

Actions

Delivering Hope

Chilean Holy Child Sister,
Holy Child Associates, and
volunteers bring hope, comfort,
and Bibles to victims of
wildfires in Quilpué, Chile

PRAYER TO OBTAIN THE BEATIFICATION OF 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.

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.



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ON OUR COVER

Filled with emotion, a victim of the wildfires explains to Holy Child Sister Nancy Bello how he found his bronze crucifix, a family heirloom, in the rubble.



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.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Venerable Cornelia Connelly spoke of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus as “our little Society,” and she urged its members to “try to be great in humility and little in ourselves.” At the same time, her own heart was full of great desires: “I wish I had five hundred to take over to America this year ...” Even so, she did not underestimate the power of small, and often used the word “little” in her conversations and prayer:

“We may often by a *little* word help others out of years of trouble ...”

“Receive, O my God, the *little* good I may do this day ...”

“How much depends on your fidelity in *little* things!”



Cornelia understood that even the smallest acts of serving, teaching, and forgiving are the foundation of some of our biggest accomplishments. Through the collective work of our Sisters, Associates, staff, and friends, “our little Society” has accomplished much, one act at a time.

In this edition of *Actions*, we feature the ministry of Chilean Holy Child Sister Nancy Bello and Associates who offered hope and compassion to hundreds of wildfire victims in Chile, one Bible at a time. I thank Sister Nancy and our Associates for living out the Society’s mission by being present and active in our world.

Beginning on page five, we present the Holy Child Network of Schools’ updated goals. These goals flow from Cornelia’s educational system where educators are called to “walk step by step” or to “act after act,” building on each student’s gifts and teaching them to live with confidence and joy. I am grateful to the Network’s Board of Trustees, the Network’s Director Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, and the Mission Effectiveness Committee for updating the goals and criteria—thank you!

On page 21, we congratulate and honor this year’s 10 Jubilarians who served worldwide. We also remember four recently deceased Holy Child Sisters on pages 16-17. Together, these 14 Holy Child Sisters have ministered to thousands of people in Africa, Europe, North America, and South America, one act at a time.

Starting on page 10, the American Province’s Mission Advancement office presents its 2023 Impact Report. We thank all who have responded to the Society’s mission with generosity, or, as Cornelia expressed to a benefactor in 1865, for saying “one little yes.” Thank you for saying “yes” to our mission and far-reaching ministries.

Cornelia wrote, “In the service of God, nothing is little, and those things which appear trifling in our eyes are the very things which God loves.”

With our world and nation facing so many challenges, let us follow Cornelia’s example to serve God and all creation step by step, act after act, and by saying “yes.” With each act and “yes,” we continue “to meet the wants of the age” with “A Love Full of Action!”

Wishing you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer.

With gratitude,

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ
Province Leader



Holy Child Sister Nancy Bello (in red) and volunteers from a Catholic Church walk through the streets of Quilpué, Chile, singing and praying for peace and bringing hope to the victims of the wildfires.

Bibles for Chile

Chilean Holy Child Sister Nancy Bello and Associates bring hope to wildfire victims

On Monday, February 5, Nancy Bello, SHCJ, sent an urgent request to our Holy Child community in the United States—please pray for the people of Chile whose homes were being ravaged and lives were being threatened by wildfires in the Valparaíso and Viña del Mar regions. The fires broke out the first week of February and would eventually lead to more than 130 people dead, others missing or buried under rubble, and thousands displaced from damaged or destroyed homes. Our Holy Child family responded to Sister Nancy's request in true "Cornelia" fashion, offering prayers for those suffering and notes of support to Sister Nancy, who lives and ministers approximately 75 miles from the fires.

Embracing the Society's motto—"Actions Not Words," Sister Nancy and Chilean Holy Child Associates—lay women and men who seek to live a more joyful, compassionate, and reverent life by finding God's presence in our world—jumped into action. They collected items such as solar flashlights and personal products, as well as sewing needles and thread for the victims to mend their damaged clothing.

Sister Nancy and Holy Child Associates took a bus to Quilpué, a city about 90 minutes away and greatly damaged by the fires, to deliver the donated items. Once there, they saw great destruction and heard stories of tremendous personal loss.

Sister Nancy said, "We listened to the people and hoped to give them comfort by bringing out their deep pain." She continued, "It is very sad and painful. Some families lost up to four members."

While in Quilpué, Sister Nancy and Holy Child Associates met a local Catholic parish priest who had a "very special request." In addition to food containers, he asked for Bibles. Sister Nancy explained, "The priest found it completely right and normal to ask for Bibles. He told us that it was important for people to receive a Bible during this tragedy, when they have lost everything. To receive the Word in this context is to bring hope."

Sister Nancy and the Associates returned to their homes "with broken hearts and looking for strength." Despite their grief for those suffering, Sister Nancy and the



Holy Child Associates and Sister Nancy Bello during their first visit to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, Chile.



Bibles for Chile

continued...



Associates jumped into action again, launching the "Bibles for Chile" project to bring hope and light to those who needed it most. She said, "We must pick ourselves up and accept the pain of others."

Through the generosity of Holy Child Sisters, Associates, alumni, and staff, as of early May 2024, more than \$2,000 has been raised for emergency needs and \$3,000 for Bibles.

Sister Nancy and the Associates have already purchased and delivered 100 Bibles and other supplies. She shared that the "people cried when they received the Bibles. It gave them such hope." In addition, the province's "Wants of the Age Fund" awarded a grant to Catholic Relief Services to help the people in Chile impacted by the wildfires.

The Society's foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, wrote, "... as you step on through the muddy streets, love God with your feet ...". Sister Nancy is grateful to all who "stepped" through the devastated streets of Chile to provide light and hope, one Bible at a time. She expresses a special thank you to the Chilean Associates for their incredible work helping the victims. Thank you to the Holy Child community for your "Love Full of Action" and generosity!



Sister Nancy, a Holy Child Sister in the American Province for 18 years, was born, raised, and educated in Chile. She ministers to the homeless and marginalized in Santiago, Chile, and works with our Chilean Holy Child Associates and with her home parish of Santo Tomás.

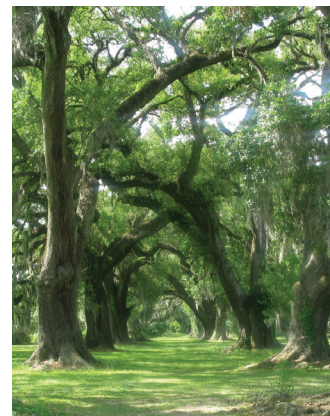
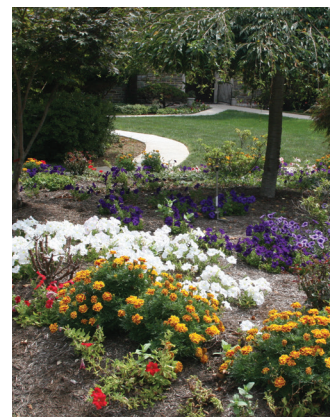
Prayer Cards

A Meaningful Way to Remember and Honor Family and Friends

To request prayer cards, please contact the Sisters at holychildsisters@shcj.org or call 610-626-1400 ext. 1307, or visit the Province's website at www.shcj.org/american.

Any donations received through this program benefit the Holy Child ministries.

Thank you!





Holy Child Network of Schools Releases New Goals

**Inspired by the Holy Child motto
“Actions Not Words,” our students
move forward with confidence and a
sense of purpose and service.**



Photo Credit: Victoria Boland



Photo Credit: ChiChi Ubiña



Photo Credit: Alexandra Badie

In 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Holy Child Network of Schools and the Network's director, Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, released the fifth edition of the "Goals of the Schools of the Holy Child Jesus." The Network's Goals, which were last revised in 2009, embody the mission of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus "to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in the divine presence" and provide direction to school trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff, who create school communities steeped in Holy Child values and principles.

The Society's foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, a mother of five and an educator for more than 35 years, opened the first Holy Child school in Derby, England, in 1846. She wrote the original Holy Child Goals, known as the *Book of Studies*, in 1863. Drawing on her personal and professional experiences, Cornelia's educational system focused on developing mature persons capable of making choices that enrich their own lives and contribute to the lives of others. She sought to feed and nourish a child's "moral and intellectual development" in a joyful, active,

and nurturing setting so that "great things are achieved ... and thus make sure our victory." Her goals were rooted in trust, reverence, and dignity of every person. Today, Cornelia's tenets remain the hallmark of a Holy Child education.

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, Sister Eileen presented the updated Goals and Criteria at Holy Child schools (list on the page 7), emphasizing how a Holy Child education promotes academic excellence and social responsibility.

"A Holy Child education flows from Cornelia's and the Society's principles to 'meet the wants of the age.' Today's curriculum and programs address the social, political, religious, and scientific issues of our time, and are presented through the focus of Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. Holy Child schools foster compassion, openness, critical thinking, intellectual pursuit, and service." Sister Eileen further explained that the following seven Goals for the Schools of the Holy Child are "clearly defined and yet flexible" so each school can personalize its programs to meet the community's diverse backgrounds.

GOALS FOR SCHOOLS OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS

Goal 1

Holy Child schools foster a faith commitment that leads to a joyous personal relationship with God in addressing the realities of the world.

Goal 2

Holy Child schools live, learn, and worship as a dynamic Catholic community.

Goal 3

Holy Child schools offer an intellectually challenging, innovative, and creative program of study that develops academic excellence, encourages curiosity, and instills the joy of learning.

Goal 4

Holy Child schools promote Catholic social teaching in every facet of life as we carry out our motto, "Actions Not Words."

Goal 5

Holy Child schools create a learning climate based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person.

Goal 6

Holy Child schools promote the personal growth and development of all who participate in the life of the school.

Goal 7

Holy Child schools ensure the continuation and growth of the Holy Child mission and philosophy in the school.

Under each goal, a list of criteria is presented on how to live out each goal, and every six years, each school participates in a peer-review "mission effectiveness" study to ensure the goals and criteria are being met. The study is conducted by a committee of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students from various Holy Child schools.

Sean Glynn, Esq., the Network's board chair and a Holy Child alum parent, shares that the newly released Goals and Criteria reinforce what the schools are doing already. "Trustees, heads of schools, administrators, faculty, and staff do a terrific job discovering, strengthening, and amplifying the gifts of each person in a joyful, nurturing, and active environment. Inspired by the Holy Child motto 'Actions Not Words,' our students move forward with confidence and a sense of purpose and service. Our world needs Holy Child graduates."

The Network Board of Trustees and Sister Eileen express their deep gratitude to Holy Child school trustees, heads of schools, administrators, faculty, and staff for their contribution to updating the Goals and, more importantly, for their role in educating our Holy Child students. Thank you!



Photo Credit: Everett Litten

HOLY CHILD SCHOOLS

Cornelia Connelly Center

New York, New York

Connelly School of the Holy Child

Potomac, Maryland

Holy Child Academy

Old Westbury, New York

Holy Child Academy

Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus

Pasadena, California

Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus

Pasadena, California

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child

Summit, New Jersey

Holy Child School at Rosemont

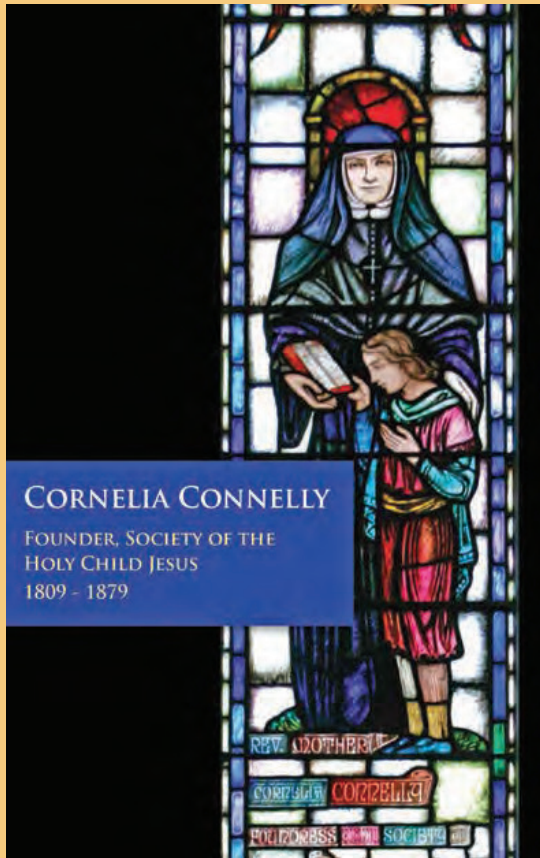
Rosemont, Pennsylvania

School of the Holy Child

Rye, New York

Scan the QR code to see the Goals and Criteria for the schools of the Holy Child Jesus.





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.*

"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

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.

Care of Creation

PROVINCE UPDATE



(From left) Jane Roach, SHCJ, and the staff at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, plant flowers and herbs to celebrate Earth Day. // Holy Child Sisters Sheila McNiff and France White “spark hope and promote healing” at the 2024 Los Angeles Walk for Freedom to End Human Trafficking. // Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, and the director of human resources and chair of the province's Green Committee Jessica Keaveney celebrate the solar eclipse at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.

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 Action Platform goals, including realizing “real and lasting solutions to the ecological crisis.”

For the past several months, the *Laudato Si'* Committee has been meeting and developing “action” steps to achieve the following goals in 2024:

- Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles;
- Respond to the Cry of the Earth; and
- Ecological Education.

Sister Mary Ann and her team have also reinstated the Green Committee to examine ways the Sisters' campus, provincial offices, and retirement community in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, can implement new practices to better care for the environment.

Let us work together to respond to Pope Francis' appeal to Care for Earth and all its living creatures and recognize the interconnectedness of all life and natural resources.

#ActionsNotWords



A large, vibrant blue and green globe of the Earth is the central focus, held gently by numerous hands of various skin tones reaching up from below. The hands are positioned around the globe, with some fingers resting on its surface. The background is a bright, clear sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is one of unity, care, and environmental stewardship.

Thank You

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for choosing to partner with the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and for supporting our mission: “To rejoice in God’s presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world.” Embodying God’s living presence, the Sisters work to “meet the wants of the age” and build a more sustainable future through their education, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries.

Our 2023 Impact Report conveys how planned giving initiatives will ensure that the Sisters’ important work continues to flourish long into the future. With gift planning, you can make an impact by providing long-lasting support for the Sisters while achieving your personal financial objectives. Should you be considering a legacy gift, we invite you to explore the benefits of planned giving at shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society. On page 14, we acknowledge Cornelian Society members who have included the Sisters in their estate plans.

We are so grateful for the many ways you help us continue our ministries. On behalf of the Sisters, we extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering commitment. Together, we are truly making a difference.

Gratefully,



ADVANCEMENT OFFICE STAFF

Regina DiGuilio
Director of Mission Advancement
Extension 1315
rdiguilio@shcj.org

Sandra Lovascio
Mission Advancement Associate
Extension 1301
slovascio@shcj.org

Rosalyn McDuffie
Mission Advancement Assistant
Extension 1307
rmcduffie@shcj.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Society of the Holy Child Jesus,
American Province**
Mission Advancement Office
1341 Montgomery Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010
610-626-1400

Tax ID Number

Registered 501(c) (3) Organization
Federal Tax ID: 23-6271012
Date Founded: 1846

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SUMMARY OF ANNUAL APPEAL GIVING

	NUMBER OF DONORS	FUNDS RAISED
Academy of the Holy Child — Portland, OR	27	\$12,808
Annunciation Catholic School — Washington, DC	6	\$ 1,871
Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child — Anaheim, CA	15	\$2,862
Holy Child Academy — Sharon Hill, PA	119	\$54,949
Holy Child High School — Waukegan, IL	71	\$27,709
Holy Spirit School — Sharon Hill, PA	2	\$440
School of the Holy Child Jesus, Senior School — Rosemont, PA	26	\$4,980
School of the Holy Child — Suffern, NY	28	\$13,545
St. Anastasia Catholic School — Waukegan, IL	2	\$1,300
St. Edward the Confessor School — Philadelphia, PA	4	\$290
St. Elizabeth School — New York, NY	2	\$525
St. Ignatius School — Chicago, IL	10	\$3,550
St. Leonard's Academy — Philadelphia, PA	77	\$40,721
St. Leonard's Boys School — Philadelphia, PA	9	\$1,925
St. Mary High School — Melrose, MA	25	\$5,820
St. Mary of the Annunciation School — Melrose, MA	2	\$75
St. Rose School — Portland, OR	2	\$ 300
St. Walburga's Academy — Rye, NY	1	\$40
West Catholic Girls High School — Philadelphia, PA	7	\$1,370
Holy Child Network of Schools	23	\$8,817
Alums	458	\$183,897
Archdioceses		\$ 15,008
Corporations/Foundations/Matching Gifts		\$6,993
Family		\$70,238
Friends		\$55,916
Organizations		\$ 10,353
Parishes		\$ 1,800
Schools and Class Gifts		\$ 2,730
Other Support		\$ 12,523
Total Other Support		\$175,561
Total Giving — Annual Appeal		\$359,458



Photo Credit: Rachael Lapite

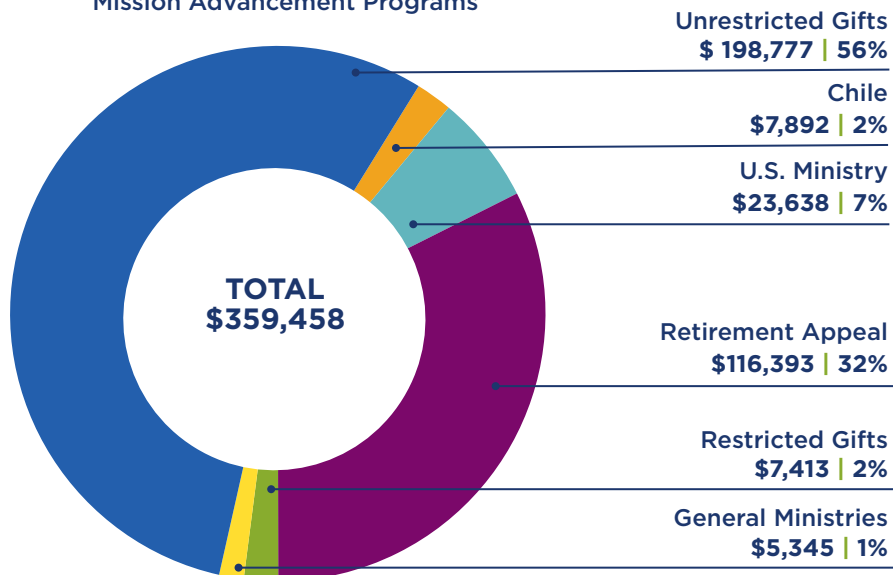
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL

Mission Advancement Programs

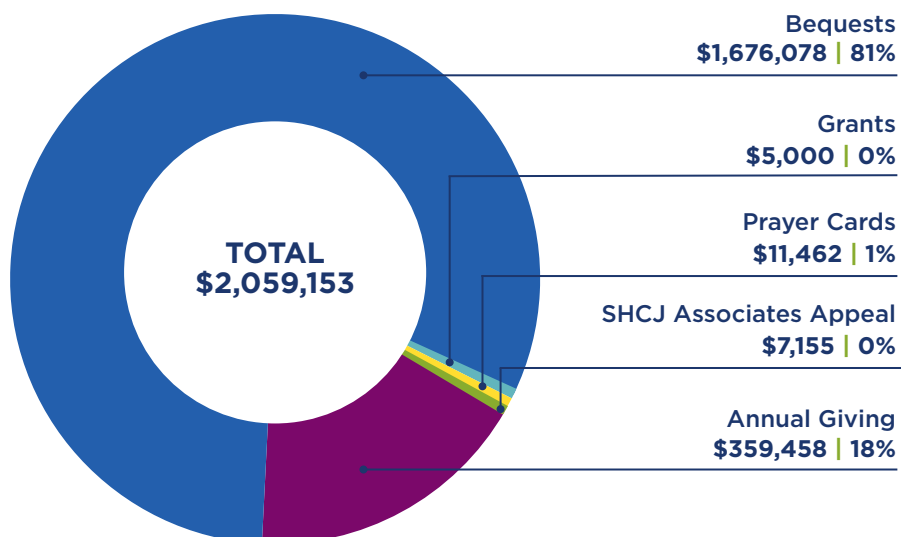


USE OF FUNDS RAISED

Support of Retired Sisters	\$215,880	60%
Support of Ministries	\$143,578	40%

ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Mission Advancement Programs



PARTICIPATING MATCHING GIFTS

Contact your Human Resource Office and complete the matching gift form to designate the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province as the match recipient.

DESIGNATE YOUR UNITED WAY GIFT

For Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, the Society's United Way designation code is #07586.

For other United Way agencies with a Donor Option Program, our designation is:

Holy Child Center
1341 Montgomery Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010



THE CORNELIAN SOCIETY

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus is thankful to the members of the Cornelian Society—family members, graduates, and friends—for their planned gifts.



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 Marguerite Bader and
 John Foundos
 Richard and Mary Bienvenue
 Susan Mongiello Bocchetti
 Mary Boetgerkelle
 Dr. Melissa A. Butler
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 Karen Burke Dunn
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 Edwards
 Marian Fell in Honor of Lucy
 and George Fell
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2023 BEQUESTS

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 June Matthews Freeman
 Margaret Mary Kiely, Esq.
 Susanne Palmer, Ed.D.
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 George R. Phillips, USMC
 Paul D. Smith
 Mary Elaine Sweeney

“I support the Society’s work today because it encompasses so many honorable things: education, the care of children, the needs of the disadvantaged, and the spiritual nurturing of all with whom they interact.”

Kathryn G., St. Leonard’s Academy ’71



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.

Create a Legacy Gift

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.

Be generous
and of
great heart.



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



Sisters remembered



NANCY HAGENBACH, SHCJ (MOTHER AGNES MARY)

August 27, 1934 – December 27, 2023

Sister Nancy, with her infectious smile and quick wit, was loved by many. She taught for 30 years at East Coast schools, including the Holy Child School at Rosemont in Rosemont, Pennsylvania (1957-58), Saint Elizabeth School in New York City (1958-61 and 1984-86), Holy Child Academy in Old Westbury, New York (1961-63), Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey (1963-66 and 1976-81), and School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York (1969-76). In 1986, Sister Nancy's focus shifted to pastoral care and social services. She ministered to the elderly in Saint Elizabeth Parish in New York City and then at Saint Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, New Jersey. In 1993, when the Archdiocese of Philadelphia closed Saint Edward Parish and School, where the Holy Child Sisters had served since

1886, the Society's American Province was eager to maintain its Holy Child presence in the Fairhill community. At the request of the Province Leadership Team, Sisters Nancy and Margaret (Peggy) Doherty, SHCJ, established Providence Center. After 30 years, Providence Center has become a beacon of hope and a place of peace in Philadelphia's poorest neighborhood. After retiring as the center's director, Sister Nancy continued fundraising and teaching an ESL class there. Sister Nancy was also a faithful volunteer at Philadelphia's Dawn's Place, where she helped women victimized by human trafficking.

CAROLINE CONWAY, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY CAROLINE)

September 25, 1928 – December 29, 2023

Sister Caroline's zest for life, love of people, and deep intellectual curiosity were often expressed through her music, dance, and willingness to embrace new ministries. Sister Caroline began her teaching ministry at Holy Child School at Rosemont in Rosemont, Pennsylvania (1953-55). She was then assigned to her alma mater, Holy Child Academy in Portland, Oregon, where she served for 10 years (1955-65). After her time in Portland, Sister Caroline spent the next three years as head of Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena, California (1965-68). She returned to the East Coast, where she taught at Rosemont College (1968-71). In 1971, Sister Caroline earned a master's degree in religious studies from Temple University and began an eight-year ministry at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland (1972-80). In 1980, Sister Caroline was called to Rome, Italy, to work as Secretary General of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, a position she held for seven years. Sister Caroline's next ministry took her to Grand Junction, Colorado, where she founded Grand Valley Catholic Outreach and served as the organization's director for ten years.





MARY THERESE "TESE" CURRIE, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY ALOYSIUS)

August 19, 1927 – February 14, 2024

Sister Tese's spirit of gratitude and joy endured throughout her decades of service, starting with a teaching ministry at her alma mater, Saint Leonard's Academy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she taught for "six happy years" (1950-56). She then was named the province's assistant to the novice director, a position she held from 1956-64. Beginning in 1964, Sister Tese served as dean of students at Rosemont College for three years. Sister Tese moved to the West Coast to serve as the province's novice director in Pasadena, California (1967-70), and then Portland, Oregon (1970-76), to serve as the Western province's provincial leader.

In 1976, Sister Tese began her "splendid 17-year Chilean ministry." She called her years in Chile the "education of her heart because of the warmth of the people." There, she worked in soup kitchens, education, and pastoral care, and joined an effort to build a Catholic Church and community center. Sister Tese's next destination was Washington, D.C., where she worked as a receptionist at Our Lady of Queen of the Americas Parish (1994-2001), and later as a tutor at San Miguel Middle School (2001-07). She also served as the American Province's editor of the Society's History Project. In 2007, Sister Tese returned to the Philadelphia area, where she volunteered at weekend retreats for Spanish-speaking women and founded The Evergreens, a group of Sisters, Associates, and friends who gathered to pray and share ways of caring for creation. In December 2023, Sister Tese shared that "each day is a gift, bringing me closer to eternity. I am grateful to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus for 73 years of loving care ... I feel happy and blessed."

AGNES CONNORS, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY GENEVIEVE)

August 13, 1926 – April 20, 2024

Sister Agnes dedicated half her life to serving the sick, aging, and dying. While challenging, her work was legendary. On Sister Agnes' 70th Jubilee, she said, "It has not been all moonlight and soft music, but I would do it all over again."

Sister Agnes taught for over three decades throughout the United States, including Saint Mary School in Melrose, Massachusetts (1948-50), Saint Anastasia School in Waukegan, Illinois (1950-53), Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania (1953-55), Saint Charles School in Portland, Oregon (1955-67), Saint Ignatius School in Chicago, Illinois (1967-70), and Our Lady of Humility in Beach Park, Illinois (1970-72).



In 1972, Sister Agnes shifted her full-time ministry from teaching to caring for the aging, ill, and dying. For the next 10 years, she worked at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. At Calvary, she received the Archdiocese of New York's Chaplain of the Year Award and was the first woman to be certified as a Catholic Chaplain by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. In 1982, she accepted a position at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey, as Director of Pastoral Ministry. From 1985-1992, Sister Agnes served at a retirement community in Newark, Delaware.

Sister Agnes moved to the Holy Child Sisters community in Rye, New York, in 1992, to help with the aging Sisters. She then moved back to the Philadelphia area to volunteer at a hospice.

In 2006, Sister Agnes officially retired from active ministry and lived in a retirement community for women religious in Marian Woods, New York. In 2009, she moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she contributed greatly. With her amazing memory, she delighted and often brought smiles to the Sisters and staff.



Reunions

SAINT LEONARD'S ACADEMY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
ALL-CLASS REUNION

More than 50 alumnae gathered for Saint Leonard's Academy All-Class Reunion at the Springfield Country Club in Springfield, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, March 23. Virgil Sheppard, president of Hope Partnership for Education, was the luncheon's guest speaker. Located in North Philadelphia, Hope, a Society of the Holy Child Jesus co-sponsored ministry, is an independent middle school and education center that provides a high-quality, values-based education to students from adolescence to adulthood.



Class of 1973



Gail Sabatino, '75, and Irene DePaul, a former Holy Child High School teacher, pose for a photo.



Connie Hamilton (left) and Catherine Glatts (right) present Virgil Sheppard (center) with a \$1,500 donation to Hope on behalf of the Saint Leonard's Alumnae Association.



Sister Jeanne Marie Hatch, SHCJ, draws raffle winner.

**SAINT LEONARD'S ACADEMY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
50TH REUNION**



**Planning a reunion? Need a class list?
Have reunion photos or memories to share?
Contact Sandy Lovascio, Mission Advancement Associate,
at 610.626.1400, ext.1301, or slovascio@shcj.org.**

CORNELIA CONNELLY HIGH SCHOOL, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Alumnae Association Hosts Day of Wellness and Service

Nineteen alumnae attended the Cornelia Connelly High School Alumnae Association Day of Wellness and Service on Saturday, January 27. Theresa Gartland, Connelly School of the Holy Child class of 1999 alumna and executive director of Sweet Geeks Foundation, gave a presentation on service. The alumnae group made several no-sew blankets that they donated to Foster Love, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of children in foster care.



Celebrating Our 2024 Sublarians



MARGARET ROGERS, SHCJ
75 YEARS



NANCY CALLAHAN, SHCJ
70 YEARS



JEANNE MARIE GUERIN, SHCJ
70 YEARS



CLARITA HANSON, SHCJ
70 YEARS



ELIZABETH MARY STRUB, SHCJ
70 YEARS



PATRICIA TIRRELL, SHCJ
70 YEARS



JEANNE RONZANI, SHCJ
60 YEARS



CAROL ANN SMITH, SHCJ
60 YEARS



FRANCES WHITE, SHCJ
60 YEARS



MARY HAMILTON, SHCJ
50 YEARS



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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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 or co-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

Holy Child Academy,
Portland

All-Class Reunion

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 12, 2024**

Holy Child Academy,
Sharon Hill

All-Class Reunion

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2024**

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

**Please send your
updated information
to actions@shcj.org.**