

HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES



*On your pilgrim path
through the hours of the day
you will encounter many
life-giving deaths.*

– Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

Image by Gerry Tarney

ACTIONS 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



To everything, there is a season.

As we approached All Saints and Souls day, I was reminded of the communion of Saints—those the church recognizes, those we remember, and those who still live amongst us.

I said farewell recently to an associate who had journeyed with me my entire associate journey. Steve is not the first to pass. Sister Veronica, Phyllis, and Marilyn preceded Steve in death.

Sr. Veronica brought me into the associates and inspired in me a lay vocation to live Vatican II through the incarnation.

Phyllis inspired in me a love of life and focused service.

Marilyn inspired in me a challenge that led to my vocation to Care of Creation after a Mint Hill Reflection on Laudato Si.

Stephen showed me how to tie all of those inspirations into a response to the Word that was personal, authentic, gentle, humorous and Holy.

Steve:

Would sometimes invite me for a cold beer as I walked home from the bus.

Co-founded the Care of Creation Ministry at St. Luke's.

Served on the Core Team for the associates.

Encouraged me to share my faith stories and even told me he found them interesting.

Never went out with Steve where he did not take the time to learn the staff's names and where they were from.

All felt valued and listened to in Steve's presence.

He lived the Cornelian charism and easily shared it with all who encountered him.

May the same be said for all of us now in our shared future. Do you know an associate who inspired you? Give them a call; say hello, and thanks.

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Holy Child Associates

American Province - USA

1341 Montgomery Avenue

Rosemont, PA 19010



HOPSA USA-CANADA

In late June, Associates Anita Martineau and Juliet Njoku attended the bi-annual re-union and fundraising event of HOPSA USA-Canada at Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, MD. HOPSA is made up of almost 1,000 graduates of Holy Child School, Cape Coast, Ghana, who live in the US and Canada. Juliet had started a conversation with Barbara Frimpong (HOPSA USA-Canada, VP) about the Associates. She asked about the possibility of the Associates attending the HOPSA event to initiate a connection between the two groups. HOPSA USA-Canada was happy to have us.

The Associates set up a table with copies of our newsletter, invitational brochure, and the Cornelia Connelly booklet for the 120 attendees. They



shared our common Holy Child heritage with our Ghanaian sisters and joined them for prayer and socializing. Sister Barbara Bartlett and Sister Connie Craig joined the group for part of the weekend. It was a rich experience for everyone involved. By the end of the gathering, several HOPSANS had requested additional information about the Associate relationship with the Society. We are delighted to make this connection and hope to continue sharing the ways we each live the Holy Child charism and ministry.

For additional information about the Associates, contact: associates-usa@shcj.org

Judy Talvacchia
Core Team Liaison

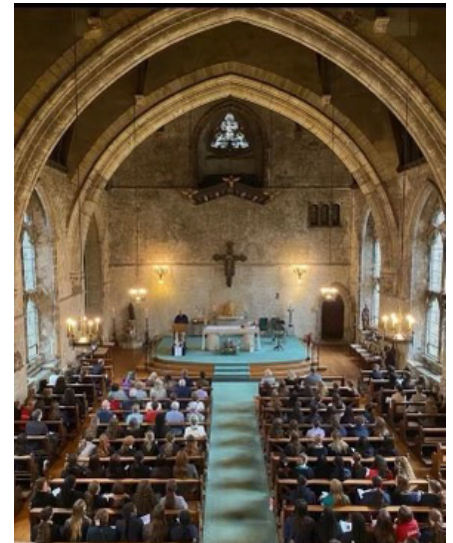


Pilgrimage to Cornelia's England

On October 10th 16 pilgrims gathered from their various start points and arrived in London, U.K. Our goal was to see some of the locations and neighborhoods of London, Mayfield, and Oxford that Cornelia and many SHCJ Sisters would have lived in. Many places looked different in from what our predecessors would have known. The buildings in London reflected the impact of WWII, the Mayfield Chapel has been remodeled since Cornelia's time. However, none of these differences took away from our goal. The most amazing day was on October 13th, when we shared in the celebration of the Society's foundation day with a number of the students at Mayfield School in the Chapel. After lunch, our group, joined by Sister Angela O'Connor and Sister Jenny Bullen, stood around Cornelia's tomb and shared our prayers and intentions for her intercession.

The trip itself was a transformative experience for me. My initial intention was to act as historian, sharing the knowledge that I've acquired in my time

as archivist. I had already seen many of the places but by the end of the trip I felt like a true pilgrim. I had walked the steps along with everyone else, and along with Cornelia Connelly and every other Holy Child Sister who had travelled to and lived in these places. Together we searched for God and his presence in Cornelia. We saw glimpses of what Cornelia's feelings and understandings must have been in a foreign country where her faith was not the accepted norm. I learned so much about my fellow pilgrims in this shared experience and I am so thankful for this experience of a lifetime.



Above: Overview of the Mayfield Chapel (during mass), provided by Mayfield School



Left: First row: Sally Coll, Patricia Fell, Emily Wells, Regina Di'Guilio, Jenny Bullen, SHCJ, Sandy Lovascio, Dian Taylor-Pringle

Second Row: Mary Kirby, Barbara McCaffrey, Judy Talvacchia, Francine Gunther, SHCJ, Angela O'Connor, SHCJ

Third Row: John Boll, Desmonde Pringle, Linda Mennis, Liam Mennis, Marianne Kirby, Joseph Kirby

Meet the Associates

Meet one of our new Associates, Kathy Enos

Meet the Associates: Kathy Enos

Kathy Enos is a member of St. Luke parish in Mint Hill, North Carolina. On January 6, 2023, she participated in her first Associate commitment ceremony at a home mass with the Mint Hill Associates. Kathy and Ann Helms, who also made her commitment promise on the Epiphany, were mentored by Bob McHugh along their journey to becoming Associates. Let us hear in Kathy's own words about her faith journey and what led her to Cornelia and the Associate way of life.

Linda: Tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from?

Kathy: My hometown is Cresson, PA, where my 94-year-old mother still resides in the home I grew up in. I have 5 siblings and my twin sister and I are the youngest. I currently live in Rock Hill, SC. My daughter and son-in-law, Courtney and Tré, live in Greenville, NC, with my grandsons, Elijah (9) and Caleb (7). I am an Administrative Assistant and have worked in this role for my current employer for over 43 years.

Linda: Will you share your faith story with us?

Kathy: I was raised Greek Catholic and confirmed at baptism when I was an infant. Our catechism classes ended at 8th grade. As an adult, I always attended weekly Mass but truly became more involved with ministry after joining St. Luke Church in 1996. I have been involved in the HOPE (Helping Other People Endure) Ministry for over 24 years and have been a coordinator for 21 years. I have met many wonder-

ful parishioners by visiting them when sick. Sort of like cold calling—stopping in their hospital room or rehab to say hello. Never knowing them until that moment but leaving with the feeling I had known them forever. Those friendships continue to this day.



Linda: How did you come to know the Society of the Holy Child Jesus?

Kathy: I was aware of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus when Sister Veronica Grover was at St. Luke. Although I did not know much about the Society, I knew several parishioners who were involved in it. I was introduced to the Society in 2022 and became a member in 2023.

Linda: What attracted you to become an Associate?

Kathy: During the initial training, I wasn't sure I was a good fit. But as I learned more about the Society, I felt being an Associate would be a wonderful extension of my HOPE Ministry in that I could continue to help other people endure in other circumstances.

Linda: How has being an Associate affected your everyday life?

Kathy: I have become more aware and compassionate of the unjust social issues that plague America and the world. I am more caring about different experiences other people have endured and recognizing their situations are not always the fault of

cont. on back

Poetry Off the Shelf

The Story Wheel

*I leave you to your ceremony of grieving
Which is also of celebration
Given when an honored humble one
Leaves behind a trail of happiness
in the dark of human tribulation.
None of us is above the other
In this story of forever.
Though we follow that red road home,
one behind another.
There is a light breaking through the storm
And it is Buffalo hunting weather.
There you can see your mother
She is busy as she was ever
She holds up a new jingle dress,
for her youngest beloved daughter.
And for her special son,
a set of finely beaded gear,
All for that welcome home dance,
The most favorite of all—
when everyone finds their way back together
to dance eat and celebrate.
And tell story after story
of how they fought and played
in the story wheel
and how no one
was ever really lost at all.*

– Joy Harjo

A deep spiritual energy animates “The Story Wheel.” Joy Harjo, whose “Eagle Poem” was featured in our winter 2020 newsletter, draws on her own traditions to describe universal human experiences. As the first Native American to serve as US Poet Laureate (2019-2022), Harjo’s gift lies in her ability to use specific cultural details to capture what is meaningful to all of us, found in what scholar of religion Joseph Campbell calls “the mythos.”

Only the very first word of this poem includes the poet as the narrator, pointing the way for us: “I leave you to your ceremony...” The conjunction of opposites in the opening five lines comprises a single sentence and sets the tone of mythic resonance. Grieving is also celebration, and happiness is present in the midst of tribulation. The loved one is both honored and humble. We are attending to a “story of forever” and the generations follow each other home eternally, “one behind another” and yet “None...above the other.” Harjo has placed us squarely in the heart of the human journey, life and death, and has prepared us for what comes next.

Now when we move on to “Buffalo hunting weather,” with “light breaking through the storm,” we can be fully present: “There you can see your mother.” This scene, I believe, is depicting both an event in real time and a memory: “She is as busy as she was ever...” The vivid imagery – “a new jingle dress,” “a set of finely beaded gear” – delights us and grounds us in the joy of a festive day. However, as the poem proceeds, the time frame shifts to include the eternal. We begin to realize that Harjo has given us a vision of a mother who has passed on and become an ancestor. The “welcome home dance” is enacted here on earth and also eternally. To believe in the communion of saints is to understand what this “most favorite of all” celebration is really about, “when everyone finds their way back together.”

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Advent Open House

The Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus
and the Holy Child Associates Invite You to Our



On Friday, December 8, 2023, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and the Holy Child Associates will be hosting an **Advent Open House** and self-tour of Nativity displays from around the world.

Guests of all ages are welcome. Bring your family and friends to browse the many Nativity displays lovingly collected by the Sisters throughout the years!

Refreshments will be provided.

Friday • December 8, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
1341 Montgomery Avenue • Rosemont, Pennsylvania

For information or to RSVP by December 4, 2023, please contact Sandy Lovascio
(slovascio@shcj.org) or call 610-626-1400 ext. 1301.
RSVP is appreciated but not required.

The Story Wheel, cont. from previous page.

Here is the archetype of the wheel, of the timeless dimension where Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. On this mortal plane where we have “fought and

played,” there is a sacred story that holds us together “to dance eat and celebrate” and reassures us that “no one/was ever really lost at all.”

Encore

Kathy Enos, cont. from p. 5

their own doing. Truly, I am a better person.

Linda: What do you enjoy doing in your free time? What are your passions?

Kathy: I don't have much free time! I always feel great after a nice long walk where I can pray to God about my concerns as well as thank Him for my joys. I enjoy getting together with friends and family both near and far as often as I can. My true passion, though, is making a difference in other people's lives.

Linda: What are your "dearest hopes" for your Associate relationship and relationships with the Sisters?

Kathy: As I continue my relationship with the Society, I look forward to embracing God's people in ways that are responsive to their needs and discovering how to grow my relationship with the Sisters.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

American Province Laudato Si' Committee

The American province Laudato Si' Committee gathered for the first time on Wednesday, September 7, 2023, via Zoom. The members introduced themselves and discussed their hopes and concerns for this committee. They, also, participated in a poll to determine which three goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform the province should begin to implement, as well as, the best day/time to meet. The three action platform goals the committee will be working on are: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, and Response to the Cry of the Earth.



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Our good God is ever ready to bring forth fruit where we least expect it.

–Cornelia Connelly



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