

# Actions

## Caring for Creation

American Province  
*Takes Action*





# Congratulations to Our 2023-26 Province Leadership Team!

On Friday, June 2, 2023, the 2023-26 American Province Leadership Team of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus was officially installed during a virtual blessing and prayer service.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, who is the new province leader, and to her leadership team members, Mary Kerner, SHCJ, Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ, and Marie Ursino, SHCJ. Outgoing provincial leader Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, and her team, Kathleen Cordes, SHCJ, Francine Gunther, SHCJ, Carol Ann Knight, SHCJ, and Anita Quigley, SHJC, were also acknowledged for their wonderful work.

The Providence Leadership Team ministry spans three years and advances the Society's mission to rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world. The team collaborates with Sisters, Associates, schools, ministries, alumni/ae, staff, and supporters "to meet the wants of the age."

We extend our prayers and blessings to the 2023-26 American Province Leadership Team!



*The 2023-26 American Province Leadership Team poses outside of Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.  
(From left) Holy Child Sisters Jeanne Ronzani, Mary Kerner, American Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, and Marie Ursino.*

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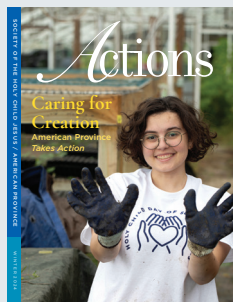
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## On Our Cover:

*Cam M. '24 of Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland, responds to Pope Francis' call to care for all creation during the school's day of service.*

*Photo by Everett Litten, Connelly School of the Holy Child.*



*Actions is a biannual publication of the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Comments and questions can be directed to [actions@shcj.org](mailto:actions@shcj.org).*



## DEAR FRIENDS,

We continue to be inspired by the words of our foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, whose faith in God taught us what it means to live with a love full of action and how each day is an opportunity to begin again,

*“So ought all to begin again with the most sweet and holy and loving Child Jesus—a humbled God—walking with him step by step in the ways of the child.”*

This quote from Cornelia, as relevant today as it was 177 years ago, is especially poignant as we begin the new year. Today and every day, we begin again, filled with promise and hope in God’s presence and action in our world.

With the promise and hope that comes from trust in God, our new Province Leadership Team began its three-year term in June 2023. I am honored and thankful to serve alongside my team members Mary Kerner, SHCJ, Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ, and Maire Ursino, SHCJ. As a team, we will endeavor “to meet the wants of the age” and serve our entire Holy Child community—Sisters, Associates, schools, ministries, and friends—with Cornelia as our companion.

My team and I, together with our whole province community, are grateful for the service and leadership of our predecessors, Carroll Juliano, SHCJ, and her team, Kathleen Cordes, SHCJ, Francine Gunther, SHCJ, Carol Ann Knight, SHCJ, and Anita Quigley, SHCJ.

In this edition of *Actions*, our lead story provides an update on the province’s commitment to caring for creation and embracing Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. The province’s *Laudato Si’* Committee has made significant strides since its first meeting in September 2023, and we look forward to more advances in 2024. Thank you to the committee!

This past fall, we celebrated women in the Catholic Church in several ways. On September 16, 2023, we honored Saint Phoebe, the first female deaconess, and prayed for the Catholic Synod on Synodality, where women religious were included for the first time. Please read more about the celebration on page seven. In October, Cornelia was at the center of a province-sponsored pilgrimage to England, where she founded the Society in 1846. See pages eight and nine for more details and photos. And our own Margaret (Peggy) Crowley, SHCJ, was recognized for her life-giving work at Saint Luke Institute.

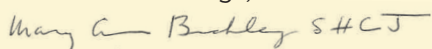
We also honor five Sisters who served with a love full of action and recently passed away—Inez Berger, SHCJ; Jaqueline Jelley, SHCJ; Rosemary McCarthy, SHCJ; Mary Frances Nevins, SHCJ; and Florence Rice, SHCJ. Beginning on page 10, we share highlights of their lives and service to God and society.

Since the last *Actions*, our Holy Child alumni/ae have shared photos from reunions and get-togethers, including the first-ever Cornelia Connelly High School Alumnae Association Reunion in Anaheim, California. It’s heartening to see the Holy Child connection as strong today as it was 177 years ago. Enjoy the alumni section beginning on page 14.

We thank the Holy Child Associates who attended the international gathering in Santiago, Chile, in November. On the inside back cover, we invite you to read about our Associates and their meeting.

On behalf of the leadership team and the Holy Child Sisters, we thank you for walking “step by step” with us on our journey to advance the Society’s mission to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in the divine presence. Together, we will find hope, promise, and joy in God’s creation as we begin again, today and always.

Peace and blessings,



Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ  
American Province Leader







*Middle School students from Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland, volunteer at Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land Garden Guild. Produce from the vegetable garden supports people in the parish and Catholic Charities food pantries. Photo by Everett Litten, Connelly School of the Holy Child.*

# Caring for Creation

## American Province Takes Action

**I**n 2015, Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, a 184-page Encyclical Letter that appeals to every person to care for all life and protect our natural environment. Faith communities and organizations worldwide have embraced Pope Francis' message. For the Catholic Church, *Laudato Si'* is a spiritual and educational resource that explains the interconnectedness between human activity and the Earth's natural resources.

Since the release of *Laudato Si'*, the American Province has responded to Pope Francis' letter through prayer and action, including the allocation of significant resources to aid the poor; an Eco-Actions Program with opportunities for prayer and service; and the Sisters' commitment to socially responsible investments and stewardship of resources that center on "a deep concern for all creation."





*John Abubakar, OSA, an adjunct professor from Villanova University, and Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ, led a five-day retreat at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, on the “Hopes and Goals of Laudato Si’.”*



*Third Graders from Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, volunteer at the Share Food Program/Nice Roots Farm in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they work on a food packing assembly line. The Share Food Program distributes millions of pounds of food to hundreds of thousands of neighbors in need, making it the leading hunger relief organization in the Philadelphia region.*

Following the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis launched the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, a seven-year, “action-oriented initiative” to implement the seven goals of *Laudato Si’*:

- Response to the Cry of the Earth
- Response to the Cry of the Poor
- Ecological Economics
- Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Resilience and Empowerment

In June 2023, American Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, and her team formed the American Province *Laudato Si’* Committee to support the international Society’s efforts to realize the goals of the Action Platform and “to achieve real and lasting



*To kick off the 2023 Season of Creation, Sept. 1 – Oct. 4, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus produced and distributed a reflection video for 800 meditation subscribers on “the connectedness of all life.”*



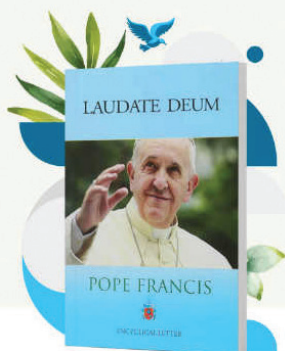
## Caring for Creation continued...

solutions to the ecological crisis.” As a starting point, the American Province has made a formal commitment to the platform (see right column) and plans to act on the following three goals in the upcoming year: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles; Response to the Cry of the Earth; and Ecological Education.

In future editions of *Actions*, we will share updates on the province’s progress implementing the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform.

In the meantime, we ask our Holy Child family to support and join our efforts to care for creation and to realize the interconnectedness of all life and natural resources. We specifically invite you to learn more about the *Laudato Si’* and *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis’ follow-up publication to *Laudato Si’*, and to respond to the environmental needs of our world with “Actions Not Words.” We also welcome your comments and suggestions, which you can send to us at [actions@shcj.org](mailto:actions@shcj.org).

As a community, let us work together to respond to Pope Francis’ appeal to Care for Earth and all its living creatures.



“Eight years after *Laudato Si’* ... I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.” (LD, 2)

*On October 4, 2023, Pope Francis released *Laudate Deum* (“Praise God”), an apostolic exhortation to his *Laudato Si’* (“Praise be to you”), urging society to make immediate changes to policies, practices, and lifestyles that are harming the earth.*



## THE AMERICAN PROVINCE’S PLEDGE TO CARE FOR CREATION

*In November 2023, the American Province joined with communities and organizations throughout the world to protect all of God’s Creation through the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. Below is our pledge.*

The Sisters in the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, in union with our Sisters in Africa and Europe, Holy Child Associates, educational and ministry collaborators, and employees, commit ourselves to the *Laudato Si’* Action Plan. Our commitment flows from the Society’s mission—**to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in the divine presence**—and from our Incarnational charism to witness and acknowledge God’s loving presence in all people, in all creation, and in all stages of life.

We stand with Pope Francis’ call in *Laudato Si’* to recognize that “Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.” (*Laudato Si’* 42)

We seek to address matters of justice, peace, and integrity of creation through prayer and by developing an action plan for the *Laudato Si’* goals:

- Response to the Cry of the Earth
- Response to the Cry of the Poor
- Ecological Economics
- Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Resilience and Empowerment

Through our action plan, we seek to transform attitudes, behaviors, and practices to reduce threats to the environment and all creation. We will also continue to assess and reevaluate our action plan.

With the Society’s motto, “Actions Not Words,” we accept “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.” (*Laudato Si’* 13)



# Prayer to Beatify Venerable Cornelia Connelly

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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).*



## MEMORIAL TO VENERABLE CORNELIA CONNELLY

AND

## THE SHRINE OF THE HOLY CHILD

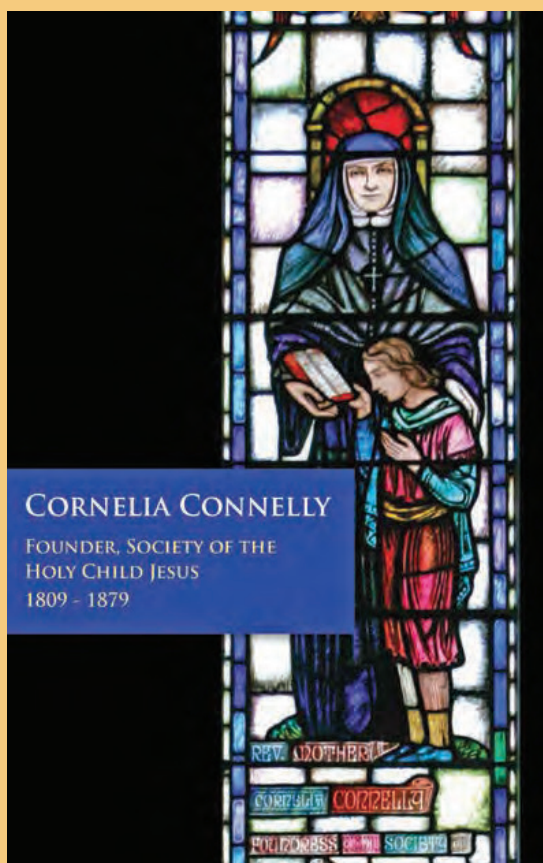
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



## Come, Visit and Pray!

Venerable Cornelia Connelly, born in Philadelphia in 1809, is the foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She offers inspiration to all who seek the presence of God in their vocations, especially those in difficult marriages and/or have suffered the death of children.

Notification of any favors through the prayerful intercession of Cornelia may be sent to Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, at [info@cathedralphila.org](mailto:info@cathedralphila.org).



## 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*



# Celebrating Women in the Church

**T**he American Province celebrated Saint Phoebe Day at Holy Child Chapel in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The celebration coincided with the Catholic Church's historic decision to include women at the Global Synod on Synodality, which began in October 2023.

Saint Phoebe, a Christian woman from the first century and a trusted friend to Saint Paul, answered God's call by ministering to persecuted Christians. She is a patron for women in the church and the ordination of women to the diaconate. Saint Phoebe's feast day is September 3.

*I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.*

—Saint Paul, Romans 16:1-2

At the American Province's celebration, Holy Child Sisters, Associates, alumni/ae, friends, and staff joined together for evening prayer for the Synod and to observe the gifts and voices of women in the church. In her welcoming remarks, American Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, shared "We've come together to pray in celebration of the gifts of women in the church, and in the churches. In the Catholic Church this is a moment of great importance because the question of ordination of women to the diaconate has come from listening sessions around the world and is on the agenda for the coming meeting (Synod)." In addition to readings, reflections, and songs, Christine A. Hagedorn, D.M., Assistant Professor and Business Discipline Coordinator at Rosemont College, gave witness to the Synod's theme, "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent," by speaking to the importance of women in the church and society.



Icon of Saint Phoebe by Mary Kerner, SHCJ



Holy Child Sisters, Associates, staff, and friends join in prayer and song at the Saint Phoebe Day Celebration.



(Above left) Christine A. Hagedorn, D.M., Assistant Professor and Business Discipline Coordinator at Rosemont College, gives witness to the Catholic Church Synodal theme, "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent." (Above right) Holy Child Associates Cathi Duffy and Michelle Dugan pose for a photo before the Saint Phoebe Day Celebration in Holy Child Chapel.



# Walk the Sacred Paths of Our Foundress

*Pilgrims pose between two buildings on the north side of London's Cavendish Square, where the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus had lived and founded School of the Holy Child Jesus. In 1953, artist Jacob Epstein created the sculpture of the Madonna and Child, using lead acquired from building rubble after World War II.*



**T**he American Province organized pilgrimages to “walk the sacred paths” of Venerable Cornelia Connelly, foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. The first pilgrimage took place on April 19, 2023, when 30 people visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Cornelia’s birthplace and where she lived until the age of 22. One of the Philadelphia pilgrims, Margaret Dalesandro, an alumna of Holy Child Academy, Sharon Hill, reflected, “I have always imagined Cornelia’s young life in Philadelphia as one of comfortable privilege. The Pilgrimage gave me a completely new (and realistic) perspective on the experiences that shaped the life of service that she chose by cooperating with the grace of God.”

In October 2023, 16 pilgrims embarked on the second pilgrimage and traveled to England, where Cornelia founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1846.

This pilgrimage coincided with the feast days of Saint Edward the Confessor on October 13, the official founding date of the Society, and Saint Teresa of Avila on October 15, the date observed as the Society’s founding day.

Pilgrim Judy Talvacchia, a Holy Child Associate and an author of Cornelia’s biography, reflected that the trip gave her “rich insights into the culture and content of Cornelia’s life in England and the life of the early Society.” Linda Mennis, another pilgrim and Holy Child Associate, shared, “Cornelia’s story is our greatest inheritance; despite betrayal from friends and family, disappointments, and misunderstandings, she always set her compass to joy. And what a joy it was to follow her path.”





*At Mayfield School's Founder's Day Mass for the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Ronan Lavery, the school's Lay Chaplain, welcomes the pilgrims.*



*Dr. Joanna Wendell, Head of Mayfield School's History of Art, speaks to pilgrims about Mayfield Chapel's architecture and history.*



*In 1935, Cornelia's body was exhumed and moved from Saint Leonard's on Sea in Hastings to Mayfield School in Sussex. Cornelia's grave marker is on the exterior of Mayfield's chapel.*



*Pilgrims pose with Holy Child Sisters from the European Province and American Province and members of the Mayfield School community at Cornelia's memorial in the school's chapel.*



*European Province Leadership Team member Jenny Bullen, SHCJ, (center) poses with Associates from the American Province at the school's reception.*



# Sisters remembered



**INEZ MARIE BERGER, SHCJ (MOTHER JOHN VIANNEY)**  
**November 27, 1929 – April 19, 2023**

Born and raised in California, Sister Inez came from a tight-knit, loving family, whom she enjoyed immensely and visited often. Sister Inez inherited her mother's impressive dressmaking and crafting skills, which she shared with the Society and others. Her letter-writing skills were legendary. Sister Inez reflected, "Sharing a gift of artistic composition always impresses me for the joy it brings to the receiver as well as the giver. As a Holy Child Sister, realizing Cornelia's marvelous talents, I find that using my artistic gifts has certainly shown me God's constant love and presence. The rewards are never-ending. I feel God's presence and help in every situation."

Sister Inez began her teaching ministry on the East Coast at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, Pa. (1951-53) and Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, Pa. (1953-56). In 1956, she returned to the West Coast, where she would live and serve for the next five decades. Sister Inez taught at Assumption School in Pasadena, Calif. (1956-67 and 1972-75); Saint Rita in Portland, Ore. (1967-72); Saint Charles School in Portland, Ore. (1975-79); and her alma mater, Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child (1980-2001). In 2001, Sister Inez retired from full-time teaching but continued to help the Mayfield School community. In 2015, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pa., where she made many friends with Sisters and staff. Her serene presence and gentle voice were a gift to all who knew her.

**JACQUELINE JELLEY, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY CECILE)**  
**July 15, 1929 – April 26, 2023**

Sister Jackie began her teaching ministry at Saint Mary School in Melrose, Mass. (1950-51). In 1951, she moved to California, where she served as a teacher and administrator at Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena (1951-62). Sister Jackie then taught at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena (1962-66 and 1968-69) and Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child in Anaheim (1966-68). In 1969, Sister Jackie returned to the East Coast, where she worked as an educational consultant for a nonprofit in Cambridge, Mass.



In 1970, Sister Jackie's focus shifted from education to advocacy and public service, which she pursued for the next two decades. In New York, she served as a special assistant to New York City's City Council, and in Washington, D.C., she worked as a field and editorial director for the United States Congress, the director of finance and marketing at The Network, and a senior reference specialist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sister Jackie published several papers, was recognized by The Southern California Council on Children's Literature, led organizational management seminars, and served on several committees, including the Catholic Library Association and National Catholic Summer Reading Program.

Margaret (Peggy) Crowley, SHCJ, shared, "Sister Jackie wanted to deliberate widely on issues and loved to debate ... At monthly open houses, Jackie gathered a variety of individuals to discuss world affairs and serve her signature dishes of garlic bread and deviled eggs! Jackie loved people and will be remembered by many."





### **ROSEMARY MCCARTHY, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY JANUARIUS)**

**January 13, 1924 – July 7, 2023**

Sister Rosemary was beloved by all who met her. At her Jubilee celebration, Sister Rosemary shared, “From my parents, I inherited a happy disposition ... and tried to share that joy with others. I actively embrace the qualities of Cornelia Connelly—simplicity, humility, charity, and joy. I end each day giving thanks for the blessing of my vocation.”

Sister Rosemary taught for 45 years at four schools, beginning at her alma mater Saint Walburga’s Academy in New York City (1943-51), followed by Holy Child Academy in Portland, Ore. (1951-67), Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child in Anaheim, Calif.

(1967-1979), and Our Lady of Lourdes in New York City (1979-88). In 1988, Sister Rosemary moved to the Holy Child Sisters’ community in Rye, New York. In 1992, she moved to New York City, where she ministered at Dalton Center for Mission from 1992-2005. She also volunteered at a local soup kitchen and assisted the chaplain at New York University Medical Center. In 2005, Sister Rosemary retired from full-time ministry but continued to volunteer her time helping visually impaired people, ministering through prayer, and spreading cheer.

### **MARY FRANCES NEVINS, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY KAREN)**

**August 4, 1937 – July 15, 2023**

Sister Mary Frances spent her first 10 years of service teaching in the Philadelphia area, including at Saint James School (1958-59), Holy Spirit School (1959-62), Saint Lucy School (1962-68), and Saint Leonard’s Academy (1966-67 and 1971-73). With a master’s degree in history, Sister Mary Frances taught social studies at West Catholic Girls’ High School in Philadelphia (1969-71) and Cornelia Connelly High School in Anaheim, Calif. (1978-83).

In 1974, Sister Mary Frances earned a degree in urban planning from Hunter College in New York City. She then completed a one-year paralegal assignment at Villanova University before beginning a ministry at Montgomery County Legal Aid Services. Her next stop was Philadelphia Legal Services, where she served as a public benefits advocate for 10 years. Sister Mary Frances’ background in education and her zeal to serve came together in what she considered her happiest ministry, saying: “Helping people prepare for their court cases enabled them to stand on their own two feet, perhaps for the first time in their lives. Their joy in discovering their personal dignity and worth warmed my heart. This was the culmination of my years of SHCJ ministry.”



### **FLORENCE RICE, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY ST. JUDE)**

**December 15, 1935 – October 17, 2023**

While Sister Florence traveled far and wide, she proudly considered herself a “Melrosian,” having been born, raised, and educated in Melrose, Mass. During her first 14 years of religious life, Sister Florence taught at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia (1956-58); Saint Elizabeth School (1962-65) and Our Lady of Lourdes (1966-68 and 1978-82) in New York City; and Saint Ignatius School in Chicago (1968-69). She also taught at her alma mater, Saint Mary School (1958-62 and 1965-66).

In 1970, Sister Florence joined the pioneering Holy Child Sisters at Santa Rosa School, Lo Barnechea, in Chile, where she witnessed the political trauma of the military coup and its impact on the nation’s citizens. In 1978, Sister Florence returned to the United States and eventually became director of religious education at Saint Mary Villa for Children in Ambler, Pa. In 1985, Sister Florence returned to Chile, where she stayed for nearly six years. She shared that this was one of her favorite ministries.

In 1991, Sister Florence moved to New York City and served at Cornelia Connelly Center, a new ministry of the Province. After 13 years in New York City, Sister Florence relocated to Bryn Mawr, Pa., where she was a volunteer chaplain at Bryn Mawr Hospital and participated in the choir and RCIA program at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish. In 2010, Sister Florence moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pa., and continued her ministries at Bryn Mawr Hospital and Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish for many more years. Until her death, she loved living in community at Holy Child Center.





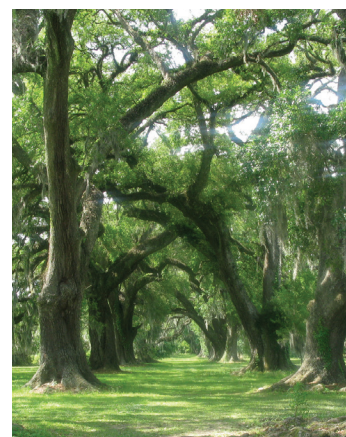
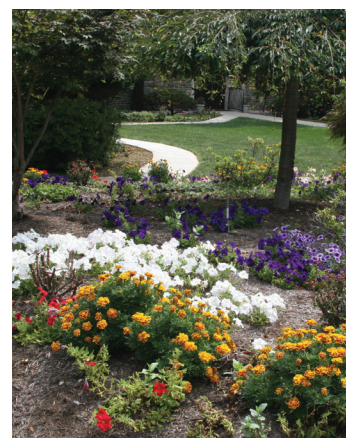
*Holy Child Sisters attend the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Holy Child School at Rosemont in Rosemont, Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 4, 2023.*

## Prayer Cards

A Meaningful Way to  
Remember and Honor  
Family and Friends

To request prayer cards, please contact the Sisters at [holychildsisters@shcj.org](mailto:holychildsisters@shcj.org) or call 610-626-1400 ext. 1307, or visit the Province's website at [www.shcj.org/american](http://www.shcj.org/american). Any donations received through this program benefit the Holy Child ministries.

**Thank you!**





# Love Full of Action

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ) Refugee Collaborative hosted a virtual webinar on immigration on Saturday, September 30, which was led by Angelica Acosta Garnett, M.Ed., and attended by 30 participants.

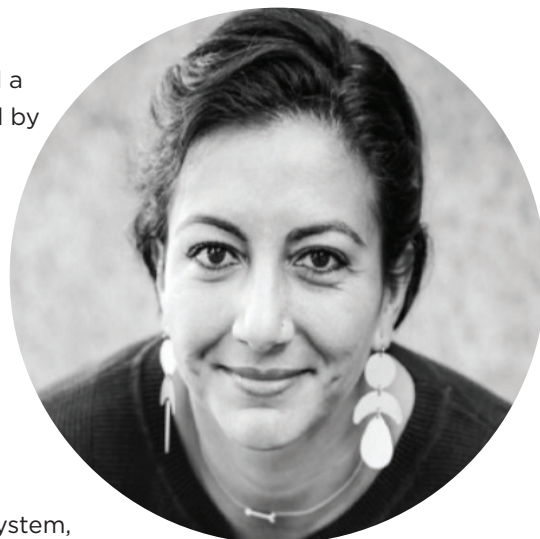
Angelica, born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, immigrated to the United States when she was 17. Today, she lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is married with three children.

Angelica has worked as a United States government teacher and an immigration law paralegal and translator. Currently, she works with ABARA in El Paso, Texas, training groups and organizations to better understand the plight of our immigrant neighbors.

During the webinar, Angelica presented information on the immigration system, the laws governing immigration processes and pathways, key terms, and the current situation at the border. Angelica shared real-life stories of people she has met at the border, highlighting the reasons people leave their countries and the challenges of making the journey to the border. She ended the webinar by offering resources to help participants get involved. She also challenged them to find ways to love their neighbors and care for the least among us, recalling that Jesus and the Holy Family had been refugees seeking asylum.

Founded in 2021, the SHCJ Refugee Collaborative seeks to “do all that it can” to alleviate the suffering of migrant persons and to promote the Gospel message of providing hospitality to strangers. Members include Holy Child Sisters, Associates, ministry partners, colleagues, and friends in the American Province.

For more information on the collaborative, contact Mary Popit, SHCJ, at [marypopit@att.net](mailto:marypopit@att.net).



## Congratulations to Margaret (Peggy) Crowley, SHCJ

On Monday, October 16, 2023, Sister Peggy received the Saint Luke Award from Saint Luke Institute. The annual award recognizes someone whose professional life or charitable works embody the Institute: the rebuilding of the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual life of those in need.



*Rev. James E. Garvey, O.Praem., D.Min., president and CEO of Saint Luke Institute, presents the Saint Luke Award to Margaret (Peggy) Crowley, SHCJ. Photo by Michael J. Colella.*

# Reunions

CORNELIA CONNELLY HIGH SCHOOL  
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Last year, a group of like-minded women who share a connection through Cornelia Connelly High School (CCHS) came together to develop the Cornelia Connelly High School Alumnae Association (CCHSAA). Through the inspiration of Venerable Cornelia Connelly and the Holy Child ideal, the CCHSAA's focus was to regenerate the "Connelly Spirit" among CCHS graduates, former CCHS students, past administrations, faculty, and CCHS families and friends. The goal of this association is to provide opportunities to reconnect with CCHS graduates through social media, all-class reunion events, service project activities, and other memorable opportunities.

On April 22, 2023, the newly formed CCHSAA and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus—American Province hosted an All-Class Reunion at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California. Close to 100 CCHS graduates, faculty, and administration were in attendance. The night began with a special celebration of Mass and the dedication of the beautiful Della Robbia plaque (below), which at one time hung on the office door at CCHS. Now, to honor CCHS, the plaque proudly hangs in Mayfield Senior School's lovely courtyard.



The evening provided opportunities for classmates to reignite friendships and share memories as they perused yearbooks and the memorabilia table. It also offered reconciliation and healing for those friends and faculty who have passed on and for the loss of our beloved school. The night highlighted a new path forward for CCHS graduates and faculty with an introduction to the alumnae association and its future goals.

Let's keep the momentum going! The CCHSAA invites you to connect with us at [www.cchsaa.com](http://www.cchsaa.com) or [cchsaa2023@gmail.com](mailto:cchsaa2023@gmail.com). Please reach out to us with your questions and contact information and to post memories, updates, and future class reunion events.

Beverly Locy Taylor '77  
Lisa Pereda Butcher '94  
CCHSAA Co-Presidents









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

## The Mission Advancement Staff can assist you with:

- Compiling class lists for reunions;
- Promoting a reunion on the American Province's Alumnae/i Reunions webpage and social media channels;
- Sharing reunion photos on social media and in *Actions*; and
- Adjusting your preferences for receiving American Province communications.

### Contact us at

610.626.1400, ext.1301 or  
slovascio3@gmail.com.

Be sure to check out the Alumnae/i Reunions  
webpage at [www.shcj.org/american/alumni](http://www.shcj.org/american/alumni).





# Reunions

## HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, SHARON HILL, PENNSYLVANIA



**ALL-CLASS REUNION**

**CLASS OF 1973**





## HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, PORTLAND, OREGON

### CLASS OF 1960



### CLASS OF 1961

## HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS



### CLASS OF 1956



### CLASS OF 1962



## ROSEMONT SENIOR SCHOOL, ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA



**CLASS OF 1973**

## ST. LEONARD'S ACADEMY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



**CLASS OF 1973**

## ST. LUCY SCHOOL AND ST. EDWARD SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



**CLASS OF 1969**



# SUSTAIN A *Bright* AND *Joyful* SPIRIT

SUPPORT OUR HOLY CHILD MINISTRIES  
YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### Donate by Mail or Online

Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
1341 Montgomery Avenue  
Rosemont, PA 19010

[www.shcj.org/american/giving/  
ways-you-can-support-the-society](http://www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society)

### Contact your financial adviser or fund administrator to arrange for:

IRA Rollovers  
Donor-Advised Fund

### Donate Stocks and Securities

View instructions for wiring securities on the Society's website at [www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society](http://www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society).

### Create a Legacy Gifts

Name the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province as a beneficiary in your Will or Trust, Life Insurance, or Retirement Plan Assets.

**For more information on ways to give,** please visit the Society's website at [www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society](http://www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society).

Be generous  
and of  
great heart.



Thank you for supporting the  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus!



*Holy Child Associates from three continents gather in Santiago, Chile, for an international meeting.*



*Rita Fortner, Holy Child Associate from the United States, presents at the meeting.*

## International Associate Gathering in Santiago, Chile

**T**his past November, approximately 40 Holy Child Associates from Chile, the Dominican Republic, Europe, and the United States gathered in Santiago, Chile, for a six-day meeting. The theme of the gathering was based on the Cornelian saying, “Our boat has put off from shore, now we must row.”

Associates joined in prayer and reflection and discussed plans for ongoing collaboration with the Holy Child Sisters to live out the Holy Child charism and advance the Society's mission. Eileen Dorman, a Holy Child Associate from the American Province, shared that the conference was a wonderful gathering “where Cornelia’s joyful spirit was certainly among us during our meetings, meals, and outings. Many new friendships were formed. It was a life-giving and renewing time for all of us.”

Holy Child Sister Nancy Bello, who lives and ministers in Chile, shared, “Our days together were days of work that we hope will bear fruit in time and the spirit of joy and community. Now, we have to row towards the depths, towards where the Lord wants to guide us, and here we are with the oars in our hands to make this boat go and take it there.”

Holy Child Associates are men and women inspired to deepen their spirituality through personal prayer, reflection, spiritual development, ministry, and community. Rooted in the charism of the Society's foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Associates bear witness to a life grounded in the Incarnation. For more information on becoming a Holy Child Associate, contact [holychildassociates@gmail.com](mailto:holychildassociates@gmail.com). All are welcome!

**“Our boat has  
put off from  
shore, now we  
must row.”**

**—Venerable Cornelia Connelly**



*Holy Child Associates enjoy a boat ride during the gathering.*





Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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Rosemont, PA 19010

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## 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:*

### 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 23, 2024**

**Holy Child Sisters Jubilee  
Celebration**

**American Province**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024**

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

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