

Actions

**"God has chosen
to need women and
men in every age to
reveal divine love ..."**

*— Venerable Cornelia Connelly,
Foundress*

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.



IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE: Newly Launched Holy Child Collaborative 3 | 2026-30 Province Leadership Team Announced 8
Care of Creation Update 9 | Discovering New Forms of Ministry in Retirement 10

Holy Child Network of Schools: A Living Holy Child Legacy 11 | Promoting Venerable Cornelia Connelly 14
2025 Mission Advancement Impact Report 15 | Sisters Remembered 18 | Holy Child Reunions 19 | 2026 Jubilarians 22

CONNECT WITH US



facebook.com/HolyChild



vimeo.com/shcj



holychildsisters



flickr.com/photos/holychildsisters



On Our Cover:

(From left to right) Jose Hiraldo, Adult Education Manager and Community Resources Coordinator for Providence Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Shalonda Neely Gutierrez, Executive Director and Head of School of Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City, offer the prayers of the faithful at the launch of the Holy Child Collaborative.



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,

This summer's issue of *Actions* arrives at a significant time in our American Province. On April 18, the anniversary of Venerable Cornelia Connelly's death, more than 170 members of our Holy Child community gathered in person or virtually to launch the Holy Child Collaborative: A new and living expression of the Holy Child mission, rooted in the conviction that "God has chosen to need women and men in every age to reveal divine love." The Collaborative is not simply an organizational structure, it is, as one participant beautifully described it, **"a genuine movement of the Spirit."**

This issue of *Actions* celebrates that Spirit and so many others.

You will read about Sister Barbara Bartlett, who, in retirement, has found a new ministry among young adults with intellectual disabilities at Villanova University's VUnited Scholars Program. Her witness reminds all of us that the **call to mission does not diminish with time; it deepens.**



This issue of *Actions* also features three generations of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child alumnae, whose decades of service at Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City demonstrates that a **Holy Child education is not simply something you receive — it is something you share with others.** And we give witness to our Holy Child community for taking action to care for creation in creative and impactful ways. Thank you!

This summer, we celebrate three Holy Child Sisters marking 70 years of vowed religious life: Helena Mayer, Jean Marie O'Meara, and Rosemarie Tedesco. In addition to their decades of service, their **reflections on gratitude, simplicity, and quiet dignity** found in Holy Child classrooms are enduring gifts for all of us. We also remember and honor Eleanor Hauck, SHCJ, who recently returned to God.

Promotion of Cornelia's cause for canonization continues to grow. This year, Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin, features her in a special exhibit — Catholic Saints of America. In Iowa, an eighth-grade student, inspired by Cornelia's story, reminded us that the **next generation of "saints-in-the-making"** is underway.

Beginning on page 15, you will find the American Province's 2025 Impact Report, themed *Pilgrims of Hope*. **Thank you for your donations and continued support.** They give us hope and make the Holy Child mission and ministries possible.

On page 8, we are pleased to announce the **2026–30 American Province Leadership Team**. Sister Francine Gunther has been named Province Leader, and is joined by Sisters Mary Kerner, Anita Quigley, and Regina Zoot. We offer them our heartfelt prayers as they embrace this new ministry.

Thank you for being part of our Holy Child family and for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful partnership. **Each of you is part of this holy work and the newly launched Holy Child Collaborative!**

Have a safe and blessed summer,

A handwritten signature in dark 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

Holy Child Collaborative

CONNECTING PARTNERS



ADVANCING MISSION

On Saturday, April 18 — a beautiful, breezy spring afternoon and the anniversary of Venerable Cornelia Connelly's death — the Holy Child community gathered to celebrate the official launch of the Holy Child Collaborative.

Nearly 130 guests attended in person, with more than 40 joining via livestream from across the country. For those unable to participate, their prayers and support were still felt.

The Collaborative brings together Holy Child Sisters, lay partners, ministries, and staff of the American Province — Associates, the Network of Schools, sponsored and co-sponsored ministries, Rosemont College, alumni, and friends — **to carry forward the charism and mission of Venerable Cornelia Connelly.** Through shared formation, mutual engagement, and service in partnership, it fosters a lasting commitment to reveal God's love in the world, echoing Cornelia's call to meet "the wants of the age." Its creation flows from the SHCJ's Constitutions:

*"God has chosen to need women and men
in every age to reveal divine love ..."*

The day's events marked the culmination of three years of prayerful planning by the Holy Child Sisters, the American Province Leadership Team, and the laity, **advancing the Province's long-standing commitment to lay empowerment and collaboration**, and responding to the call of the international Society's 2022 general chapter goal "to begin a



American Province Executive Director of Operations and Province Leadership Team gather after the Holy Child Collaborative liturgy. (From left to right) Lori Tedjeske, Executive Director of Operations; Mary Kerner, SHCJ; Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, Province Leader; and Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ.

progressive change in how we organize ourselves today and tomorrow for mission" as vowed religious life shifts in our changing world.

What emerged was more than an organizational initiative — it was, in the words of a participant, "a genuine movement of the Spirit."

*"This day inaugurates a new way to live the legacy
of Cornelia Connelly, of whom we are all heirs."*

— LORI TEDJESKE, Executive Director of Operations, American Province

*The Holy Child Collaborative officially launched
on April 18, 2026, with a liturgy at Holy Child
Chapel in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.*





LITURGICAL CELEBRATION AND SENDING FORTH

Reverend Michael Olivere, a longtime friend of the Sisters and a former teacher at Saint Edward School in Philadelphia, where the Holy Child Sisters also taught, presided over the Eucharistic Liturgy. Beautiful music was provided by the Holy Child Academy Choir, Handbell Choir, and an instrumental ensemble. The story of the disciples' road to Emmaus, from the Gospel of Luke, set the theme: Encountering Christ on the journey, in the breaking of bread, and in one another.

At the heart of the celebration was the Sending Forth Ritual, a deeply symbolic procession of representatives from each Holy Child community approaching the altar, bearing gifts reflecting their unique contribution to the Collaborative. Together, they formed a tableau of the Collaborative's full breadth.

Judy Talvacchia, Core Team Chair for the Holy Child Associates, began the ritual with a reflection on Cornelia's many physical and spiritual journeys, reminding all that with each step, Cornelia encountered Jesus more deeply. "Today," she proclaimed, **"the American Province journeys forward in a new way."**



Reverend Michael Olivere, longtime friend of the Holy Child Sisters, delivers the homily at the liturgy.



The Handbell Choir from Holy Child Academy, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, performs at the liturgy at the Holy Child Collaborative launch.

"We move forward from this day and into the future in hope, because it was that hope that enabled Cornelia and ... everyone who has worked all these years collaborating with the Holy Child Sisters to make the Holy Child spirit a reality for millions of people ... and commit ourselves to continuing that spirit as we move forward with hope."

— REVEREND MICHAEL OLIVERE

THE PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

One by one, representatives of each constituency stepped forward, their symbols embodying a living image of the Collaborative in its fullness.

- **Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus—
American Province**

Holy Child Sisters Jeanne Ronzani and Mary Kerner offered the Society's Mission Statement—an invitation for all to embrace it as their own.

- **Holy Child Network of Schools**

Margaret Fox-Tully and Megan Watkins carried Cornelia's 1863 *Book of the Order of Studies*—which continues to guide Holy Child educators today.

- **Holy Child Sponsored & Co-Sponsored
Ministries**

Jose Hiraldo and Virgil Sheppard brought student-created artwork—voices of the communities they serve.

- **Holy Child Associates**

Anne Ayella and Cathi Duffy offered formation binders, commitment ritual pins, and newsletters—a living witness of lay partners in spirit and mission.

- **Rosemont College**

Margaret Doyle, SHCJ, and Mara Kudla presented a rose—the college's enduring symbol, representing over a century of Holy Child higher education.

- **New Sharon Campus Staff**

Risa Dankwerth and Gina D'Orazio shared a word cloud signed by staff—a testament to unity and daily commitment to mission.

- **Holy Child Alumnae/Alumni**

Jeanne Marie Blair and Elaine Zajano offered yearbooks spanning elementary, high school, and college—stories of lives shaped by the charism.

- **American Province Archives**

Emily Wells and Camille Leonowitz brought a miniature statue of the child Jesus belonging to Cornelia and a copy of the *Informatio*—representations of Cornelia's Cause for Canonization.



(From left to right) Virgil Sheppard, President & CEO of Hope Partnership for Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Megan Watkins, Lower School Assistant Division Head of Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey; and American Province Leadership Team Member Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ.



(From left to right) Margaret (Peg) Doyle, SHCJ, Vice President of Mission and Ministry at Rosemont College, in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, and Mara Kudla, Rosemont College Senior.



(From left to right) Holy Child Associates Cathi Duffy and Anne Ayella.

“IT’S OFFICIAL – WELCOME”

In her closing remarks, Margaret Fox-Tully, Executive Director of the Holy Child Network of Schools, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Holy Child Sisters of the American Province, whose courage and faith laid the foundation now entrusted to lay partners. She described the day as both a “historic moment” and a “new beginning” for advancing the Holy Child mission: “The possibilities abound, and we look forward to helping others know that God lives and acts in them and in our world. So, it’s official — Welcome to the Holy Child Collaborative!”

For more information about the Holy Child Collaborative, please contact holychildsisters@shcj.org.



Suzanne Lewis, Director of Holy Child Mission, Faith and Philosophy at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey, and Emily Goodell (in foreground), Interim Dean of Faculty and math instructor at Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child Jesus in Pasadena, California, share a warm embrace at the liturgy.

REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

In the days following the launch, messages poured in from participants who attended in person or joined via livestream. Their words spoke of inspiration, emotion, and a shared sense that something historic had taken place. Several noted that the procession of symbols had been particularly moving and “Spirit-inspired.”

“What a wonderful celebration of SHCJ connections — past, present, and future! There were so many elements that stood out. I purposely looked for the baby who made wonderful sounds during Mass. I thought it was special, very Cornelian — we could not have planned it.”

— TOBIE TONDI, SHCJ

“I was so happy to be a part of it all and delighted that so many of our faculty and staff were there. They were thrilled, amazed, and grateful. It was the Spirit at work — inspiring and powerful.”

— MARGARET FOX-TULLY, Executive Director, Holy Child Network of Schools

“It was an inspirational Mass that brought tears to my eyes. I’m sure Cornelia was smiling.”

— ANNE AVELLA, Holy Child Associate

Members of
New Sharon staff
and ministries





(From left to right) Sarah Thompson, Upper School counselor at Connely School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland; Theresa Gartland, Holy Child Network of Schools Board Member and Connely School alumna; and Kenneth (Ken) Phelan, Holy Child Network of Schools Board Member and American Province Finance Committee Member, attend the Holy Child Collaborative reception.



Holy Child Network of Schools' Mission Effectiveness Committee poses with Margaret Fox-Tully (first row, center), Executive Director of the Holy Child Network of Schools.



(From left to right) American Province Leadership Team Member Mary Kerner, SHCJ; Chinero Iwundu, SHCJ; Kathy Logan, Assistant Director of Holy Child Center Pastoral Care Team; and Mazelle Turner, Dietary Manager at Holy Child Center, enjoy the reception.

HOLY CHILD COLLABORATIVE PRAYER

O God, you have called women and men in every age to reveal Your divine love and to make known the mystery of the Incarnation.

Through the mission and ministries of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, we respond to the "wants of the age" with love, compassion, and joy.

We stand united in mission, "to rejoice in God's presence and to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world."

Bless the Holy Child Collaborative. Guide the collaborative as it carries forward the Society's mission and faithfully hands on the Holy Child spirit.

Like the Society's Foundress, Cornelia Connelly, may we be faithful to Your will, and reveal Your humble, hidden presence in all creation with a "love full of action."



Holy Child friend Sara Marks and Holy Child Sisters Jeanne Ronzani and Barbara Linen engage in a conversation with Henry Sullivan, history and religion teacher at Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City.



ABOUT VENERABLE CORNELIA CONNELLY

Born in Philadelphia in 1809, Cornelia Connelly founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in England in 1846. A woman of extraordinary courage and faith, she developed a pioneering philosophy of education grounded in love, joy, and a reverence for the dignity of every child. Her cause for canonization is actively supported by the Church. The Society's motto is Actions Not Words.



Congratulations

2026-30 American Province Leadership Team

On March 18, 2026, the Leadership Team of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, based in Rome, Italy, announced the incoming American Province Leadership Team, which will minister from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2030.

Sister Francine Gunther, SHCJ, was appointed Province Leader. She will be joined by Sisters Mary Kerner, Anita Quigley, and Regina Zoot, who will serve as members of the Province Leadership Team (PLT).

As *Actions* goes to print, preparations are underway for the installation of the new team. We look forward to sharing photos from this joyful and historic celebration in our next edition. In the meantime, we offer our heartfelt prayers and blessings to Sisters Francine, Mary, Anita, and Regina as they embrace this call to leadership.

(Above) On March 18, 2026, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus named the 2026-30 American Province Leadership Team. (From left to right) Regina Zoot, SHCJ, Mary Kerner, SHCJ, Francine Gunther, SHCJ (Province Leader), and Anita Quigley, SHCJ.

Care of Creation UPDATE

We, the Sisters in the American Province of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Holy Child Associates, and employees commit ourselves to the Laudato Si' Goals by "Caring for Our Common Home," including our natural environment and all people, and reflecting on our deep connection to all creation. Please join us in caring and respecting all creation!

2026 Earth Day Celebrations



School of the Holy Child in Rye, New York, hosts a clothing swap organized by the Student Sustainability Committee to reduce waste and give new life to gently used items.



Students from Holy Child Academy in Old Westbury, New York, create nutrient-rich soil as part of a lesson on environmental stewardship and responsibility.



Joan Greany, SHCJ, plants flowers with Theo Fallah, Facilities Worker, and Joel Schupp, Building and Grounds Supervisor, at Holy Child Center, the Sisters' retirement and skilled-care facility in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.



Holy Child Associate Linda Tarney celebrates Earth Day by collecting three bags of trash and a hubcap in her neighborhood.

Discovering New Forms of Ministry in Retirement

When Holy Child Sisters profess their final vows to God, they also enter into a lifelong covenant with one another and fully embrace the apostolic life of the community. Even in retirement, that covenant continues to unfold — Sisters are called to “let go of some activities to discover new forms of ministry.” (*SHCJ Constitutions*)

Retired from full-time ministry for many years, Sister Barbara Bartlett volunteers at Villanova University’s VUnited Scholars Program, a two-year residential certificate program designed to prepare young adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities for meaningful future employment. Sister Barbara offers students extra support, encouragement, and attention as she works alongside Lori Tedjeske, Ph.D., Villanova professor and Executive Director of Operations for the American Province.

“Sister Barbara’s energy, kindness, and gentle spirit are incredible,” said Lori. “She’s captured the hearts of everyone in the program, especially the students!”



Barbara Bartlett, SHCJ, assists a VUnited student on her final exam.

She has been such a gift to me, not only as a teacher but also as a living witness to Holy Child values: finding God in all things and showing dignity and reverence to every individual. I’m very grateful for her.”

When asked about this ministry, Sister Barbara’s joy is unmistakable. “It’s one of my favorite ministries right now! I love the students and continually learn from them. These students are very dear to me.”

Her learning often comes in unexpected ways. During a class on leadership and communication, Sister Barbara helped a student with an assignment that required her to follow the student’s directions. The instructions were perfectly clear to the student — if not entirely so to Sister Barbara. When the exercise ended, the student looked at Sister Barbara’s work and then Sister Barbara, and with sincerity said, “*It’s OK, Sister — you were trying.*”

VUnited Class of 2026 gather for a photo with Barbara Bartlett, SHCJ (far left), and Lori Tedjeske, Ph.D., (far right), Villanova professor and American Province Executive Director of Operations.





A Living Holy Child Legacy

Generations of leadership connect Oak Knoll and Cornelia Connelly Center through shared mission

Cornelia Connelly Center (CCC), in New York City's East Village, stands as a powerful expression of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus' vision in action. As the city's only tuition-free, independent Catholic middle school for girls, CCC has provided a holistic education grounded in academic excellence, personal dignity, and long-term support to students from low-income families since 1993.

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, a private college preparatory school in suburban Summit, New Jersey, would, at first glance, seem to have little in common with CCC. However, both are members of the Holy Child Network of Schools and united by Cornelia Connelly's call to "Actions Not Words." Over the past three decades, that shared mission has taken tangible form through the involvement of more than 20 Oak Knoll alumnae, faculty, and staff who have volunteered or worked with CCC. Today, three Oak Knoll alumnae serve on CCC's Board of Trustees — including current Board Chair Mary Joan Murphy '87 — representing multiple generations committed to service.

Laura White Dillon, Oak Knoll Class of 1970, a retired communications professional, Oak Knoll Board Member (1997 to 2007) and former CCC Board Chair, traces her involvement back to the center's earliest days. Reflecting on her own Oak Knoll experience, she shared, "I've always felt extremely lucky to have landed at Oak Knoll when I did. With change in the air, a remarkable group of SHCJ sisters and lay faculty revamping the curriculum as a lively, creative, wide-ranging interdisciplinary program — all underpinned by the holistic Holy Child educational tradition. Serious learning was never at odds with warmth and fun." That foundation shaped Dillon's lifelong commitment to education and service, eventually leading her to CCC, where she served on the Board beginning in 2001 and later as Chair.



For Mary Joan "MJ" Murphy, Oak Knoll Class of 1987, now Chair of the CCC Board of Trustees, service has always been inseparable from education. "We were expected to work hard and to use our educations to help others," she said, reflecting on her Oak Knoll years. After building a career in nursing and public health, Murphy joined CCC's Board. She describes

(From left to right) Meredith Bergan '12, Mary Joan "MJ" Murphy '87, and Laura White Dillon '70, at Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City.





Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, New Jersey, alumnae, Meredith Bergan '12, Mary Joan "MJ" Murphy '87, and Laura White Dillon '70, pose with students at Cornelia Connelly Center in New York City.

the school as a place where every child is truly seen: "[CCC] is the center of joy. Our girls skip. And they smile and laugh. Three days a week, they have morning assembly where the principal greets them by name. Every girl is seen and feels valued." For Murphy, her ongoing leadership is deeply personal. "This is my social justice. This is the piece of me that is giving back what Holy Child gave to me."

Meredith Bergan, Oak Knoll Class of 2012, represents the newest generation of Oak Knoll alumnae carrying this mission forward. After serving as Chair of CCC's Junior Advisory Board, Bergan now serves as a Trustee. Reflecting on her Oak Knoll experience, she shared, "There was something so special about the experience and the community and just how fun it was. It was also a great education." Her involvement with CCC grew naturally from those roots. Today, she sees firsthand the impact of the center's work: "These girls are receiving an excellent education. And it's changing their lives and their family's lives for the better."

Together, Dillon, Murphy, and Bergan embody a legacy of leadership rooted in compassion, responsibility, and action. Their stories mirror the more than 20 Oak Knoll alumnae, faculty, and staff who have volunteered with the Cornelia Connelly Center over the years, an enduring relationship that exemplifies a key tenet of the Holy Child mission — service.

As CCC continues its work educating young women and supporting them through high school and college, Oak Knoll remains deeply connected to that mission. It is a partnership shaped by shared values, sustained by generations, and guided by Cornelia Connelly's enduring vision: love made visible through action.

**"You must not hide the gifts God has given
but use them in His service."**

-Venerable Cornelia Connelly

HOLY CHILD SCHOOLS

Connelly School of the
Holy Child
Potomac, Maryland

Cornelia Connelly Center
New York, New York

Holy Child Academy
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Holy Child Academy
Old Westbury, New York

Holy Child School at Rosemont
Rosemont, Pennsylvania

Mayfield Junior School
of the Holy Child Jesus
Pasadena, California

Mayfield Senior School
Pasadena, California

Oak Knoll School of the
Holy Child
Summit, New Jersey

School of the Holy Child
Rye, New York

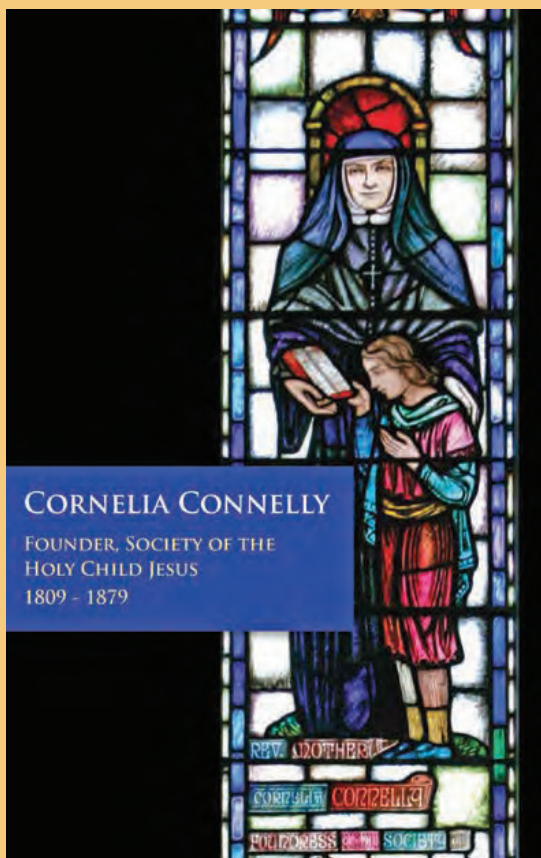
**MEMORIAL TO VENERABLE
CORNELIA CONNELLY
AND
THE SHRINE OF THE HOLY CHILD
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



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 who 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 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.

"Judy Talvacchia has condensed a voluminous literature on Venerable Cornelia Connelly into a very readable book. This book is a must read for anyone, especially families who suffered with a death of a child and women who have struggled or who have lived or is living in a troubled and/or abusive marriage. Through Cornelia, I am now a joyous woman. Cornelia's joyful, willing response to God's plan for her — for each of us — leads me each day to say as she did: 'Yes, Lord. Always yes.'"

Sarah Brabant, PhD, CSP, CFLE, FT

PROMOTING *Cornelia*

In honor of America's 250th anniversary, Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin, hosts a special exhibit — Catholic Saints of America — from July 1-9, 2026, celebrating the holy women and men who have influenced the faith life of many people in our nation and beyond.

Featuring Saints, Blesseds, Venerables, and Servants of God who lived and served in the U.S.A., the exhibit invites visitors to encounter powerful witnesses of Christian virtue, and our own Cornelia is among them. We are very thankful to the shrine for shining a light on Cornelia's life and cause of canonization!

Cornelia's reach extended to a classroom in Iowa, too! This spring, Saint Pius X Catholic School in Urbandale, Iowa, reached out to American Province Leader Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ, eager to learn more about Cornelia and her cause of canonization. One student in particular, an eighth grader, Francesca, was interested in Cornelia. Her teacher, Joe Tallman, Middle School theology teacher and Coordinator of Catholic Identity and Mission, shared his gratitude in a heartfelt note: "Francesca was overjoyed to read your letter and to open your package! I wanted to sincerely thank you for your kindness and for helping me inspire the next generation of saints-in-the-making! God willing, these kids will bring many others to Jesus!"

Right: Francesca, an eighth grader from Saint Pius X Catholic School in Urbandale, Iowa, receives a packet of information on Venerable Cornelia Connelly.





Dear Holy Child Family,

Your commitment to the mission of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus is a testament to our community's enduring faith. We deeply appreciate your partnership and support as we "rejoice in God's presence and help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world."

This year's annual report, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," celebrates the transformative power of your generosity. Inspired by Venerable Cornelia Connelly's "love full of action," your gifts enable our Sisters to meet the "wants of the age" through vital educational, spiritual, and social ministries. Whether providing compassionate care for our aging Sisters or advocating for social justice, you are the hope that fuels our mission.

As we look to the future, our planned giving initiatives remain essential to our long-term stability. We invite you to explore how a legacy gift can align with your financial goals while ensuring our work flourishes for generations to come. Please visit shcj.org/american/giving to learn more about joining the Cornelian Society.

On behalf of all the Sisters, thank you for your unwavering support and for being true pilgrims of hope. You and your loved ones remain in our daily prayers.

Please reach out with any questions or insights; we value your partnership deeply.

Gratefully,

Regina DiGuilio



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

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

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

PILGRIMAGES

\$20,551 | 5%

GENERAL MINISTRIES

\$6,190 | 1%

RESTRICTED GIFTS

\$7,650 | 1%

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

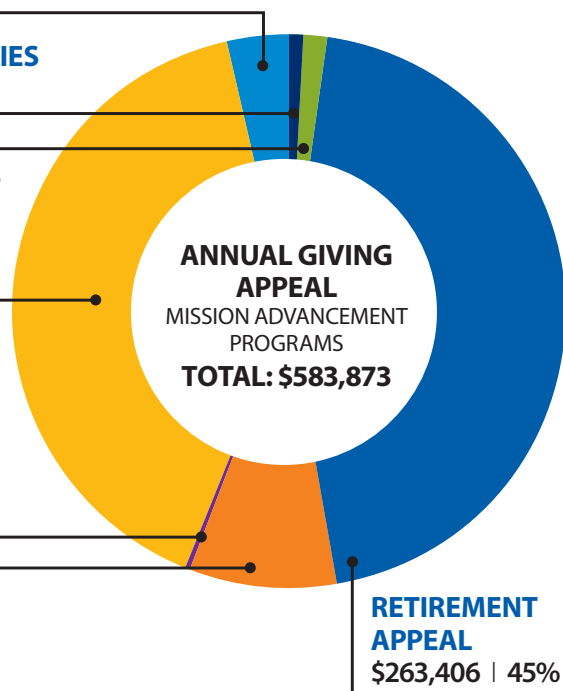
\$235,427 | 40%

CHILE

\$1,875 | 0%

U.S. MINISTRY

\$48,774 | 8%



FY 2025 USE OF FUNDS RAISED

Support of Ministries	\$1,319,701 76%
Support of Retired Sisters	\$266,249 15%
Capital Improvements, HCC	\$155,284 9%

SHCJ ASSOCIATES APPEAL

\$7,122 | 0%

ANNUAL GIVING

\$583,873 | 34%

PRAYER CARDS

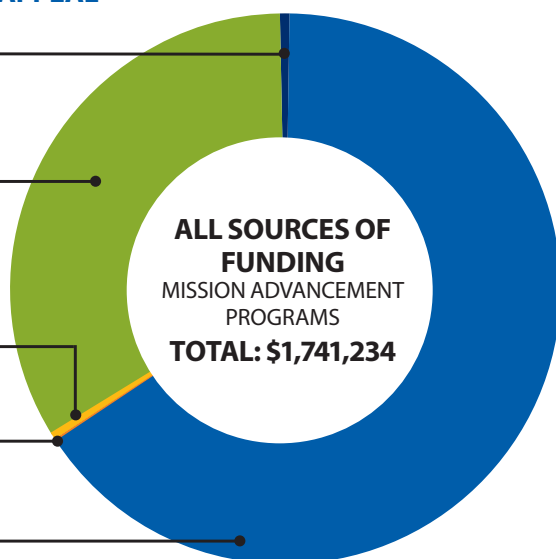
\$10,147 | 1%

GRANTS

\$3,000 | 0%

BEQUESTS

\$1,137,093 | 65%



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



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 (18)
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
Mary Anne Kelleher
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 McCarthy Maylander
Dorothy Cobb McGeehan
Mary J. McLaughlin
Carol and Kevin McMenamin
Rosemary Baxter Miller
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.
Eva Marie Wolfe
Susan Wolstenholme, Ph.D.
Ora Wry, Ph.D.

2025 BEQUESTS

William Downey
Helen Grunke
Joseph Mulvaney
George Omas
Frederick Peters

† Denotes donor is deceased



Sisters Remembered

ELEANOR HAUCK, SHCJ (MOTHER DENNIS MARY)

July 28, 1933 – March 15, 2026

Sister Eleanor's generous spirit and kind heart led her to a variety of ministries. Reflecting on her life and vocation, Sister Eleanor stated, "God has traveled with me on many pathways and has widened my heart. Let us never stop growing, never stop learning, never stop opening our hearts to others."

Sister Eleanor's teaching ministry spanned 23 years. For the first five years, she taught at Saint James School in Philadelphia (1955-56) and Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill (1956-60). In 1960, she moved to Portland, Oregon, where she served at Holy Family School (1960-62), Saint Charles School (1962-67), Saint Rita School (1967-68), and Saint Rose School (1968-70). She returned to Philadelphia to teach at her alma mater, St. Edward School (1970-71), and then West Catholic High School (1971-73). Following her time in Philadelphia, she relocated to Melrose, Massachusetts, to teach at St. Mary School for three years (1976-79).



In 1980, Sister Eleanor embraced a new ministry after completing a Clinical Pastoral Education Program. She went on to serve in hospitals across Washington, Oregon, and New York. In 1991, she enrolled in the Health Perspectives Program at Rosemont College and, impressed by its holistic approach, remained an additional five years to assist its program director.

From 1997 to 2007, Sister Eleanor ministered in Port Charlotte, Florida, serving in St. Charles Borromeo Parish, at nursing homes, and hospice care facilities. She also ministered at Project Rachel, a Catholic ministry providing spiritual and emotional support for women who suffered after an abortion.

She returned to the Philadelphia area in 2007, living and ministering at Holy Spirit Parish in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania. She also volunteered for several years as a receptionist for the American Province provincial offices.

In 2025, Sister Eleanor's 70th Jubilee year, she shared that "my favorite Holy Child value is love. I rely on God's love to sustain me in both good and difficult times."

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



Reunions

HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, PORTLAND, OREGON

Class of 1958

Monday, April 20, 2026



HOLY CHILD ACADEMY, SHARON HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

Class of 1966

Sunday, March 8, 2026



ST. LEONARD'S ACADEMY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

All-Class Reunion

Saturday, April 18, 2026



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.

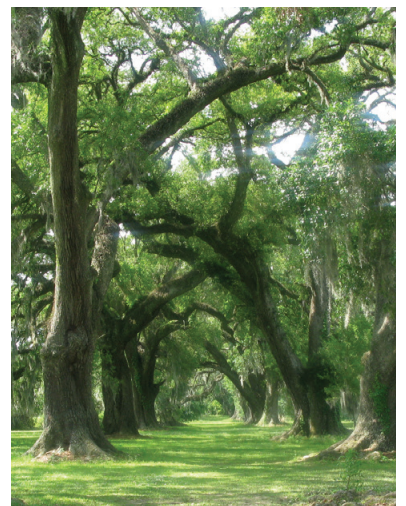
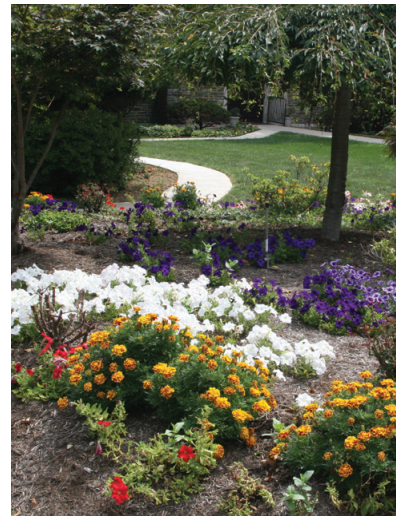
Prayer Cards

A Meaningful Way to Remember and Honor Family and Friends

To request prayer cards, please contact
the Sisters at holychildsisers@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!



Please 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/donate

IRA Rollover and Donor-Advised Fund

Contact your financial adviser or fund administrator.

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.

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.

More Ways to Give

Visit the Society's website at www.shcj.org/american/giving/ways-you-can-support-the-society.



*"God has chosen to need
women and men in every
age to reveal divine love ..."*

Venerable Cornelia Connelly, Foundress

Celebrating Our 2026 Jubilarians



HELENA MAYER, SHCJ
(Mother Mary Kilian)
70 YEARS

"Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for every person I have encountered. I believe most people are good, doing the very best they can. This has guided how I try to live: be present in each moment, slow to judge, and honor the dignity of every person as the SHCJ mission calls us to do."



JEAN MARIE O'MEARA, SHCJ
(Mother Jean Marie)
70 YEARS

"Life becomes so much simpler as the years go by. Summing up my years as a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus, I find the words of the preface during Mass captures all that needs to be said:
'Always and everywhere giving thanks.'"



ROSEMARIE TEDESCO, SHCJ
(Mother Mary Veronica)
70 YEARS

"My call to enter the Society of the Holy Child Jesus took root during my years as a young student at St. Edward's Parish School in Philadelphia. The Holy Child Sisters who taught me there, from my earliest grades through eighth grade, were kind, understanding, and genuinely present for each student.

Those were happy years, and the impression they left on me was lasting.

When I began to discern a religious vocation during high school, I found myself drawn to the Holy Child community. The Sisters who continued to guide my education were both knowledgeable and approachable — women whose lives spoke as clearly as their teaching.

On September 8, 1953, following my graduation from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, I entered the Society. And the rest, as they say, is history."



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

1341 Montgomery Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010

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)

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

Pastoral Ministry in the Southern Zone
of the Archdiocese of Santiago

(Santiago)

Have you moved or changed
your e-mail address?

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

SAVE THE DATE

SHCJ Jubilee Celebration
Saturday, June 20, 2026

**Cornelia Connelly High School
Alumnae Association Connelly,
Rosary & Servite**
Anaheim, California
Class of 1986
Saturday, September 12, 2026

Holy Child Academy
Portland, Oregon
All-Class Reunion
Saturday, October 17, 2026

St. Leonard's Academy
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
All-Class Reunion
Saturday, April 10, 2027

Holy Child Academy,
Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania
Class of 1972
Sunday, April 25, 2027