

Actions

SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS / AMERICAN PROVINCE

SUMMER 2025

"The Archives 'meets the wants of the age' by preserving and sharing its collections and Holy Child legacy with others."

– Emily Wells, American Province Archivist

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:

Emily Wells, Archivist for the American Province Archives and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, poses in the entryway of the Archives in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.



Actions is a biannual publication of the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Comments and questions can be directed to holychildsisters@shcj.org.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In this edition of *Actions*, we seek to bring light and hope into your homes, especially during these challenging times in our nation and world. We also invite you to reflect on the Church's jubilee year, when we renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

We celebrate the historic election of the first American Pope, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, on May 8, 2025. Upon addressing the world for the first time, his gentle and powerful words, "**Peace be with all of you,**" immediately created a spirit of welcome, unity, and hope. Please continue to pray along with us for Pope Leo as he embarks on this vital journey for the Church and peace in our world.

Enjoy reading our cover story on how the American Province Archives lives out 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 to promote the Gospel message of **providing hospitality and openness to all**. This article will give you a unique glimpse into the archives' treasures and documents, reflecting their significant historical, cultural, political, and social contexts. I thank Emily Wells, the province's archivist, and her team for their commitment to preserving, protecting, and sharing our collections and for their welcoming spirit—thank you!



On page 8, you will find an inspiring letter titled "**A Vision for A Future Full of Hope,**" signed by 21 women religious communities including our Society, which was published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on April 27, 2025. Participating in this collaborative communication was uplifting for the religious sisters involved, and we were heartened by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the public, which serves as a source of nourishment for **advancing Catholic social teachings**.

This edition also features important news and events involving the Holy Child Network of Schools, Holy Child Associates, the *Laudato Si'* committee, Rosemont College, and our Holy Child alumni/ae. We also **remember and honor** our Holy Child Sisters who have recently returned to God.

On the inside back cover, we take great joy in congratulating and expressing gratitude to our 2025 Jubilarians. These Holy Child Sisters have demonstrated unwavering faith and love through their years of dedicated service to God and the people of God. **Congratulations to our 2025 Jubilarians!**

Beginning on page 11, the Mission Advancement office presents its Impact Report, highlighting contributions made to the American Province in fiscal year 2024. On behalf of the Holy Child Sisters, I thank our donors for contributing to the Society's educational, social justice, and spiritual and healing ministries. **We are deeply grateful for your support!**

Our Foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, faced significant challenges and personal losses throughout her life, yet she remained steadfast in her hope and vision for a better world. She poignantly wrote, "Where there are many contradictions ... much fruit is to be hoped for." Today, as we confront overwhelming contradictions, worries, and injustices, let us take Cornelia's inspiring words to heart and **courageously envision a future filled with hope**.

Again, I thank you for your continuous support and love of Holy Child!

May you be blessed with a safe and hope-filled summer season,

With prayers and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "SHCJ" written in a slightly different style at the end.

Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ
American Province Leader

AMERICAN PROVINCE ARCHIVES

CONNECTING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND HOLY CHILD LEGACY

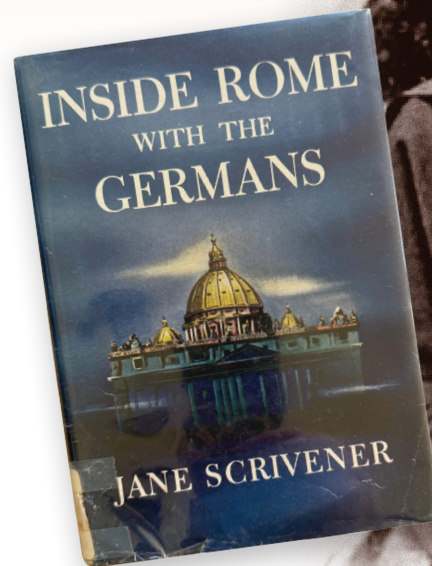
Last fall, a New York journalist contacted the American Province Archives in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, asking for more information about Holy Child Sister Mother Mary St. Luke (1882-1956) for an article he was writing.

In 1945, Mother Mary St. Luke published the book “Inside Rome with the Germans,” which documented her time at the Vatican Information Bureau during World War II. She released the book under the alias Jane Scrivener, but her true identity as the author was revealed in 1981.

Though it is one of the Holy Child Sisters’ quieter ministries, the American Province Archives houses important and intriguing artifacts, documents, and records, including those requested by the New York journalist. The archives preserve and manage the Society’s history and records, as required by the Catholic Church’s Code of Canon Law. The archive’s holdings are a primary source of information on the Holy Child Sisters, the Society’s Foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, and Holy Child schools, organizations, and programs. They provide details about the Society’s history, as well as its contributions to and advancement of the Church’s mission.

Moreover, the province’s archival holdings shed light on historical aspects of U.S. history, including its healthcare, educational system, transportation, immigration, arts and culture, and world events. “There is a wealth of information in the archives – a collection within a collection – that is insightful, personal, and emotional for many,” said Emily Wells, archivist for the Society and province.

Holy Child Sister Mother Mary St. Luke authored the book “Inside Rome with the Germans” under the pseudonym Jane Scrivener in 1945.



The Sisters’ journals, letters, and artifacts bring life and spirit to others. A visitor can read about the fear and worry of American Sisters teaching in Nigeria during the Biafran War, the simple joy of unexpectedly crossing paths with a former student or see original artwork from Cornelia’s family.

In 2024, two researchers from Minnesota consulted the archives for information about the Holy Child Sisters’ educational ministry in Avoca, Minnesota, as part of their multi-year project studying schools that served Indigenous children. The researchers sought truth and justice on behalf of Native American students who were removed from their

“It is Christ Himself entering into time in order to write His own history, in which our scraps of paper are the echoes and traces of the Church’s journey, or rather, of the Transitus Dei, of Our Lord Jesus’ passing through the world.”

– Pope Paul VI

Address on Church Archives • September 26, 1963

families during the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. During their week-long visits, they found “rare treasures” among the Sisters’ journals and photos. They were grateful for the Sisters’ openness in sharing the information and mutual commitment to seek truth and justice.

Holy Child school memorabilia is of great interest and comfort to former students, families, and their loved ones seeking to fill gaps in relationships and family histories. A son of a deceased Holy Child graduate recently spent hours in the archives learning about his mother during her high school years.

Every year, archivist Emily Wells curates special exhibits for Holy Child alumni/ae, donors, and friends. All enjoy these events and the gift of feeling connected, cherished, and remembered. The archives also host several educational visits from Holy Child schools, including students and teachers at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York, in April and Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California, in May.

In recent years, the number of requests to access the province’s archives has grown as research tools become more sophisticated. The province envisions the archives as an important part of its future, serving as a resource for Associates, schools, ministries, alumni, and the public for



(Above) Maureen Duffy, SHCJ, a volunteer at the Archives, shows an illuminated book, beautifully created by Holy Child Sister Mother Mary Philip Mingle in 1928, to a parent from Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California, in May 2025.

(Below) The archives’ collection includes “rare treasures” from the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, including a photo of Holy Child Sisters posing with a local priest and students from the Academy of the Holy Child in Avoca, Minnesota, circa 1888.



decades to come. “Holy Child Sisters see the archives not only as a way of passing on our legacy, especially about Cornelia, the Society’s charism, ministries, and the lives the Society has impacted, but also as a way to make and sustain relationships,” said American Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ. “The archives are about people—the Sisters, our students, our ministries, our volunteers, our supporters, our friends, and those we served. The archives are critical to connecting our past, present, and future for everyone.”

To connect with the American Province Archives, please contact Emily Wells at ewells@shcj.org.



The Archives’ collection includes artwork by Cornelia’s son Pierce Francis (Frank) Connelly, including “Adeline,” the sculpture of Cornelia’s daughter and Frank’s older sister. Frank’s pieces can also be found in collections at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.



American Province Archives staff members Emily Wells (left) and Camille Leonowitz (center) pose with archives’ volunteer Maureen Duffy, SHCJ (right) in front of the Archives building in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.



Archives Assistant Camille Leonowitz points out an exhibit to students and a teacher from School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York, during their class trip in April 2025.

*History has always been considered as
the light of ages, the depository of events,
and the faithful evidence of truth; it
opens to us every age and every country;
keeps up a correspondence between us ...
and sets all their actions, achievements,
virtues and faults before our eyes.*

– Venerable Cornelia Connelly,
Book of Studies



During a visit to the Archives in November 2024, alumnae from Holy Child Rosemont Senior School view yearbooks from their school days.

Holy Child Students Becoming **SERVANT LEADERS**

By Kelsey Coogan, Director of Communications, Holy Child School at Rosemont

On Monday, May 19, 2025, nearly 200 seventh grade students from six U.S.-based Holy Child schools gathered at Holy Child School at Rosemont, across the street from the American Province headquarters of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.

Holy Child students spent the day learning about and reflecting on what it means to be a servant leader, especially in light of their upcoming role as leaders of their middle schools next year. Emily Wells, archivist for the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the American Province, gave a presentation on the Society's Foundress, Venerable Cornelia Connelly, and Cornelia's life as a servant leader. Students also participated in service activities, collaborative art projects, a prayer service, and recess.

During their visit, Holy Child students forged connections with one another and recognized the similarities between the six schools and what it means to be Holy Child. The gathering underscored the value and strength of the Holy Child Network of Schools.

Many thanks to the Network's board of trustees, Eileen McDevitt, SHCJ, director of the Network, faculty members, school staff, and students for making this day incredibly meaningful! **#HolyChildSchools**



(Photos by Victoria Hopkins, Holy Child School at Rosemont)



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

We, the Sisters in the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Holy Child Associates, and employees commit ourselves to the following *Laudato Si'* goals* in 2025:



Holy Child Associate and American Province Laudato Si' Committee Co-chair Linda Tarney (above) with her husband Gerry (right) celebrate Earth Day by cleaning a quarter mile of road near their home. #ActionsNotWords



Ecological Spirituality:

1. Establish a small prayer space near a window in your home or office. Visit this area regularly to reflect on nature and the gifts of creation.
2. Read or listen to materials on Ecological Spirituality.
3. Share two or three of your favorite images of God's creation, such as photos of animals, flowers, loved ones, etc., with others.

Response to Care of the Poor:

1. Support and/or donate to organizations that serve those without homes and living in poverty.
2. Continue to support Holy Child sponsored and co-sponsored ministries that serve immigrant communities and asylum seekers, including Casa Cornelia Law Center, South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (SC LAMP), Transborder Coalition for Border Ministries, and Providence Center.
3. Support local organizations that serve asylum seekers and refugees with donations of food, clothing, housewares, etc.
4. Expand our knowledge about human trafficking and advocate at the state and national levels for its victims through the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and other organizations.

**Abbreviated version*



(Left) The family of Mary Kerner, SHCJ, poses for a photo during a "family and friends" clean-up effort in their community. Sister Mary is a member of the American Province Leadership Team and Laudato Si' Committee. #LoveFullofAction

A Vision for a Future Full of **HOPE**

On April 27, 2025, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province, in collaboration with 20 additional congregations of Catholic sisters, expressed our hopes for a better future with the following full-page ad in “The Philadelphia Inquirer.” We believe this messaging has the potential to spread hope and promote unity. Please join us with your “Actions Not Words!”

As Catholic Sisters, vowed women religious, we deeply value the relationships and encounters we have had with so many of you while serving in schools, hospitals, parishes, retreat centers, nursing homes, food pantries, and outreach centers. Even if we do not know each other personally, we feel compelled to reach out to you today to express our heartfelt sadness, grief, and lament as we witness sudden and devastating changes severely impacting people in our communities—people we know, love, and who are our neighbors. Many actions we observe in our nation today seem to contradict values that underlie our shared humanity, values which we have nurtured and endeavored to embody in our actions—although not always successfully—over our lifetimes as Catholic Sisters. Love, compassion, empathy, radical hospitality, and mercy are central to our lives. These values shared among all the world religions make us genuinely human. We firmly believe these values must ground us as a nation if there is to be a future full of hope for ALL generations to come.

Imagine a future centered on principles that allow for the full flourishing of all humanity and our common home, Earth. We know these principles as Catholic Social Teaching. Although you may use different words, the essence of this teaching transcends faith traditions and resonates in the lives of all people of goodwill. Adopting these principles can guide us in the days ahead.

We believe that:

- Every person is an expression of God. All life is sacred.
- We must prioritize the needs of those who are the most vulnerable.
- There is dignity in all work, and the rights of all workers must take precedence over profit.
- Earth is God’s gift to us, and we have the privilege to cherish, defend, and protect her for future generations.
- Justice is the path to lasting peace.

Today, we ask you to join us in living these values with courage. Love our neighbors! Welcome the stranger! Care for the most vulnerable among us! Speak the truth! Work for justice! Only when “We the people” lead with compassion and empathy will a future filled with hope for all generations be possible.

May God continue to bless us on this journey.

With love and hope,

*Sisters of Saint Joseph, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart
of Mary, Malvern, PA
Sisters of the Redeemer
Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart
of Mary, Scranton, PA
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*

*Society of the Holy Child Jesus —
American Province
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia, PA
Cenacle Sisters of the North American Province
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception,
USA Unit
Sisters of Christian Charity
Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity*

*Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Sisters of Saint Basil the Great
Medical Mission Sisters
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary
Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, NJ
US Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph*

HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES

Commitment Ceremony

God has chosen to need women and men in every age to reveal God's love...

– Venerable Cornelia Connelly



On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, the American Province celebrated Jessica Keaveney and Sandy Lovascio as they made their commitment as Holy Child Associates.

Holy Child Associates are men and women in the United States who are guided by Christ, the Incarnation of God, and the foundational insights of Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Currently, there are more than 200 Associates in the province.

Holy Child Associates align with the principles and values of Cornelia – Simplicity, Humility, Charity and Joy – and with the Society's mission to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and to rejoice in God's presence.

We thank everyone who made this commitment celebration so special.

Many blessings and prayers to Jessica and Sandy!

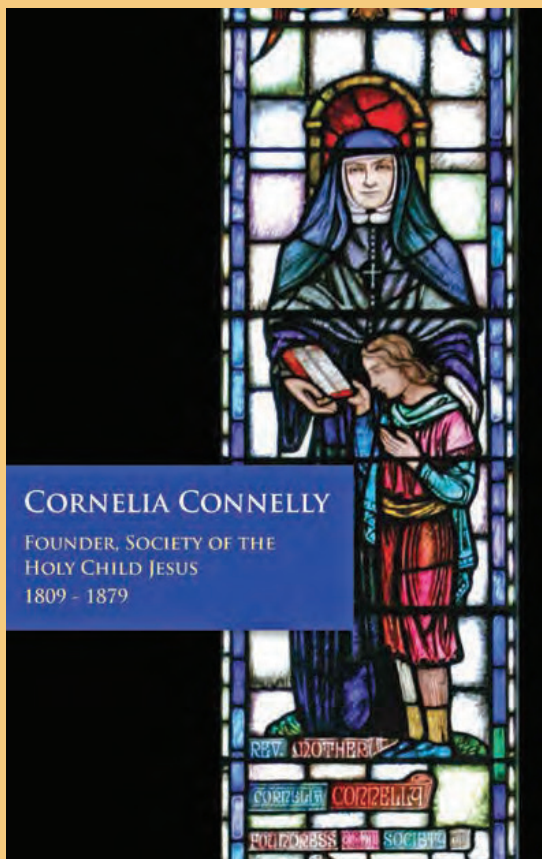
If the Holy Child mission and values inspire you, consider becoming a Holy Child Associate. All are welcome. Please get in touch with us at Associates-USA@shcj.org.



Sandy Lovascio (left) and Jessica Keaveney (right) pose for a photo before their formal commitment ceremony to be Holy Child Associates.

HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES Celebration

In May, Holy Child Associates in Mint Hill, North Carolina, celebrated the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Associate Father Joseph (Joe) Mulligan!



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



Thank You

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Your support profoundly impacts our mission: "To rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world."

The following pages of the 2024 Impact Report illustrate how your generosity empowers our Sisters and their ministries to address global challenges through Holy Child educational, spiritual, healing, and social services. The report highlights the direct results of your support, which enables us to maintain vital ministries, care for our aging Sisters, and build a more sustainable future.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and crucial contributions of time, talent, prayers, and financial support.

As you consider ways to make a lasting impact, we invite you to explore the benefits of a planned gift to the Society. Such a gift allows you to leave a legacy, ensuring the Society's ability to "meet the wants of the age" for generations to come. You can find more information by visiting our website at shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society or by calling the Mission Advancement Office at 610-626-1400, ext. 1301.

Please take a moment to review the following pages of the report to see your gifts in action.

Thank you for making a real difference in our community and helping us sustain our joyful spirit.

Gratefully,

Regina DiGuilio, Director of Mission Advancement



ADVANCEMENT OFFICE STAFF

Regina DiGuilio

Director of Mission Advancement
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rdiguilio@shcj.org

Sandra Lovascio

Mission Advancement Associate
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Rosalyn McDuffie

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Rosemont, PA 19010
610-626-1400

Tax ID Number

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

To receive SHCJ publications electronically, please forward your email address to holychildsisters@shcj.org.

Financial Summary

GENERAL MINISTRIES

\$1,575 | 0%

RESTRICTED GIFTS

\$27,150 | 7%

RETIREMENT APPEAL

\$101,102 | 29%

U.S. MINISTRY

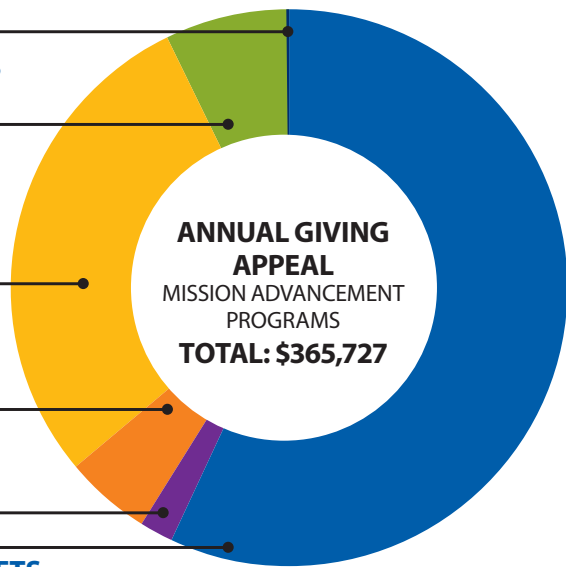
\$18,360 | 5%

CHILE

\$7,510 | 2%

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

\$210,030 | 57%



FY 2024 USE OF FUNDS RAISED

Support of Ministries	\$147,545 40%
Support of Retired Sisters	\$101,102 28%
Capital Improvements, HCC	\$117,080 32%

SHCJ ASSOCIATES APPEAL

\$8,026 | 0%

ANNUAL GIVING

\$365,727 | 28%

PRAYER CARDS

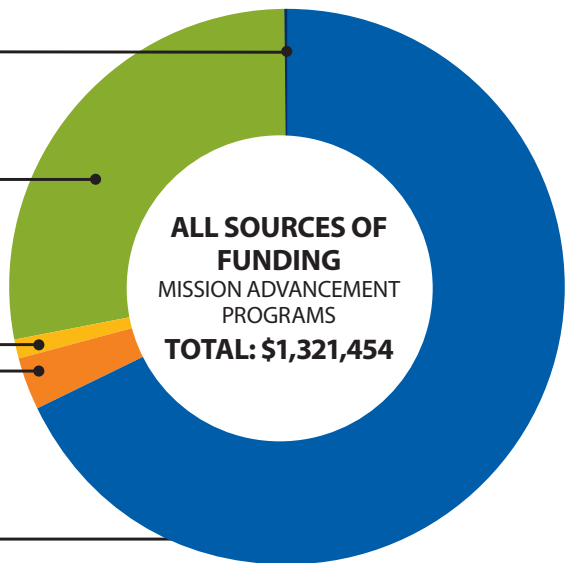
\$12,330 | 1%

GRANTS

\$35,000 | 3%

BEQUESTS

\$900,371 | 68%



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

Giving Made Easy

You can make secure donations online.

Visit our website at
www.shcj.org/american/donate



CORNELIA'S PHILADELPHIA TOUR

Monday, October 20, 2025 • 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$60.00 per person • (Bus transportation and lunch included)



Join us on Cornelia's Philadelphia tour. Our itinerary includes sites that shaped Cornelia's childhood and young adulthood. We hope you will be able to join us and "walk through" the Philadelphia Cornelia knew. The day includes Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and a visit to the Venerable Cornelia Connelly Memorial and Holy Child Shrine.

*For a copy of the day's itinerary and to reserve your spot, please contact
Sandy Lovascio at slovascio@shcj.org or 610-626-1400, ext. 1301.*

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.

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.

Anonymous (19)

Marguerite Bader and John Foundos

Richard and Mary Bienvenue

Susan Mongiello Bocchetti

Mary Boetgerkelle

Marilyn Buckley

Dr. Melissa A. Butler

Sharon Haberski Carmody

Barbara A. Chap

Susan Collins

Debbie Cotter

Janice Hudecheck Davis

Marilyn Dunn DiFelicianantonio

Karen Burke Dunn

Miriam R. Ellinger †

Margaret K. (Froehlich) Edwards

Marian Fell in Honor of Lucy

and George Fell

Anna C. Hamilton

Richard C. and Tracy A. Hare

William C. Hare III

Harry Herman and

Magaretann Green Herman

M. Corinne Bonner Jordan

Diane Kerr Keough

James F. Kuntz

Jacqueline Collette Lefkowitz

Janine Roake Lenartz

Judith A. Linden

Catherine Jane Lynch

Victoria Lynch

Robert H. Mace, Jr.

Gabriella Maertens

Kathleen Maylander

Dorothy Cobb McGeehan

Mary J. McLaughlin †

Carol and Kevin McMenamin

Rosemary Baxter Miller

Joseph Mulvaney †

Karen Kilkelly Nawrot and

Charles F. Nawrot

Karen O'Connell

Mike and Rita Wade Pagoulatos

Terri Moffa Paramito

Joanne Parrilli and John Faggi

Sandra Novak Parsons

Miriam Hunt Passarella

Linda Ann Frison Preisendorf

Mary Beth Regan

Wendy Ricker

Kathleen Carroll Riviello

Donna Roberts

Patricia Papenbrock Rodenbaugh

Dr. Suzanne M. Savoy

Mary Katherine Teresi Schroeder †

Angela M. Seracini, Ph.D.

Barbara Strasser Seubert

and William Seubert

Rev. Vincent J. Sheehy

Madeline Mary Sherry, Esq.

Kathleen M. Spencer

Judy Talvacchia

Kathy Tatlow

Linda Walsh and Terrell Dixon



Patricia Bernstein Wells

Mariellen Whelan, Ph.D.

Susan Wolstenholme, Ph.D.

Ora Wry, Ph.D.

2024 BEQUESTS

Charles G. Adkisson

William Downey

Helen Grunke

Mary Anne Kelleher

George Omas

Frederick P. Peters

Mary Elaine Sweeney

† Denotes donor is deceased



Pilgrims of Hope

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/donate

IRA Rollovers and Donor-Advised Fund

Contact your financial adviser or fund administrator.

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.



Our hope begins with you!

Please support our Holy Child Ministries.

Your gift makes an impact.

Thank you!





Society of the Holy Child Jesus
AMERICAN PROVINCE

Rosemont College Merges with Villanova University

A Statement from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus – American Province

We, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, share the Rosemont College Board of Trustees announcement about the merger agreement the board has entered into with Villanova University. Rosemont College, founded by our Holy Child Sisters in 1921, will become part of Villanova University by the end of 2028.

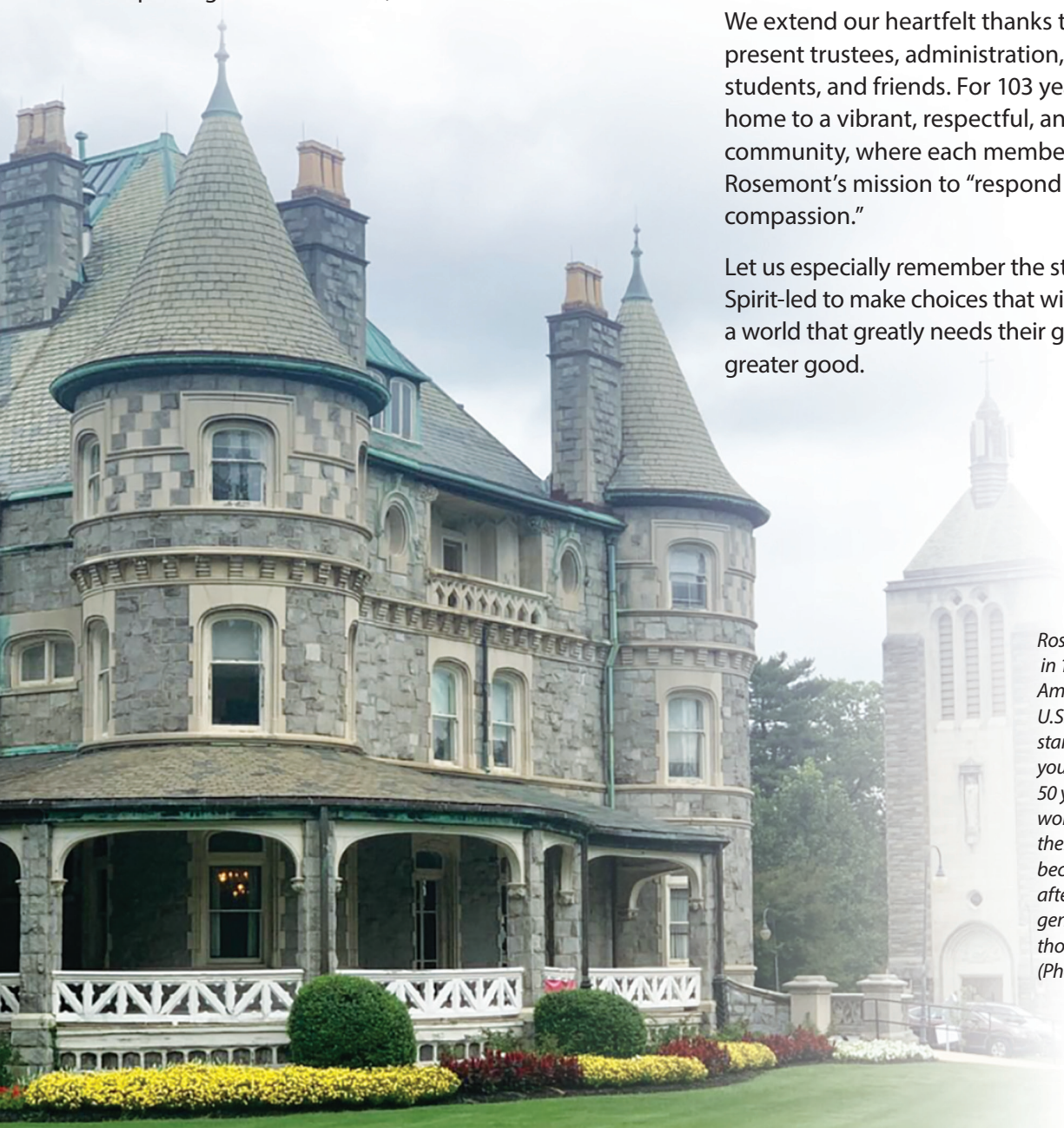
We support the board's decision and believe the merger presents a path forward to build on Rosemont's legacy. We anticipate a graceful transition, which will include current

students completing their degrees and tenured faculty having employment opportunities, while preserving Rosemont's heritage. We are grateful that a life-giving, future-oriented merger has been negotiated with Villanova, an expanding institution led by our longstanding Augustinian neighbors and friends. We are also mindful of the sadness felt by our Rosemont community, especially the students, alumni/ae, faculty, staff, and administration, regarding the loss entailed in the merger

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rosemont's past and present trustees, administration, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, students, and friends. For 103 years, the college has been home to a vibrant, respectful, and intellectually curious community, where each member is called to live out Rosemont's mission to "respond to life with joy, zeal, and compassion."

Let us especially remember the students. May they be Spirit-led to make choices that will foster their flourishing in a world that greatly needs their gifts and energies for the greater good.

Rosemont College was founded in 1921, one year after the 19th Amendment gave women in the U.S. the right to vote. The college started with the goal of educating young Catholic women. About 50 years later, it began admitting women who had paused or delayed their education. In 2009, Rosemont became co-educational and soon after focused on supporting first-generation college students and those with limited financial resources. (Photo credit: Rosemont College)



Reunions

CORNELIA CONNELLY HIGH SCHOOL, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
Alumnae Association's Second Annual Service Day Project
March 8, 2025



ST. LEONARD'S ACADEMY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

All-Class Reunion Saturday, March 22, 2025



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.



Sisters Remembered

ANN-JOYCE PETERS, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY DOMINA)

July 20, 1937 – May 2, 2025

Sister Ann-Joyce ministered with a caring spirit, a beautiful smile, and a wonderful sense of humor. She found God wherever she served, including in some of the most poverty-stricken regions.

She began her teaching ministry at Saint Leonard's Academy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1959-61), before serving for 12 years as the head of the junior school at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey. Sister Ann-Joyce then ministered at Our Lady of Lourdes School (1973-78) and Saint Elizabeth School (1978-80) in New York City. While living in New York, she studied Spanish in preparation for what would become her next 40 years of service.



From 1980-94, Sister Ann-Joyce served in Santiago, Chile, where the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus had established Centro Cornelia Connelly, a ministry focused on spiritual formation, leadership training for youth and adults, outreach to the city's homeless community, and missionary work. Sister Ann-Joyce immersed herself in the community and her work. Holy Child Associates in Chile connected with "Anita," as they called her, and were saddened by her declining health this year.

In 1995, Sister Ann-Joyce and lay volunteers moved to the Dominican Republic, where they worked at Fe y Alegria School, a Jesuit-sponsored educational program in one of the poorest barrios of Santo Domingo. Three years later, they established a Holy Child mission site in the batey, a Haitian settlement, where Sister Ann-Joyce, Mary Alice Minogue, SHCJ, Kathleen King, SHCJ, and Holy Child volunteers served migrants who lacked necessities such as food and indoor plumbing. All the while, Sister Ann-Joyce continued to invite women and men to become Associates. Sister Ann-Joyce considered working in the batey a "privilege" and a "gift."

After 19 years in the Dominican Republic, Sister Ann-Joyce returned to Chile, where she resumed her pastoral ministry. In 2020, Sister Ann-Joyce moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she shared her gentle spirit and contagious smile with all.

JANE ROACH, SHCJ (MOTHER MARY CONCEPTA)

August 28, 1928 – February 28, 2025

Outgoing, gracious, loving, and quick to make friends, Sister Jane remained active in the lives of family, friends, former students, and those with whom she had ministered, even in her later years.

Sister Jane was raised in a close-knit Irish Catholic family in the small community of Crestwood, New York. After graduating from Rosemont College in 1950, she entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and made her first and final vows in 1953 and 1958, respectively.

Sister Jane's educational ministry spanned six decades. She served at Saints Peter and Paul in Fleetwood, New York (1953-56); Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California (1956-66); Holy Child Academy in Portland, Oregon (1966-72); Saint Elizabeth School in New York City (1972-78); Our Lady of Humility in Beach Park, Illinois (1979-83 and 1984-96); and Annunciation School in Washington, D.C. (1983-84). In 1978, Sister Jane enjoyed a year as an exchange teacher at a Holy Child School in Edgbaston, England.

After a sabbatical in 1996 at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Sister Jane remained in Cambridge for 12 years, serving as a librarian at Saint Peter School. In 2009, she moved to the Holy Child community in Rye, New York, where she volunteered until 2013 as a librarian at the School of the Holy Child.

Sister Jane moved to a Holy Child community in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 2015, when the Holy Child Sisters' community in Rye closed. In fall 2022, Holy Child Center in Rosemont became her home, where her love for walking continued and she could be found offering a hug or smile or joining in the celebrations and activities.



MARY SAMSON, SHCJ (MOTHER CHARLES MARY)

September 5, 1935 – May 29, 2025

From personal life experiences, Sister Mary understood that life is fragile and meant to be lived fully, in the “sacrament of the present moment.” She also felt called to create a better world. She wrote, “I believe that when God finished creation on the seventh day, God passed on the role of creator to us. My little world, no matter how small, is there for me. God and I want it to be a better place for my having been part of it.”

Raised in Melrose, Massachusetts, Sister Mary attended Saint Mary School. She entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus immediately after graduating high school, making her first and final vows in 1954 and 1961, respectively.

Sister Mary taught elementary and high school for nearly two decades, including at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1956-63 and 1965-66); John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia (1963-65); Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania (1966-67); Assumption School in Pasadena, California (1967-68); Saint Mary School in Melrose (1968-70); Holy Child Academy in Old Westbury, New York (1970-71); and Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey (1971-76).

In 1978, Sister Mary earned a graduate degree in pastoral counseling. She then served as the director of pastoral care at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston for almost 25 years. In 2002, Sister Mary accepted a pastoral care position in her hometown parish, Saint Mary's, in Melrose. She immersed herself in the work and regularly connected with the local Holy Child Associates and the school alumni.

In 2022, Sister Mary moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she was loved for her gentle spirit, intelligence, and humor.



CLAIRE SMITH, SHCJ (SISTER JOHN OF THE CROSS)

April 7, 1940 – February 17, 2025

Coming from a large, loving family, Sister Claire described herself as a natural caretaker: “When I saw a need, I wanted to fill it. When a situation was perceived to be snarled, I wanted to set it right.”

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sister Claire attended West Philadelphia Catholic Girls' High School. Sister Claire's love for the Holy Child Sisters who taught there led her to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She made her first and final vows in 1961 and 1966, respectively.

Sister Claire's many gifts were often called upon throughout her religious life. She was a beloved teacher and administrator, serving at Annunciation School in Washington, D.C. (1961-65, 1971-74, 1986, and 1997-99); Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (1965-71 and 1979-84); and Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania (1974-78).

Sister Claire also served as the business manager at the School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York (1984-86), and as the hospital chaplain and caseworker for Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C. (1987-90).

In 1990, Sister Claire was appointed to Holy Child Center's Administrator Team. In that role, she oversaw the center's buildings and the grounds for six years. She also worked in various roles in Rosemont College's Education Department, including as a supervisor of the student teachers.

In 2015, Sister Claire moved with six Holy Child Sisters to a retirement facility in Chester County. Once there, Sister Claire's caring heart and concern for the residents quickly became evident.

After an illness, Sister Claire moved to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, in October 2022. Sister Claire's concern and genuine interest in others continued in her new home, with her often asking the Sisters and staff about their families and loved ones.



To make a gift in memory or honor of a Sister, visit www.shcj.org/american/donate.



Sisters Remembered

Continued

JOAN SPEARING, SHCJ (MOTHER ST. MAURA)

November 17, 1932 – February 16, 2025

Sister Joan Spearing always listened with an attentive ear and loved with a warm, caring heart when engaging with others, including the Sisters, her family, students, friends, and colleagues. A friend and colleague of Sister Joan's shared, "With Joan, it was all about giving others the tools to make their way toward God ... she trusted others to use their gifts to speak for the goodness of God."

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sister Joan first encountered the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus in elementary school at Saint Agatha School, and then again in high school at Saint Leonard's Academy. In 1957, she entered the Society and made her final vows in 1964.

Sister Joan began her teaching ministry at her alma mater, Saint Leonard's Academy (1959-61), before moving to Holy Child Academy in Sharon Hill (1964-73).

She resumed her academic career in 1973, studying theology and psychology. For the next 20 years, she served in higher education and pastoral and counseling ministries, including at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California (1976-79) and Marylhurst College in Marylhurst, Oregon (1979-94).

In 1991, Sister Joan and her colleagues established Cornelia Pastoral Counseling near Portland, Oregon. In 1994, she moved to West Linn, Oregon, to serve as a spiritual director and counselor.

In March 2017, Sister Joan made her home at Holy Child Center in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, where she shared her gentle spirit and kindness with all.



*To make a gift in memory
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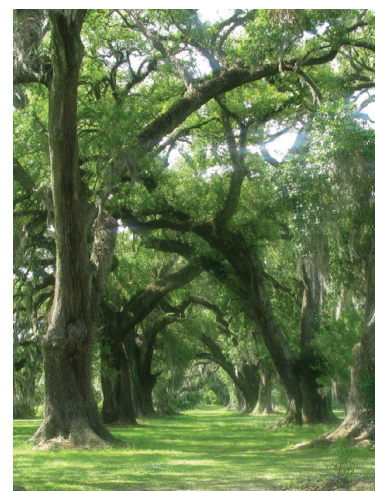
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Any donations received through
this program benefit the
Holy Child ministries.

Thank you!



Celebrating Our 2025 Jubilarians



ELEANOR HAUCK, SHCJ
(Mother Dennis Mary)
70 YEARS

"My favorite Holy Child value is love. I rely on God's love to sustain me in both good and difficult times. I would choose to be a Holy Child Sister all over again."



THERESE (TERRI) MACKENZIE, SHCJ
(Mother Ellen Mary)
70 YEARS

"Cornelia's concern for the whole world, her naming herself cosmopolitan, and our mission to find the divine presence in the whole interrelated world, have been a special gift to me. They call me to learn about our cosmic community and to care for each beloved member. I am grateful for being part of the SHCJ community."



JOANNE WEGENER, SHCJ
(Mother Mary Julia)
70 YEARS

"A plaque on our novitiate wall read: 'Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy, and perfect love can make it a joy.' The depth of Cornelia's love for God and her seemingly unbounded trust in God inspired and strengthened me throughout my life as an SHCJ."



BARBARA BARTLETT, SHCJ
(Sister Donald Mary)
60 YEARS

"Actions Not Words, the Holy Child motto, is important to me. This has been true since I met the Sisters as a high school student. As I live my vows each day, my experiences continue to challenge and enable me to be an instrument of God's love and to share it with others."



MARGARET MARY BELL, SHCJ
(Sister Mary Jacqueline)
60 YEARS

"As a high school student, I could see something special about my teachers — Holy Child Sisters — and I wanted to be like them. Life has not been easy, but I love Holy Child, its people, and its ministries."



CATHERINE CALLAGHAN, SHCJ
(Sister Mary Remigius)
60 YEARS

"Religious life has been wonderful. I've felt connected from the moment I entered, even when I questioned my decision. The Sisters are beautiful and have gentle spirits. I continue to desire this."



ELIZABETH GILMORE, SHCJ
(Sister Madeline Mary)
60 YEARS

"Help me to be faithful to your call and bring to completion all you have begun in me."
- SHCJ Renewal of Vows



CAROL ANN KNIGHT, SHCJ
(Sister Maria Sponsa)
60 YEARS

"When I met the SHCJ for the first time, a whole new world opened for me. The Sisters were very different from any others I had previously met - they were gentle, human, and very spiritual. I am grateful to all the daughters of Cornelia Connelly who have shared their lives with me and have helped me to become the SHCJ I am today."



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 and 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
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Rosemont College
(Rosemont)

CHILE

Pastoral Ministry in the Southern Zone
of the Archdiocese of Santiago
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St. Leonard's Academy
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1975 Class Reunion
August 23, 2025

Holy Child High School,
Waukegan, Illinois
1975 Class Reunion
September 13, 2025

Annunciation Catholic
School, Washington, D.C.
All-Class Reunion
October 11, 2025

Cornelia's Philadelphia Tour
October 20, 2025

Advent Open House & Mass
Rosemont, Pennsylvania
December 8, 2025