

HOLY CHILD ASSOCIATES

AMERICAN PROVINCE - USA



*“Let Us Love One Another with God, in God, and for God”
~ Venerable Cornelia Connelly*

Image designed by [Freepik](#)

ACTIONS NOT WORDS

Vision of Associates

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

Mission

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

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

From the Chair



As the arrival of spring and Easter bring promises of new life, the Associates rejoice in the new life we are experiencing. In the past year, we have welcomed 8 new Connecting Associates. Five Associates have made commitments as Collaborative Associates. Right now, there are 8 Associates in the discernment process to make formal commitments. Their gifts and their witness to the Associate vision and mission enrich us, the Province and the Society.



Photo by Amy Humphries on Unsplash

Twenty-two Associates and Sisters, from all parts of the country and 3 from Europe, met online for a Lenten retreat on March 7th. The retreat was composed and facilitated by Holy Child Associates. We reflected and shared insights from the Book of Jonah to deepen our "Yes" to God. The retreat was then shared with the Holy Child Collaborative to be used or adapted for Lent.

The Core Team is busy helping local Associates to establish connections with Holy Child Schools and ministries to make the Associates better known and to collaborate on ways to advance the SHCJ mission.

God feels very present and active among Associates. We pray that our witness and actions are fruitful in making God known and loved in our world.

Wishing you every blessing,

Judy Talvacchia, Core Team Chair

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Share the Journey

In the spirit of Venerable Cornelia Connelly, we are reminded to “love one another with God, in God, and for God.” As I reflected on those words, I was drawn to the phrase one another. I found out that one another appears in the New Testament 50 times. The art of “One-Anothering” is to love well. To love well, we need to put on the mind of Christ. Practically speaking, to put on the mind of Christ is to intentionally adopt Jesus’ attitudes, perspectives, and values and to view people through the lens of love. Pope Leo challenges us to take on the mind of Christ by abstaining from harsh and hurtful words and refraining from judging others. By this, we will show that we love others with God, in God, and for God.

Jesus and the apostles challenged the people of their day and all of us to love one another by caring for one another, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, welcoming one another, showing hospitality to one another, living in harmony with one another, exhorting one another, serving one another, bearing one another’s burdens, to name a few. The commonality among all these actions is community. True holiness may begin between God and the soul, but it finds its full expression in community. The spirit of community is alive and well on Tuesday mornings when we gather on Zoom for our weekly Faith Sharing. We take time to pray, reflect, and share the Good News. We truly care for one another, serve one another, welcome one another, and bear one another’s burdens. We are living out the art of “One-Anothering.”

Upon further reflection, I see Cornelia as a real model of “anothering.” She looked beyond herself and reached out to those on the margins. Today’s SHCJ Sisters and Associates also model compassion and concern for the vulnerable. Through their daily example, we learn to welcome the stranger, feed

the hungry, advocate on behalf of the struggling, lift up the poor, teach the vulnerable, and pray for those most in need. I am most grateful for the lessons learned from SHCJ Sisters and Associates and am challenged to follow their footsteps, as well as those of Cornelia. “Let us love one another with God, in God, and for God.” In this Easter Season, may we be people of JOY always clinging to the HOPE of the Resurrected Jesus.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

Share the Journey

Holy Child Collaborative – Love in Action

“The Holy Child Collaborative fosters continued commitment to revealing God’s love in the world.”

Cornelia Connelly’s founding insight of God’s love revealed in the Incarnation finds present day expression in the launch of the Holy Child Collaborative. Sisters and lay partners in the American Province will unite through “shared formation, mutual engagement, and collaborative service.” The goal is to ensure that the charism and mission of the Society remain vibrant well into the future.

with Holy Child schools and ministries in their area to see how we can be of service to further the mission. And we hope to enrich and expand Associate life through our interaction with others in the Holy Child family.

The future looks bright and the possibilities are endless. Cornelia would be proud to see the Province meeting the needs of our time with the combined vision, dedication, and gifts of the Collaborative. Together we will respond to Cornelia Connelly’s prayer that we may love one another with God, in God and for God.

What might you offer to the Collaborative? How might interaction with others in the Collaborative enrich your Associate life?

The Associates have been deeply involved in preparing for the new Collaborative and will be integral participants as it evolves. First and foremost, our witness of living Incarnational spirituality in daily life, reveals the many different

ways in which God’s love can be revealed. We come from different parts of the country. We have different backgrounds and personalities, different life circumstances. We each have unique experiences of the SHCJ. But we are united in our commitment to live the charism and mission in every stage of our lives.

We have contributed significantly already, offering our discernment material and our retreats to the Collaborative in the service of shared formation. We are in the process of connecting local Associates



Above, left to right: Associates Chris Kelly, Cathi Duffy, Anne Ayella, Kitty Sheridan, Stephanie Terril, Nancy Bello, SHCJ, Elian Zajano, Judy Talvacchia.

Left: Michelle Dugan, Judy Talvacchia.

Care of Creation

Laudato Sí Week 2026

One week, May 17-24, 2026, has been set aside for our global Catholic family to celebrate Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Sí: On Care for Our Common Home." This Laudato Sí week is a week of prayer, reflection, and concrete action to care for our common home and embrace integral ecology.

So, make a decision to act with our Catholic family around the globe to make our hope of a clean and sustainable Earth a concrete reality. Choose one action and make it count during Laudato Sí Week 2026.

These actions may include:

Reducing energy use in your home/ institution

Hosting a prayer service or dialogue

Reviewing your purchasing practices (sustainability)

Beginning a long-term sustainability commitment

Caring for a local ecosystem

Engaging/ teaching youth integral ecology and ecological leadership.

[Find more](#) on the Laudato Sí Week website.

From Hope to Action

"Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems."

~LS 61

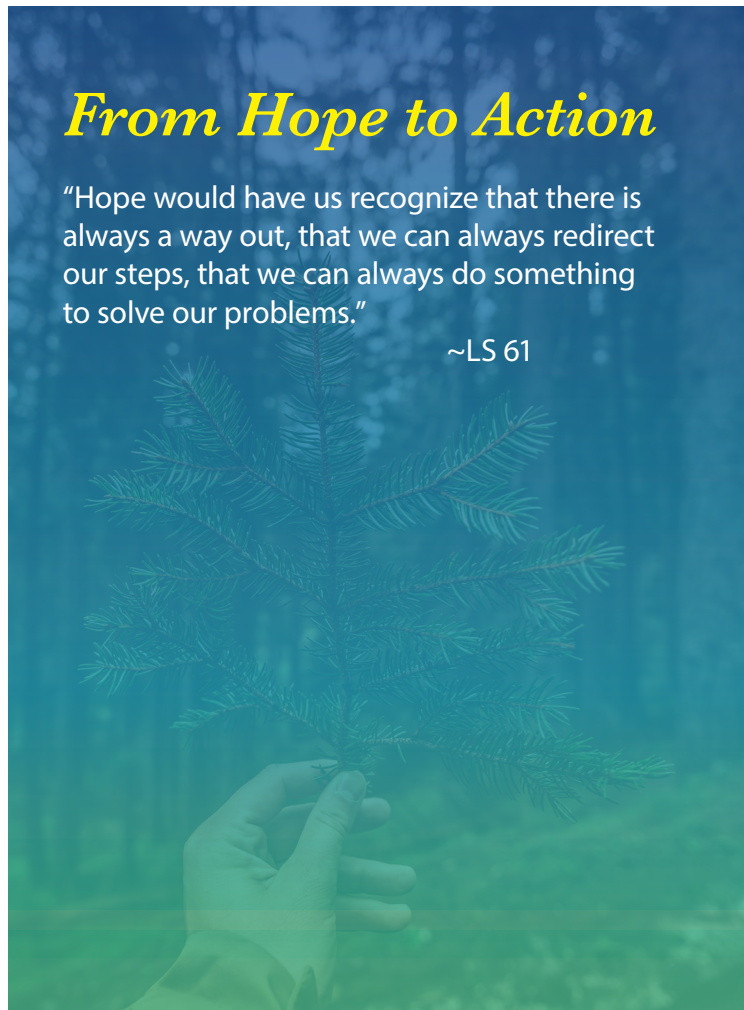


Photo by Erik Fabian on Unsplash

The power of Laudato Sí week is that by participating, we will transform hope into visible action. Through our daily choices, community commitments, and institutional courage we will love all creation with God, in God, and for God by our ecological conversion.

Check out <https://www.laudatosiweek.org/> for more information.

Poetry Off the Shelf

The Moon of Your Love

by Muhammad Shirin Maghribi

*Not a single soul lacks
a pathway to you.*

*There's no stone,
no flower --
not a single piece of straw --
lacking your existence.*

*In every particle of the world,
the moon of your love
causes the heart
of each atom to glow.*

from "Love's Alchemy: Poems from the Sufi Tradition"
Translated by David Fideler / Translated by Sabrineh Fideler

Across the centuries of human history, poets have sought to express mystical truths through imagery. Sufi poet and scholar Muhammad Shirin Maghribi (1349-1408) resided in Tabriz, located in current-day Iran (where bombs are falling). His work has roots in that of Ibn Arabi, whose influence spread across the Muslim world from his home in what is now Spain. Considered by some to be a saint, Ibn Arabi believed in the unity of all existence within the Absolute – what we might call the Christ mystery. Ordained Methodist minister Jan Richardson has established herself as a leading 21st century spiritual writer and director of the Wellspring Studio, LLC. Her professional success as an author and retreat leader speaks to the deep longing for transcendent meaning that persists powerfully even in our secular and materialistic age.

Although the “you” in this particular translation of “The Moon of Your Love” is not capitalized, clearly Maghribi is speaking of God’s love. Everything in the world is infused with it; every soul has a pathway to the Divine. Just as the moon shines with the sun’s rays, so does all of Creation – “every particle of the world,” “the heart of each atom” – glow with God’s all-encompassing light.

“How the Stars Get in Your Bones” is also the title poem of Richardson’s recent volume (2025), subtitled *A Book of Blessings*; these are the last three verses of the full poem, which is about grief. The stars, the brightness, and the “generous light that will not cease” are set against deep darkness and long night. It is “hope that burnishes,” heals, and like Maghribi’s moon, gets everything glowing – “sets it shimmering.” Repetition is key to the last stanza: in stillness, in secret, in becoming, the “shattered heart” finds “the luminous way.” Within us all, in our very bones, are the stars God made, “a constellation.” The poem ends with a song and a promise. Our God is faithful, and the blessing “will not fail to come.”



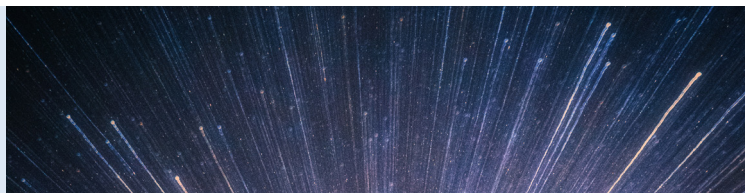
Photo by KAZI MD MAJHARUL ISLAM on Unsplash

How the Stars Get in Your Bones

by Jan Richardson

*I tell you,
this is how the stars
get in your bones.*

*This is how the brightness
makes a home in you,
as you open to the hope that burnishes
every fractured thing it finds
and sets it shimmering,
a generous light that will not cease,
no matter how deep the darkness grows,
no matter how long the night becomes.*



*Still, still, still
the secret of secrets
keeps turning in you,
becoming beautiful,
becoming blessed,
kindling the luminous way
by which you will emerge,
carrying your shattered heart
like a constellation within you,
singing to the day
that will not fail to come.*

From "ReVisionary's View: A Poet's Country is the World"
Blog by Susa Silvermarie

Mahgribi and Richardson inhabited radically different times, places, cultures, and religious traditions. Yet reading these two poems side by side, we notice what binds them across the years to us, to Cornelia, to the communion of saints. Both poets use the imagery of light; both are seeking the Way, just as the early followers of Jesus did and we do now. There have been many names for God, but always the same One, always bringing light and love, incarnate even in our dark world today.

Photo by Casey Horner on Unsplash



Encore

Earth Day 2026

“Our Power, Our Planet” is the theme for Earth Day, Earth Week, and Earth Month in 2026. Earth Day started in 1970 and continues today on April 22. Earth Week centers around Earth Day, while Earth Month is the month of April. Communities worldwide are called upon to take action to support clean air, clean water, clean energy, protected natural resources, and climate stability during Earth Week culminating on Earth Day.

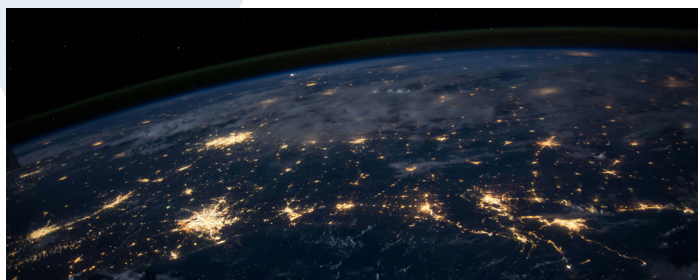


Photo by NASA on Unsplash



The American Province’s Laudato Sí Action Plan under the goal of “Response to the Cry of Earth” asks all Province members, Associates, and employees to participate in an annual clean-up effort in their communities. Let us try to protect God’s creation by praying, advocating legislators, cleaning up our environments, or planting trees in Earth Month 2026.

Check out these Earth Day resources:

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026>

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/programs/earth-day>

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Season of Creation 2026

A sneak peek to increase your thirst for the 2026 Season of Creation, September 1–October 4. The theme for this year’s Season of Creation is “Living Water” from Ezekiel 47:1-12. The symbol for Season of Creation is Immersion in Living Water from Ezekiel 47:9-12. We are called to immerse ourselves in the life-giving water and by being inspired by the Holy Spirit work together for the renewal of Creation.

“Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another.”

—Pope Leo XIV

If you feel drawn to the Associates or would like more information, connect with us.

✉ Email: associates-usa@shcj.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HolyChildAssociatesUSA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/HolyChildAssociates>

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