

## **Associate Mission and Vision**



**SHCJ ASSOCIATES, USA**

### **MISSION**

SHCJ 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.

### **VISION**

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.

### **CHARISM**

Holy Child Associates embrace the charism of Cornelia Connelly – a charism 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, men and all of creation.

## **What does it mean to be an Associate of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus?**

**An Associate is invited, first and foremost, to a way of life; to a way of being that influences everything we do.**

The Holy Child Jesus leads us “from the crib to the cross” and beyond, to the fullness of resurrected life. Associates are guided by Christ, the Incarnation of God, and the foundational insights of Cornelia Connelly, founder of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

We share Cornelia Connelly's spirituality, grounded in the Incarnation: God's merciful love, embodied in the humble and hidden life of the Holy Child Jesus, reveals the presence and action of God in everyone and everything.

We adopt a way of life that reflects the Holy Child mission: “To help others believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world and to rejoice in God's presence.” We make the Society's mission our own, responding to God's love with joy and zeal in daily life and in “meeting the wants of the age” especially among the humble and hidden of our world.

We are supported by participation in the four pillars of Association:

- **Personal Prayer**  
By prayer, reflection, and personal connection with God, we become hearers/discerners of God's presence and action in ourselves and in the world.
- **Spiritual Development**  
Together with the Sisters and Associates, we engage in a lifelong process of growth in Christ, in the spirit of the Society - for example, through communal prayer, retreats and reflection material.
- **Ministry**  
Prayer and spiritual growth lead to “actions, not words,” to loving service within the family, at work, in the local or global community and/or in SHCJ ministries and initiatives. Associates support each other in the joys and challenges of discipleship.
- **Community**  
We gather in fellowship with Sisters and Associates for prayer, social activity and significant events, bonding us to each other through the spirit of the Holy Child.

You will reflect on the pillars of Association in more detail in the next 2 modules – Living Incarnational Spirituality as an Associate.

"An *incarnational worldview* is one in which matter and Spirit are understood to have never been separate. Matter and Spirit reveal and manifest each other." Richard Rohr, Daily Reflections, 12/28/23

## Resources

1. ["Celebrating 20 Years, A Brief History of the Associates in the American Province,"](#) by Emily Wells (Associates Newsletter, Spring, 2022, **p. 7-8**)

## 2. Examples of the Associates Living the Charism and Mission



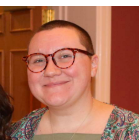
[Kathy Enos](#) (Associate Newsletter, Fal, 2023, **p.5,8**)



[Darlene Boyd](#) (Associates Newsletter, Fall 2022, **p. 6**)



[Stephanie Fielder](#) (Associates Newsletter, Winter 2022, **p.7-8**)



[Emily Wells](#) (Associates Newsletter, Autumn 202, **p. 6**)



[Jimella Monroe-Lawrence](#) (Associates Newsletter, Summer 2021, **p. 5**)



[Marilyn DiFelicianantonio](#) (Associates Newsletter, Autumn 2020, **p. 4-5**)



[Anita Martineau](#) (Associates Newsletter, Winter 2020, **p. 3**)



[Tom Darcy](#) - (Associates Newsletter, Winter 2020, **p. 4-5**)



[Demonde and Dian Pringle](#) (Associates Newsletter, Summer 2019, **p. 4-5**)

## **Reflection Questions**

1. What attracts/challenges you in the expression of the Mission, the Vision and the Charism of the Associates?
2. What resonates with you in the description of what it means to be an Associate? What challenges you or puzzles you?
3. Is there anything in the History of the Associates that strikes you?
4. Which profiled Associates inspire you? Challenge you?
5. Can you see yourself as a fellow Associate? What makes you feel comfortable becoming one of them?