

HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES



*Let justice flow on like a river,
righteousness like
a never-failing stream.*

Amos 5:24

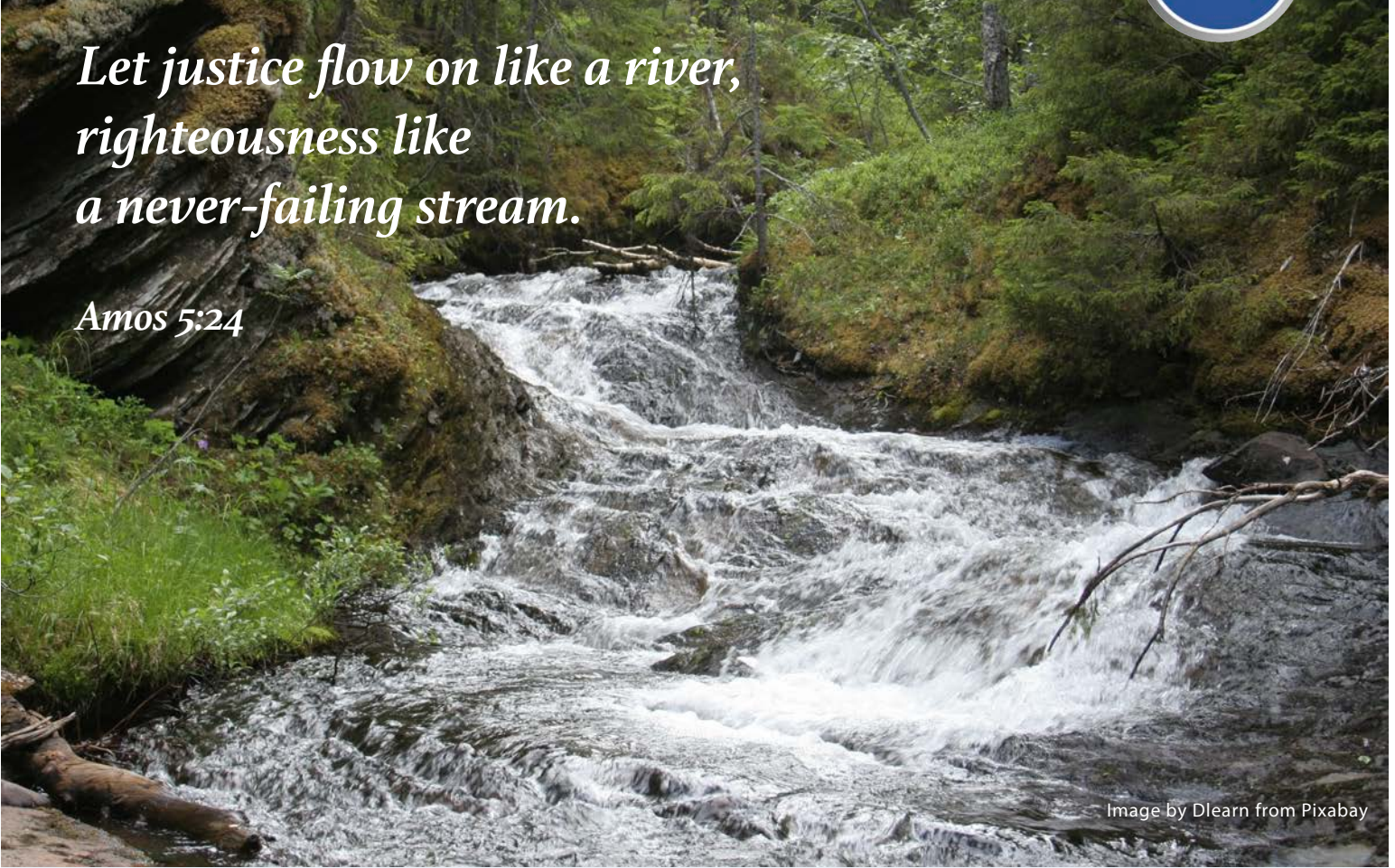


Image by Dlearn from Pixabay

ACTION NOT WORDS

Vision of Associates

*One in Spirit,
Holy Child Associates
collaborate with the Society
of the Holy Child Jesus to
embody the charism of
Cornelia Connelly
in our everyday lives while
responding to the
wants of the age
with generosity.*

Mission

Holy Child Associates of the United States are women and men rooted in the charism of Cornelia Connelly who want to grow in her spirit. The Associates strive to bear witness to a life grounded in the Incarnation. Associates are called to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and to rejoice in God's presence in our midst.

*The charism of Cornelia Connelly
is grounded in the gospel message
of the Word Made Flesh
and centered in the mystery of God's life and presence
in the lives of women and men.*

Core Team



Please join us in celebrating the 60th jubilee Cynthia Vives, SHCJ! Cynthia is a Core Team member and a great ally to the Associates! Here is what the Core Team is working on:

What is an Associate and How Do We Grow?

Planning to launch a working group on understanding the why and the growth of the Associates to find a way to invite others into our incarnational journey.

New Associate Recruitment

Getting materials together for the HOPSA gathering of 120 people that will happen later this month in the DC area. (HOPSA is a group of Holy Child graduates from Ghana who live in the US and Canada.)

Applying for grant to use the Associate Newsletter to recruit Alumni of Holy Child Schools to the Associate experience.

Associate Charter

Committee formed and proposed revisions/edits to the Associate Charter.

The committee members are: Eugenia Ukpo, Dian Pringle, Cynthia Vives, SHCJ.

The draft changes are expected to be shared with all Associates after the Core Team Meeting on July 15.

Associate Retreat

Supporting Associate Group sponsoring the Stone Harbor Retreat in September.

Pilgrimages

Supporting and promoting the pilgrimages sponsored by the SHCJ American Province and Development Office in 2023 and 2024.

An Incarnational Meeting with Associates

Providing an opportunity to spend time with other Associates on a Zoom call.

Formation

Committee formed and proposed changes to the formation process for new associates.

The committee is composed of: Judy Talvacchia, Emily Wells, Marilyn Nigro, Sandy Lovascio, Pat Burt.

The first draft will be shared with all associates after the July 15 Core Team meeting.

International Associate Retreat

Supporting the International Associates Gathering in November in Chile.

Some of the cost for the American Associates are being underwritten by the Associate Appeal.

(See more on back page.)

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Holy Child Associates

American Province - USA

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The Whole World Is My Country

How would Cornelia Connelly respond to the assaults on the created world that we recognize today? With vigor and energy, I suspect! The clues are in her own words:

“The whole world is my country” and “Meet the wants of the age.”

Cornelia expresses the breadth of her vision, grounded in the Incarnation. God’s saving love is present and active in the whole world, not among a select group of people or in one particular place. If that is God’s perspective, then it would also be hers. She was open to whatever the world had to teach her about God’s merciful love, and she would respond to that love in any and every way possible.

Care of creation in the Holy Child spirit begins with living Incarnational spirituality in daily life. Do we live in awareness of the sacredness of all creation? Do we make daily choices that respect and care for creation? Do we educate ourselves to learn more about the challenges we face in our world and adjust our way of living? Addressing the needs of the world begins in each human heart!

Our inner conversion, day by day, allows us to expand our care outward in ever widening circles. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the threats to creation. But the Incarnation teaches us that, just as all creation is holy, every effort we make contributes in some way to the healing of the world. St. Paul tells us that the resurrected Christ will hand over creation to God when every evil is overcome. (1Cor 15:24-28) And then he offers these hopeful words: “Therefore, my beloved, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1Cor 15:58)

Laudato Sí



File by kapi12 on CleanPNG

The Society is offering a way to act on behalf of creation together, through the newly forming Laudato Sí Committee. Please support the initiatives that come from the committee and share your thoughts and suggestions. Individually and together, we can make a difference - as co-laborers with the risen Christ, in the spirit of Cornelia Connelly.

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Share the Journey

Inspired by Cornelia's challenge to "meet the wants of the age", we, as SHCJ Associates look to make a difference for those who struggle in our world. Several months back, the Core Team asked us to weigh in on our actions in the key areas of systemic racism, care of creation, immigration, and food insecurity. They suggested that our actions can take the form of education, advocacy, or direct service activities.

This "Share the Journey" column will focus on how we are making a difference for those struggling with food insecurity both locally and globally. For me, a model that perfectly describes Cornelia's "love in action" is called the Two Feet of Service. One of the feet represents the works of mercy, such as volunteering at a food cupboard, cooking for a soup kitchen, raising money for an overseas development project and the other foot represents the works of justice meant to improve structures, such as advocating for international assistance, participating in living wage campaigns, and expanding access to affordable housing. The works of mercy and justice are both essential.

Cathi Duffy shares about her direct service ministry at a local food cupboard in these words, "In January, I began working at the food pantry in the parish where I grew up. I was amazed at the numerous sources and types of foods available at the food pantry. It is wonderful to see the various merchants and organizations that reduce food waste by sharing food with the pantry."

"The need is great and sadly an increasing number of families are being served in recent weeks. What alarms me is the number of seniors that visit the food pantry each month! What warms my heart is that the volunteers are as grateful as those whom we served! We are so grateful each week that there is a bounty of food that can be shared, and that God continues to bless us all!"



Photo by Elaine Casap on Unsplash

As vital as direct hands-on service is- some of us are called to be advocates, and work for justice. Associate Michelle Dugan and I continue our involvement on an advocacy committee whose current campaign focuses on the re-authorization of the Farm Bill. Up for reauthorization every five years, the Farm Bill includes programs that help alleviate hunger, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food assistance to low-income Americans; and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which provides food assistance to schools in developing countries. The Farm Bill reauthorization is an exciting moment for Congressional leaders to come together and demonstrate America's recommitment towards ending hunger and malnutrition.

If you are interested, we invite you to speak out for the hungry by contacting your Senator/Member of Congress telling them you care about the needs of those experiencing hunger now more than ever due to Covid and the impact of climate change. As God's people, we are called to work together on behalf of all creation and "let peace and justice flow."

[Learn more about the Farm Bill.](#)



The Two Feet of Love *in Action*

“The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice** and **charity** in society.”

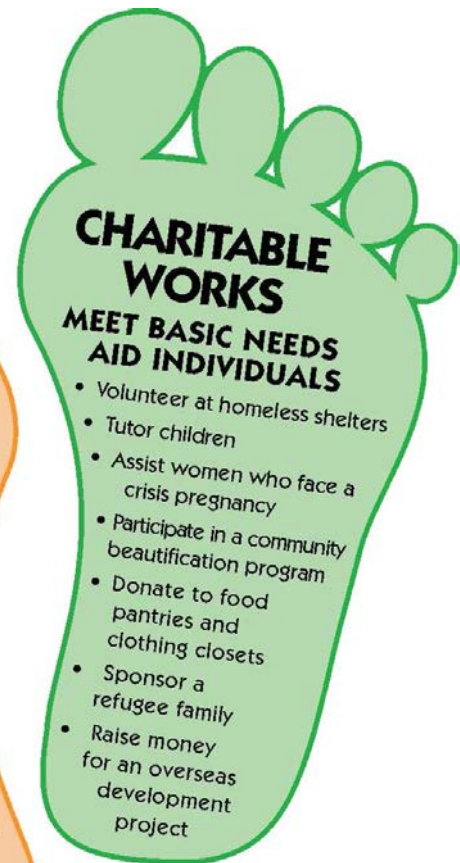
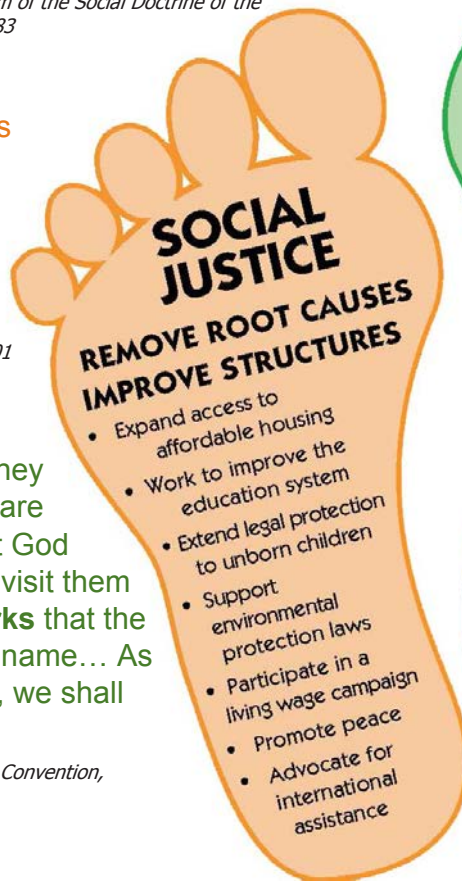
—Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 83

“**Social justice**. . . concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.”

—Compendium, no. 201

“To [those who lack what they need to live a dignified life] are proclaimed glad tidings that God loves them...and comes to visit them through the **charitable works** that the disciples of Christ do in his name... As we can read in Matthew 25, we shall all be judged on this.”

—Pope Francis, Address to Pastoral Convention, 6/17/13



Many Rivulets Make a Mighty River

“Let justice and peace flow” was announced on 3 March 2023 as this year’s theme for the ecumenical Season of Creation. The theme is inspired by the words of the prophet Amos, “But let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream”(Amos 5:24). On 13 May 2023, Pope Francis introduced the theme in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation celebrated on 1 September 2023.

Season of Creation begins on the Eastern Orthodox church’s Day of Prayer for Creation, which also starts their church calendar year. Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I initiated the Season in 1989. Many churches accepted the Season by 2001 and Pope Francis made it official in the Catholic Church in 2015. This ecumenical season of all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment together ends on 4 October 2023, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. This Feast Day of the patron saint of ecology is celebrated in many western traditions. Between 1 September and 4 October, the world’s 2.2 billion Christians come together in prayer, actions, and advocacy to care for our common home, God’s oikos.

For our common home to flourish, we must all flow as rivulets of peace and justice merging into a mighty river. The mighty river is the symbol for the 2023 Season of Creation. Pope Francis said it best in his message on 13 May, “Truly, much can be done’, provided we come together like so many streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvellous planet and our human family for generations to come.” The Season of Creation is an inspirational opportunity to join the mighty river of justice and peace.

We need peace before justice can flow. To find peace

in this climate stricken world, we need absence of conflict, as well as positive, live-giving relationships with God, ourselves, our human neighbors, and all creation. These right relationships can be re-created by transforming our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.

Our hearts can be transformed by cherishing creation as the sacred gift that it is. Our lifestyles can be transformed when we repent of our ecological sins and change our attitudes and actions. With God’s grace adopt a lifestyle marked by less waste, unnecessary consumption and be mindful of our economic decisions. Lastly, we must be advocates for the indigenous, the most vulnerable to climate change, and our young people by transforming the public policies that govern our societies.

The Season of Creation Celebration Guide provides prayers and a prayer service to help with the transformation of our hearts. Also, within the guide are some suggestions of lifestyle changes and you will be able to see actions of caring for creation going on all over the world during the 2023 Season of Creation. Finally, the guide gives you suggestions for advocacy actions to support prevention of further biodiversity loss and those most affected by the climate crisis. Register at www.seasonofcreation.org as an individual, family or community to join this mighty river of justice and peace to bring new life to Earth and future generations.



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Season of Creation Resources

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2023/05/25/message-of-pope-francis-for-creation-day-2023/>

<https://seasonofcreation.org/about/>

Poetry Off the Shelf

Earthworm

*Imagine. The only thing that
God requires of them
is a persistent, wriggling, moving forward,
passing the earth through
the crinkled tube of their bodies
in a motion less like chewing
than like song.*

*Everything they encounter
goes through them,
as if sunsets, drug store clerks,
diesel fumes and sidewalks
were to move through our very centers
and emerge subtly different
for having fed us – looser somehow,
more open to the possibility of life.*

*They say the job of angels
Is to sing to God in serried choirs.
Perhaps. But most jobs
aren't so glamorous.
Mostly the world depends upon
the silent chanting underneath our feet.
To every grain that enters: "Welcome."
To every parting mote: "Be blessed."*

Could there possibly be a better fellow creature than the earthworm to embody “the humble, hidden life” that is so key to our Cornelian spirituality? Contemporary Canadian poet Lynn Ungar is also a Unitarian Universalist minister and a dog trainer. In her poem “Earthworms,” she highlights qualities that we can emulate as we work for justice and peace. “Imagine.” What if God requires of us only that same “persistent, wriggling, moving forward” that Ungar describes in the first stanza? She suggests that pursuing a mundane, earthy path might actually be “less like chewing/than like song.”

The second stanza attempts to capture the transformative power of encountering the world “through our very centers.” Just as earthworms loosen the soil for fruitful growth, so we can use our daily experiences to feed us, whether they are beautiful (sunsets), ordinary (clerks and sidewalks), or unpleasant (fumes). Everything offers us the opportunity to be “looser somehow,/more open to the possibility of life.”

In the concluding stanza, Ungar comes down firmly on the side of humility. Angel choirs are all well and good, but let’s get down to earth; the job we have ahead is not so glamorous, perhaps, but the world depends upon our steadfast witness, “the silent chanting” of faith and love, taken in and poured out. How like Cornelia when she spoke of walking through muddy streets and loving God with your feet! “Earthworms” presents a holistic view of Creation, with all of us united in daily labors, in song, and ultimately in the grace of welcoming and blessing “every grain...every parting mote.”



Encore

Core Team, cont. from p 2

Service Opportunities

If you are interested in any of the following, please let us know at associates-usa@shcj.org:

Applying for a restricted grant to “promote, preserve, and advance the SHCJ Associates and the Associates' mission.”

Serving on the Associate Core Team.

Participating in a cross country Zoom call for all associates to share, pray, and celebrate the Incarnation.

Appeal Results

Thank you to those who have participated in the Associate Appeal. Our goal is \$10,000. Donations from January 1, 2023, to June 15, 2023, are **\$6,025.00**.

If you have not yet participated, we hope you will take the opportunity to help us make the goal of self-sufficiency for the SHCJ Associates, USA.

Thank you for “Actions not Words.”

Core Team Co-chairs:

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NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

Sept. 1–Oct 4, 2023

Prophet Isaiah proclaims “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 19) We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. As the People of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

ACTION NOT WORDS