



Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Mission, Ministries and History

Scripture

2 Cor 5:14

"For the love of Christ urges us on"

Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching...everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

John 15:11

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

John 12:24

"Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Cornelia's Thoughts

"Nourished from the well-springs of this heavenly fountain, and fed in the pasture of His Divine Love, we are to run with ardor in the way that He has pointed out, and to employ every effort to lead others, especially Catholic children, to taste and to embrace the sweet yoke which He offers them, laboring with all our strength to increase love of, devotion to, and imitation of the interior and exterior virtues of the hidden life of our most sweet Jesus, thus endeavoring to fulfill the end and aim of this little Society, which is called of the Holy Child Jesus - Rule, S.H.C.J.

"Sustain a bright and joyful spirit"

1870, Rule for Local Superior

(See Resources in this section for the entire set of Foundation Texts from the SHCJ Constitutions)

The Mission of Cornelia Connelly and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

A charism is given by God for the good of God's people. In Cornelia's words, "God has chosen to need men and women in every age to reveal his love and to make known the reality of the Incarnation." Cornelia's charism led her to found the Society of the Holy Child Jesus to do just that.

In an early version of the SHCJ Rule of Life, Cornelia expressed the mission in these words:

"...laboring with all our strength to increase the love, devotion and the imitation of the interior and exterior virtues of the hidden life of our most sweet Jesus..."

Responding to the needs of her time, the mission was carried out in the context of the "education of females of all classes of society."

In contemporary language, the mission reads:

For this is our mission: to help others believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in God's presence.

Responding to the needs of our times, the mission is carried out through all aspects of education.

In the resources below, you will explore more deeply the mission, ministry and history of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

Resources - Mission

- [Foundation Texts](#) – Pages xi-xix
- [General Chapter 2022 Enactments](#)

Additional Resources - Mission

- [Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home](#) – Encyclical of Pope Francis
- [Laudato Deum](#) – Letter of Pope Francis on To All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis

Resources – History, Ministry

- [Brief History of the Society](#)
- [Cornelia Connelly \(by Judith A. Talvacchia\)](#), pp 21ff for introduction to founding of the Society.

Additional Resources – History, Ministry

- [Our Presence in Europe](#)
- [Our Presence in Africa](#)
- [Our Presence in America](#)
- [American Province Website – About Us: Who We Are, What We Do](#)
- [American Province website – How We Serve](#)

Browse other resources on the SHCJ website.

Reflection Questions

1. What touches your heart when you reflect on the mission of the Society? The history of the Society?
2. What about the Society inspires you the most?
3. In what ways are your vision of yourself and the vision of the Society of the Holy Child similar?

4. How in your daily life do you experience the mission “to help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in God's presence”?
5. How would you describe your current association with the Society?
6. What might God be inviting you to through the inspirations of the Society?
7. Do you have any questions about the Society that you would like to ask your mentor?