of God's people continue to provide hope and inspiration, especially to individuals who have suffered the loss of children or experienced difficult marriages, divorce, or separation. In this issue, we share one such modern-day story. On page six, you can read how



Cornelia inspired Dr. Sarah Brabant to become a joyous woman, overcoming what appeared to be insurmountable challenges.

The American Province's effort to share Cornelia's story and promote her canonization remains a priority. Two years ago, the Province donated an engraved bench, a memorial plaque, and a tree on the Sacred Heart Sisters' property in Grand Coteau, La., where Cornelia, her husband, and children lived for five years. Later in life, Cornelia reflected that it was in Grand Coteau, where her husband announced his intention to be ordained a Catholic priest, that the Society was founded on a "breaking heart." With three

*In 2020, the American Province installed a plaque, bench, and tree to honor and remember Cornelia and her family's time on the Sacred Heart Sisters' property in Grand Coteau, La.*



children, including an infant, Cornelia asked her husband to "think twice" about his decision, but told him, "if the good God asks the sacrifice, I am prepared to make it & with all my heart."

Emeritus Archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput and current Archbishop of Philadelphia, Nelson Pérez, believe Cornelia's heroic acts, faith in God, and cause for canonization should be more widely known. In 2021, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia established the Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly and Shrine of the Holy Child in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, which are located near the Cathedral's baptismal font. According to Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, the shrine and memorial have become an unexpected gathering area for guests attending baptisms. Father Gill shared that children reach out to the Holy Child statue and adults are learning about Cornelia's history and the shrine's significance.

The American Province and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's efforts to promote Cornelia's life and cause for canonization continue. The Cathedral created a new position to promote both the Holy Child Shrine and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly and the Saint Katherine Drexel Shrine, which is also housed in the Cathedral. Printed copies of Cornelia's life and prayer for beatification are available at the Cathedral,



*Memorial of Venerable Cornelia Connelly complete with a new plaque.*

*"... if the good God asks the sacrifice,  
I am prepared to make it  
& with all my heart."*



and visitors to the Cathedral's website will find a landing page for the Holy Child Shrine and Cornelia's memorial (<https://cathedralphila.org/venerable-cornelia-connelly/>).

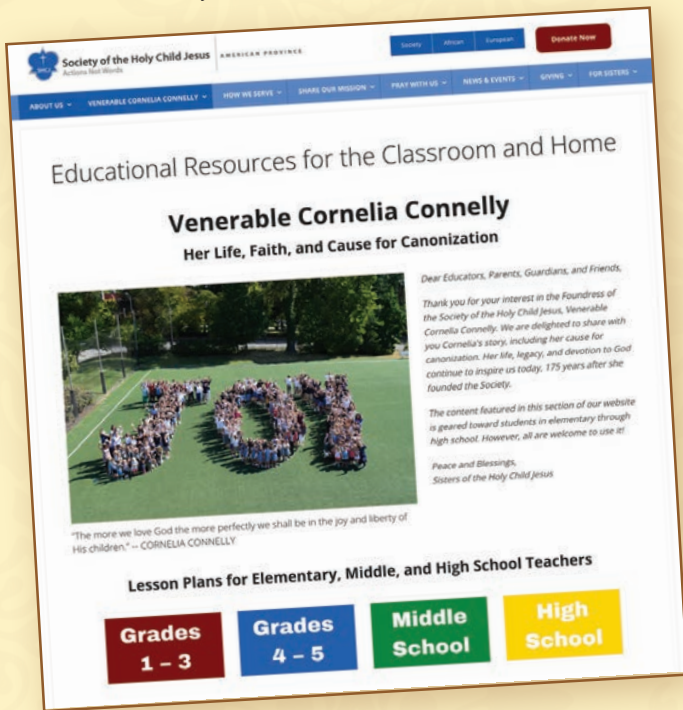
This year, the Province created "A Tour of Cornelia's Philadelphia," featuring places that shaped Cornelia's childhood and young adulthood, and launched an educational resource section on its website. Visitors to the website will find Cornelia's prayer for beatification and lesson plans for children of all ages. Adults will also find the resources on this page to be helpful in learning about Cornelia.

We ask that you join the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in their effort to share Cornelia's life with others and to pray to beatify her. You can find the prayer on page five.

And the next time you visit Old City Philadelphia, please take "A Tour of Cornelia's Philadelphia!"



*Below: The American Province launches an online educational resource page where teachers will find K-12 lesson plans and visitors will learn about the life of Venerable Cornelia Connelly.*



*Left: Take the self-guided "A Tour of Cornelia's Philadelphia" to see the Philadelphia Cornelia knew, including the places that shaped her childhood and young adulthood.*

*Below: Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector of the Cathedral, leads the American Province staff in prayer at the Shrine of the Holy Child and Memorial to Venerable Cornelia Connelly in May 2022.*





# Prayer to Beatify Venerable 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 Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, at [info@cathedralphila.org](mailto:info@cathedralphila.org).*



# The Journey To Become a *Joyous Woman*



By any measure, Dr. Sarah Brabant is an impressive woman. Despite significant barriers, including as a domestic abuse survivor, she earned her Ph.D. from the

University of Georgia in 1973, before joining the faculty at University of Louisiana in Lafayette, where she is currently a professor emeritus of sociology.

Equally awe-inspiring is Dr. Brabant's work outside the classroom, where she played a critical role in establishing the city of Lafayette's first shelter for battered women and first rape crisis center. Additionally, she has worked extensively to address the topic of grief, authoring the groundbreaking book "Mending the Torn Fabric: For Those Who Grieve and Those Who Want to Help Them," and developing the university's first death and dying course, which provided the foundation for Healing House, a nonprofit that supports bereaved children and their caregivers.

As a domestic violence survivor, Dr. Brabant bore the trauma of mental, emotional, and sexual abuse at the hands of her husband of 15 years. "I have always said that I owe my Ph.D. to the fact that my first husband called me stupid one too many times," Dr. Brabant reflects. Yet, her husband was also the father of her three children, and the marriage a gateway for Sarah into the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in LaGrange, Ga., in November of 1932, Sarah describes her family as "deeply bereaved." Her birth was preceded by

a series of heartbreaking losses for her mother, including the death of a beloved aunt in 1929, her father's suicide two weeks later, and the death of her daughter — Sarah's sister — one day shy of her second birthday. "Death and grief were central to my life," Sarah recalls.

Sarah remembers frequent visits to her sister's grave with her mother and spending time with her father, an oncologist. As a young child, Sarah went on house calls with her father to visit his cancer patients. By her early teens, she was working at his clinic.

Although Sarah was raised in the Episcopal Church, her curiosity in Catholicism piqued around the age of 10. "I was a voracious reader," she explains, "and had come upon a book about Bernadette Soubirous [the woman to whom the apparition known as Our Lady of Lourdes is believed to have appeared]. I was fascinated with her story and took my dolls to the 'grotto' in my yard — a brick wall encased in a hedge — to watch 'the lady' appear."

After marrying a practicing Roman Catholic in 1953, Sarah joined the Catholic Church. In the Church, Sarah thought she finally had the stability and support to embrace who she was called to be — a devoted wife and mother. However, her sense of stability soon crumbled, as her marriage began to sour. The support she had anticipated from both her husband and the Church slowly evaporated. By 1962, Sarah realized that if her family, including her three children, were to have any real opportunity, it was up to her to provide it.

Amidst the barrage of abuse from her husband and the misguided advice of others — who typically suggested that she should try harder — she decided to return to school at Memphis State University. Through grit and determination, she completed both a bachelor's and master's degrees and accepted her first teaching position as a sociology instructor at the university.

*To this day, Sarah struggles to articulate the impact Cornelia has had on her life. "It is truly amazing how many life experiences I share with this woman," she marvels. "And there are so many other women who do as well..."*



In 1968, Sarah's husband was diagnosed as bipolar but refused to seek treatment. It was at this point she realized that their marriage could not be salvaged. "I thought that my married life had been hell," Sarah reveals, "but I was about to enter a new hell. After a brutal legal battle, I received a divorce at the cost of accepting the minimum child support possible, but I was far from free. My former husband tried to get me fired, stalked me, attempted to carjack me, set fire to my mother's house, and tried to set fire to my house."

Perhaps, worst of all, Sarah felt abandoned by the Catholic Church, the very place she had hoped to find stability and acceptance. "The shunning I received during and after my divorce by 'good' Catholics who I thought were my friends added to my wish to get far away from Catholicism," she admits.

Sarah did receive encouragement from her colleagues, especially from her department head at Memphis State University, who urged her to continue her education. Her ex-husband attempted to prevent her and their children from moving after she was accepted into the University

of Georgia. Sarah persevered and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Soon thereafter, she was invited to teach sociology at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette.

"There was just one problem," Sarah acknowledges. "In Lafayette, Catholicism permeated every aspect of the community, and my history with it had been a long and conflicted one."

Sarah accepted the job and decided that "the Church could do its thing while I did mine." However, she soon found herself being recruited into the same fray she wanted to avoid.

"I conducted research with Dr. Pat Harris on the needs of families in the local diocese," she says, "and served on the Louisiana Catholic Conference's Family Life Committee."

However, when Sarah realized she was still "spiritually dry," she began researching and teaching about death and dying. "When my mother died in 1980, I decided to offer a seminar on death and dying, which I thought would be a one-time course. Instead, it became my life's work, with me teaching the course twice a year for 26 years."

By this point, Sarah, a survivor, was still seeking spiritual guidance. In 1992, that search led her to the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, where she would attend retreats for the next 15 years, pleading with God to answer three questions: "Who am I?" "Where do I belong?" "Who will feed me?"

During one retreat, a Jesuit priest told her about the tragic and untimely deaths of Venerable Cornelia Connelly's children, who are buried in the cemetery behind the spirituality center. Sarah began to learn more about Cornelia, who lived in Grand Coteau and taught music at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. What resonated deeply with Sarah was that Cornelia, too, had experienced great turmoil and upheaval as the result of her marriage, yet Cornelia went on to found the Society.

To this day, Sarah struggles to articulate the impact Cornelia has had on her life. "It is truly amazing how many life experiences I share with this woman," she marvels. "And there are so many other women who do as well — women who have turned away from organized religion because they felt left out and abandoned."

*Sarah Brabant, Ph.D., enters the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, La., where she is greeted by the former director of Holy Child Associates, Cathi Duffy. Sarah was one of the organizers of the Holy Child Associates' retreat at the Center in Grand Coteau in 2017.*





As she explored her connections with Cornelia, Sarah heard God's answers to her three questions:

**Who am I? You are she who is becoming.**

**Where do I belong? You belong to me.**

**Who will feed me? I will feed you.**

Learning what Cornelia had endured cultivated hope in Sarah. "It was as though I were walking on a path and met this person who affirmed that it was a path," she explains. "There was total affirmation — not pity, by any means — simply recognition. But as I walked along with her, I could see that the path was important, for its own sake and for the direction it took me."

In her quest to gain insight into Cornelia's life, Sarah reached out to members of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. "The order became my North Star," she says, noting that it has helped her broaden both her spirituality and intellect.

In the early 2000s, the Sisters invited Sarah to become one of the first women to join as an Associate. Fittingly, she made her commitment to this role at the gravesite of Cornelia's two children in Grand Coteau.

"My relationships with both professed religious and Holy Child Associates have deepened my desire to seek Christ

within myself," she notes. "I no longer look at my first marriage as hell, but as the training I needed for the path I feel God prepared me to walk in. Through Cornelia, I am now a joyous woman," Sarah says of her journey. "Because it was her joyful, willing response to God's plan for her — for each of us — that leads me each day to say as she did:

"Yes, Lord. Always yes."

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus thank *Catholic*

*Acadiana*, the official magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, La., for granting permission to edit and reprint this article in *Actions*. The full article, written by Stephanie Martin, can be found at [www.diola.org](http://www.diola.org).

*Sarah Brabant, Ph.D., poses with fellow Holy Child Associates on the front steps of the house where Cornelia Connelly and her family lived on Sacred Heart Sisters' campus.*



*Sarah Brabant, Ph.D., made her formal commitment to be a Holy Child Associate at the gravesite of Cornelia and Pierce's children, John Henry and Mary Magdalen, in Grand Coteau, La.*







# Walk the sacred paths of **VENERABLE CORNELIA CONNELLY**

## Cornelia's Philadelphia

**April 19, 2023 – 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

\$45.00 per person (includes bus transportation and lunch)

### Featured Tour Stops

- Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, where participants will attend Mass and visit the Venerable Cornelia Connelly Memorial and Holy Child Shrine
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Christ Church
- Elfreth's Alley

We hope you will join us! See below for contact information.



## Pilgrimage to England

**Ten-Day Tour: Oct. 9 – 18, 2023**

**Land & Airfare Travel:** \$5,095    **Land Only:** \$4,495

Prices based on double occupancy. Trip and Medical Insurance not included.

Allowing time to reflect on England's rich history and culture, the pilgrimage will take you to London, Mayfield, Tonbridge, Windsor, Oxford, Bath, Stonehenge, and Salisbury. Along the way, you will stop at places that were significant in Cornelia's life and remain important to the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Pilgrimage to England is being planned with Select International Tours, a professional tour operator specializing in faith-based travel programs. A Select International tour manager and the American Province's archivist will be with us throughout the pilgrimage.

**Space is limited for this highly anticipated pilgrimage.**

**Visit:** <https://selectinternationaltours.com/society-of-the-holy-child-jesus/> for a detailed brochure. A Zoom informational meeting with Select International and Society representatives will be held in February 2023 to respond to questions on the Pilgrimage to England.

## Pilgrimage to Louisiana and Mississippi

**Five-Day Tour: April 7 – 12, 2024**

Explore cities where Cornelia experienced major turning points in her spiritual life, including Natchez, Mississippi, and New Orleans and Grand Coteau, in Louisiana. Participants will visit sites where Cornelia's faith in God deepened, despite her suffering much tragedy and hardship. Sites include the St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, where Cornelia was received into the Roman Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Academy, and the gravesites of two of Cornelia's children, Mary Magdalen and John Henry.



**To reserve a spot or request more information on any of the tours, please contact:**

**Sandra Lovascio, Director of Mission Advancement, at [slovascio@shcj.org](mailto:slovascio@shcj.org) or 610-626-1400 x1301.**



# Sisters Remembered

## **Jeanne Adams, SHCJ (Mother John Bosco)**

May 25, 1928 – September 11, 2022

Ministering worldwide as an educator, researcher, pastoral minister, and historian, Sister Jeanne's life in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus was legendary. From being imprisoned during the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War to learning both Arabic and Creole to better serve the people of Israel, Palestine, and Haiti, Sister Jeanne lived a life full of "Actions Not Words."

Jeanne was a brilliant woman with so many gifts and talents," said her friend Margaret Rogers, SHCJ. "She could read at lightning speed and retain all that she read. She was scholarly, practical, a good cook, and had a lovely singing voice. She was also a marvelous person to give a tour. Whenever our paths crossed, Jeanne would be the best guide — she knew the people, places, and culture. She had a natural ability to bring people together and keep them connected."



Sister Jeanne's teaching ministry spanned several decades and began at Saint Ignatius School (1949-51) in Chicago, Ill., before she moved to Pennsylvania and taught at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia (1951-56). For the next 20 years, Sister Jeanne served in the Society's African Province, teaching at Holy Child College and Holy Child Secondary School in Lagos, Nigeria. Sister Jeanne also taught at Holy Child Senior School in Cape Coast, Ghana.

Sister Jeanne taught at Rosemont College in Rosemont, Pa., (1978-80), while studying Arabic for her upcoming Middle East assignment. She ministered in Israel and Palestine as a teacher and pastoral care worker from 1980-84. She later served and taught in impoverished communities in Haiti and Jamaica, from 1991-94.

Beginning in the mid-1980s, Sister Jeanne became very interested in documenting and archiving content for the Society. When Sister Jeanne moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, she worked in the American Province's archives for several years.

## **Margaret Mullin, SHCJ (Mother Mary Evelyn)**

October 24, 1932 – October 2, 2022

Anita Quigley, SHCJ, Sister Margaret's fellow community member of 20 years, shared the following about Sister Margaret. "Sister Margaret embodied a love full of action in simple, quiet, and humble ways. She deeply loved the Society and her family and friends. We will miss her dearly."

Sister Margaret's teaching ministry spanned nearly three decades. Early in her vocation, she served at Saint Edward's School in Philadelphia (1953-54); Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, Pa., (1954-56 and 1973-79); and Saint Mary School in Melrose, Mass., (1956-61).

Sister Margaret headed west to Oregon to teach at Holy Family School in Portland, Ore., (1961-69); Saint Rita School (1969-72); and Saint Rose School (1972-73). Moving to the Midwest in 1979, Sister Margaret taught for one year at Saint Anastasia School in Waukegan, Ill., (1979-80), and then served as a parish minister at Saint Dismas Church for nine years.

In 1989, Sister Margaret received training to become a home health aide in Cape May County, N.J., where she worked with the Holy Redeemer Sisters. She was one of the pioneering Holy Child Sisters to minister in Cape May. In 1996, Sister Margaret continued as a health aide at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pa., and then became a receptionist at the American Province offices, a ministry she happily fulfilled for 23 years and where the staff cherished her gentle spirit.





# CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

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

## Make a Planned Gift and Become a Cornelian Society Member

- Name the Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province as a beneficiary in your will or trust, life insurance, or retirement plan assets to become a Cornelian Society Member.
- All gifts are welcome! It is not about the amount of the gift, but the spirit of the giver.

## With a legacy gift, you become a member of the Cornelian Society and partner in mission with the Sisters to:

- Educate the poor and marginalized.
- Advocate for Social Justice.
- Provide loving care for the retired Sisters.

To join this special legacy group, contact the Mission Advancement Office at 610.626.1400 – ext.1301 or [slovascio@shcj.org](mailto:slovascio@shcj.org).

“I have a soft spot in my heart for the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. If my legacy gift can help their mission and ministries, I am very grateful.”

– Carol (Coulter) McMenamin  
Holy Child Academy,  
Portland, Oregon



## 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 [holychildsissters@shcj.org](mailto:holychildsissters@shcj.org) or 610.626.1400, or visit the Province’s website at [www.shcj.org/american](http://www.shcj.org/american). Any donations received through this program are directed to Holy Child ministries. Thank you!





# Holy Child Associates Pledge to Protect God's Creation



This fall, inspired by the Catholic Climate Covenant's celebration of the Season of Creation and the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Holy Child Associates Linda Tarney, Judy Talvacchia, and Michelle Dugan gathered fellow Associates for retreats entitled "Eco-Spirituality: Behold God in Everything!" Linda organized a virtual retreat, and Judy and Michelle organized in-person programs in Melrose, Mass., and Rosemont, Pa., respectively. A total of 33 Associates participated.

For the gatherings, Holy Child Associates reflected on the importance of caring for creation. Content presented at the

gatherings included readings from Pope Francis's *Laudato Si* and the works of theologian Iliia Delio, OSF, Ph.D.; 14th century author Julian of Norwich; poet Reverend Ernesto Cardenal; and philosopher Beatrice Bruteau. At Rosemont, participants viewed a video produced by the Sisters of Mercy on the importance of recognizing both the plight of our Earth and the wondrous beauty around us. At the Melrose gathering, Associates viewed *The Letter: A Message for Our Faith*, a documentary that follows six people from around the world who are experiencing the effects of climate change and engage in a dialogue with each other and Pope Francis.

The retreats closed with the Holy Child Associates making a "Pledge of Commitment to Protect and Heal God's Creation."

Please join our Holy Child Sisters and Associates to care for and protect all of God's creation!

Holy Child Associates are lay women and men who seek to live a more joyful, compassionate, and reverent life by finding God's presence in our world. To learn more about the Associates, contact [associates-usa@shcj.org](mailto:associates-usa@shcj.org).



Holy Child Associates gather in Rosemont, Pa., for a retreat on the care of creation on Thursday, October 20.



Holy Child Associates gather in Melrose, Mass., for a care of creation retreat on Thursday, October 13.





# A LOVE *Full of Action!*

## YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS OUR HOLY CHILD MINISTRIES!



### Education Ministries

Ensuring Holy Child's rich spiritual traditions, educational philosophy of service to others, and a love of learning continue in Holy Child Schools.



### Social Justice Ministries

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



### Spiritual & Healing Ministries

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



Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, urged Holy Child Sisters to embrace "a love full of action, not words."

The Sisters boldly follow Cornelia's call and example to meet the needs of our time, wherever they serve. With your gift, we can do so much more!

*Join us in embracing  
"a love full of action!"*

**Make a gift today!**



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010  
610-626-1400 | [www.shcj.org/american/donate](http://www.shcj.org/american/donate)



# Actions Not Words!

This past October, Holy Child Center's TEAM CORNELIA participated in a "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on the Sisters' New Sharon's campus in Rosemont, Pa.

It was a beautiful day, brimming with great spirit and joy. Holy Child Center is the American Province's retirement and skilled nursing facility for Holy Child Sisters.

Many thanks to the Holy Child Center staff for organizing TEAM CORNELIA and taking good care of our Sisters!



## CASA CORNELIA LAW CENTER

### 15th Annual La Mancha Awards

Casa Cornelia Law Center's La Mancha Awards honor the commitment of outstanding volunteer attorneys, law firms, interpreters, translators, law clerks, and community members whose exceptional dedication furthers the pursuits of Casa Cornelia's clients and their cases. Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

Casa Cornelia Law Center, founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in San Diego, Calif., is a public interest law firm that provides quality legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations.

*Photo credit: Casa Cornelia Law Center*





# Reunions

## HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, SHARON HILL, PA



*Class of 1965*



*Class of 1970*



*Class of 1972*



*Class of 1972*

**Planning a reunion? Need a class list? Have reunion photos or memories to share?**

Contact Regina DiGuilio, Assistant Director of Mission Advancement,  
at 610.626.1400, ext.1315, or [rdiguilio1359@gmail.com](mailto:rdiguilio1359@gmail.com).



**SAINT LEONARD'S ACADEMY,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**



*Class of 1982*

*Class of 1957*



**HOLY CHILD  
HIGH SCHOOL,  
WAUKEGAN, IL**



*Class of 1971*

**CORNELIA CONNELLY SCHOOL  
OF THE HOLY CHILD,  
ANAHEIM, CA**

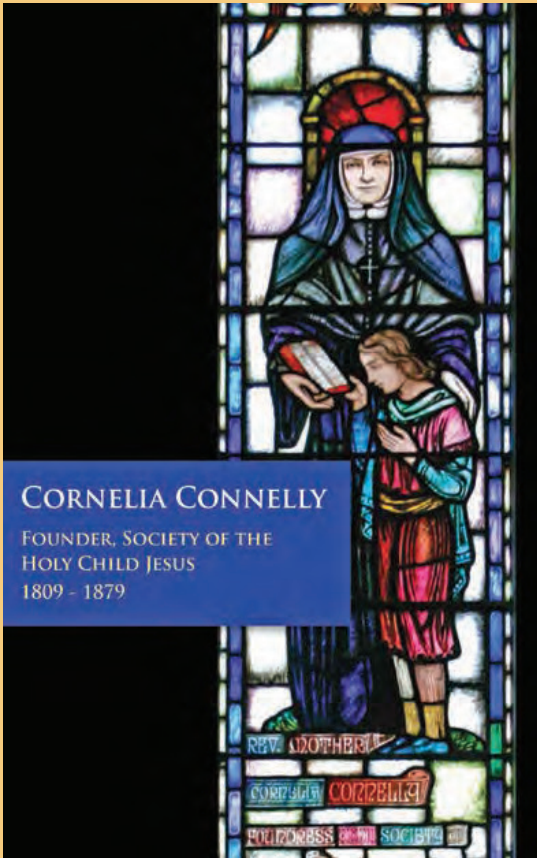


*Class of 2010*



*Class of 1971*





## 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 [holychildsisters@shcj.org](mailto:holychildsisters@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*

# Congratulations!!



We congratulate Patricia (Pat) Phillips, SHCJ, on her retirement from WordNet Productions, a Catholic media ministry that produces inspiring digital programming and print materials for audiences worldwide. For four decades, Sister Pat served in various capacities at WordNet, including as a board member, executive director, producer, and speaker. One colleague shared,

*"Sister Pat was the first person you met when you walked in the door, and you were always greeted with warmth, sincere kindness, and a smile. She made all guests feel the value of their gifts during every visit."*

The Society extends its prayers, blessings, and gratitude to Sister Pat!



# First Holy Child Network of Schools' Board of Trustees Gather for their Inaugural Meeting

This past fall, the newly established Holy Child Network of Schools Board of Trustees attended its first annual Holy Child Network of Schools' heads and chairs meeting, marking a historic moment for the Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province. The meeting took place on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus, in Pasadena, California.

The move to form the Holy Child Network of Schools' first board of trustees flowed from the American Province's decision in 2020 to incorporate the network. Established in 2022, the network's board – Sean Glynn, Esq. (board chair), Theresa Gartland, Stephanie Griffin, Ken Phelan, and Ashley Simpson, Esq. – will continue to work with the director of the Network of Schools, Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, and partner with Holy Child schools' trustees, administration, students, and families to advance our Holy Child educational legacy in the 21st century and beyond!

## HolyChild Network of Schools



*The first Holy Child Network of Schools' Boards of Trustees with Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, director of the Holy Child Network of Schools. Pictured, from left, Sean Glynn, Esq. (board chair), Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, Stephanie Griffin, Ken Phelan, and Ashley Simpson, Esq. Not pictured, Theresa Gartland.*

Photos by Jennifer Saparzadeh



*The first Holy Child Network of Schools' Board Chair Sean Glynn, Esq., presents to the Holy Child schools' heads and chairs.*



*American Province Leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, addresses the Holy Child Network trustees and Holy Child schools' heads and chairs.*





Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue  
Rosemont, PA 19010

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Chester, PA  
Permit #170

Because the Society of the Holy Child Jesus 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:*

**Have you moved or changed your e-mail address?**

**Please send your updated information to [actions@shcj.org](mailto:actions@shcj.org).**

## 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

**African Faith and Justice Network**

**Washington School for Girls**

## 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)*

# Save the Date

**Saint Leonard's Academy  
All-Class Reunion  
Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**Cornelia's Philadelphia  
Pilgrimage  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

**Cornelia Connelly  
High School All-Class Reunion  
Saturday, April 22, 2023**

**Pilgrimage to England  
Oct. 9 – 18, 2023**

**Pilgrimage to Louisiana  
And Mississippi  
April 7 – 12, 2024**