



About the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

What is the Society of the Holy Child Jesus?

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ) is an international community of Roman Catholic Sisters founded by Cornelia Connelly. The Society is composed of three provinces (American, African, European). In addition to the United States, the American Province includes Chile and the Dominican Republic.

What is the Society's mission?

As Sisters of the Holy Child, we strive to “help others to believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world, and to rejoice in God's presence.”

Who was Cornelia Connelly?

Cornelia Connelly was a wife and mother who transformed unimaginable personal heartache into an unwavering mission to establish a religious congregation that could “meet the wants of the age.” Cornelia's calling and steadfast faith inspired this Philadelphia native to found the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in England. Her focus from the outset involved educating young girls. She later ran boarding schools and began a teacher training college. *For more information on the Society's Foundress, see **Cornelia Connelly** in this packet.*

Why is Cornelia Connelly's work still relevant to the Sisters of the Holy Child today?

The Holy Child Sisters continue Cornelia's legacy, while seeking to help people find a better life through education, social work, health care, legal work, pastoral care and administration, and spiritual direction. Cornelia's philosophy of “meeting the wants of the age” through “actions not words” is widely praised for its vision. It is because of Cornelia's successful early foundations that the SHCJ is able to commemorate her 200th birthday—and the achievements of the Society during its more than 160-year history—as part of a yearlong Bicentennial Celebration.

What events are planned during the Society's Bicentennial?

The yearlong celebration began with an Opening Mass

on October 12 at St. Agatha–St. James Church in Philadelphia, followed by a reception at the Hall of Flags on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. An Opening Mass followed in Rome on October 27. A variety of service projects will be ongoing throughout the year. An October 11, 2009 prayer service will cap the festivities. *See **Bicentennial Events** for a complete events listing, or visit www.holychild200.org.*

What do the Sisters of the Holy Child do?

Since the Society's founding in 1846, education has been at the heart of its mission. Today, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus continue to serve as educators in the broadest sense of the word through their ministries in teaching, spiritual direction, social work, legal work, health care, parish administration, and pastoral care. Throughout the world, the Sisters of the Holy Child can be found serving in schools, colleges and universities, parishes, health care organizations, social service and legal centers, and more. The Society also sponsors 14 schools, a college, and several social service programs. *For more information on the Holy Child schools, see **Educational Ministries** in this packet.*

How many people are served annually through SHCJ ministries?

The Society of the Holy Child provides outreach to more than 8,500 individuals through education, as well as sponsored and collaborative ministries at various social service organizations, many of which they have founded. *For more information on these programs, see **Sponsored Ministries** in this packet.*

How many Holy Child Sisters are currently serving?

There are nearly 400 Holy Child Sisters ministering throughout the world. Approximately 196 Holy Child Sisters serve in the American Province, 85 of whom are in Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

(over)



Where do the Holy Child Sisters live and serve?

The Holy Child Sisters serve on four continents and in 15 states. In the American Province, Holy Child Sisters minister in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, as well as in Washington, D.C., Chile, and the Dominican Republic.

How many women are pursuing a religious vocation within the Society?

In the Society's three provinces (American, African, European), there are approximately 10 women pursuing a religious vocation. In 2006, the Society opened Casa Caritas, a house of welcome, prayer, and discernment, located in Philadelphia. Weekly evenings of prayer are held. All are welcome to attend. Those pursuing a religious vocation sometimes live in the house to get a better sense of the Society and community life.

How else is the Society's mission continuing?

The Sisters of the Holy Child have long-valued partnering with the laity, or those who are not members of the clergy, to continue their mission. Throughout the world, zealous members of the laity carry on the Holy Child mission—serving with us in our schools and ministries and on our boards. Together, we all carry on the Holy Child spirit.

In addition, many people have also become Associates in the Society of the Holy Child. Associates are men and women who have been inspired by the spirit of Cornelia Connelly and the Society and grow closer through faith-sharing and spiritual development with the Sisters of the Holy Child. Currently, there are close to 150 Associates in the Society's American Province.

For more information, contact:
Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or
theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com

CORNELIA CONNELLY

The Life and Legacy of Cornelia Connelly

Cornelia Connelly, who in 1846 founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, was born in Philadelphia in 1809. The youngest of seven children, Cornelia had lost her parents by the time she reached the age of 14.

Her early sorrow perhaps foreshadowed the anguish that would soon follow. By the time she was 32 years old, two of Cornelia's five children had died and her husband of 10 years, Pierce Connelly, had chosen to enter the Catholic priesthood. When Pierce had told her of his decision, Cornelia responded selflessly, "If the good God asks the sacrifice, I am prepared to make it and with all my heart."

Faith leads Cornelia on a new path

Since the Catholic religion does not permit its priests to marry, Pope Gregory XVI granted the couple a deed of separation contingent on Cornelia's vow of chastity and a promise that she would become a Sister.

Cornelia lived at the Trinita dei Monti in Rome with their children and began sharing in the life of the Sisters. Pierce was ordained in 1841, and, during the Mass, Cornelia sang in the choir and their daughter, Adeline, received her First Holy Communion.

Cornelia strives to "meet the wants of the age"

Despite the obstacles she faced, Cornelia is respected, loved, and remembered today for her inspiring resilience in the face of adversity. While sharing in the life of the Sacred Heart Sisters, Cornelia expressed in a letter to her brother that she did not feel that God was calling her to join the Sacred Heart congregation. She articulated her belief as "meeting the wants of the age," which has since become a cornerstone of the Holy Child mission and spirit.

Roots of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

At the Pope's request, Cornelia was invited to begin a congregation that would educate Catholic girls in England. The words "Society of the Holy Child Jesus" came to her, reflecting her incarnational spirituality. She considered this a gift from God, and ultimately, it was the name she gave her congregation.

On October 13, 1846, the Society officially began as Cornelia traveled to Derby, England with three other women who became Sisters of the Holy Child. The Sisters began offering basic education to the girls who worked in the silk mills and factories surrounding the convent. They also ran a night school for about 100 girls and taught on Sundays to accommodate workers' schedules.

In December 1847, Cornelia officially took vows of poverty and obedience and Bishop Nicholas Wiseman installed her as

Superior General of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. By that time, Cornelia had welcomed 16 women into the community.

Cornelia expands the reach of SHCJ

After two years in Derby and with the encouragement of Bishop Nicholas Wiseman, Cornelia moved the community to St. Leonards-on-Sea in England. The Sisters ran boarding and day schools and began a teacher training college. They were also involved in writing books, translating, painting, producing and publishing religious art and literature, offering retreats, and instructing people who were converting to Catholicism.

Less than 10 years after Cornelia and the three Sisters first began their community in Derby, the Sisters were working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of London, Liverpool, and Preston. Cornelia encouraged her Sisters to carry on the Society's mission, writing, "As you step on through the muddy streets, love God with your feet."

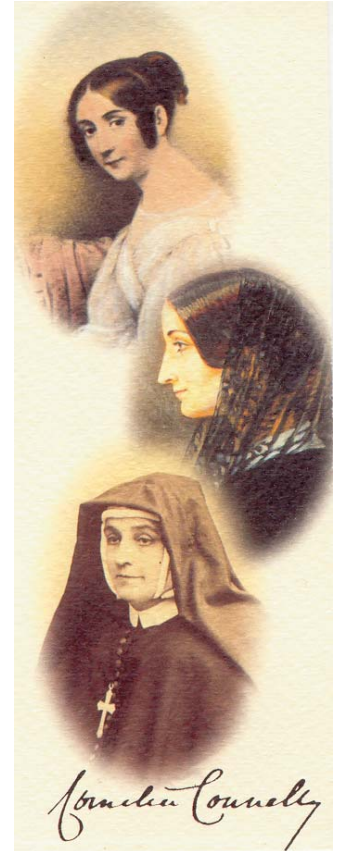
In 1862, the first Sisters to serve in America had sailed for Towanda, Pa., where they established a school and convent. By the time Cornelia died in 1879, the Society was flourishing in both England and the U.S. and Cornelia had fulfilled her dream of establishing convents in France.

Cornelia's legacy lives on

The Sisters of the Holy Child carry on Cornelia's work in North America, South America, Europe, and Africa. They seek to help thousands find a better life through education, social work, health care, legal work, pastoral care and administration, and spiritual direction.

Cornelia's philosophy—while unconventional at the time—is widely praised today for its innovation and vision. Cornelia's leadership has allowed the Sisters of the Holy Child to "meet the wants of the age" through "actions not words."

For more information, contact:
Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or
theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com



BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

Various Locations: Service Projects / Ongoing

Experience the work of Holy Child firsthand. In honor of Cornelia's commitment to serving others, service opportunities are being offered at several of our ministries. Find one in your area and join us in lending your time, talent, and treasure. Visit www.holychild200.org for more information.

Pennsylvania: Rosemont College Heritage Day / Oct. 8, 2008

Join the Rosemont College community is celebrating their legacy and that of Cornelia Connelly. During a Liturgy, Sr. Helen McDonald, Leader of the Society's American Province, will give a reflection. Sr. Eileen McDevitt, Director of the Holy Child Network of Schools, will give a presentation entitled, *Rosemont's Mission flowing from Cornelia Connelly's philosophy*. A panel of members of the Rosemont College community will follow.

Pennsylvania: Opening Celebration / Oct. 12, 2008

The Bicentennial Celebration officially began with a Mass at St. Agatha-St. James Church in Philadelphia, followed by a reception at the Hall of Flags on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. St. Agatha-St. James Church has special significance to the Society. The Holy Child Sisters taught at St. Agatha's from 1891 to 1912 and at St. James from 1870 to 1967. In addition, the church is located across the street from the former St. Leonard's Academy, which Cornelia purchased on her only visit as a Sister of the Holy Child to the U.S. St. Leonard's Academy educated students in Philadelphia for more than 100 years.

Massachusetts: Rededication of Holy Child Park / Oct. 12, 2008

Holy Child Park at St. Mary's Parish will be rededicated, followed by a tea for SHCJ and Associates. The Sisters of the Holy Child taught at St. Mary's School in Melrose, Mass. from 1909-1982. Today, Sisters of the Holy Child continue to serve the parish.

Oregon: Reception / Oct. 18, 2008

At Our Lady of Lavang (formerly Holy Child Academy) in Portland, Ore., the Sisters of the Holy Child will host a reception for Associates, alums, and friends from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Former students of St. Charles, St. Rita, Holy Family, St. Rose, St. Philip Neri, Central High for Boys, and Holy Child Academy—where the Sisters of the Holy Child taught—are invited.

Chile: Eucharistic Celebration / October 19, 2008

With our Associates and volunteers, the international community of Holy Child Sisters in Chile will inaugurate the Bicentennial year in a Eucharistic celebration for St. Teresa's day. The same group will continue the celebration throughout the

year in a series of meetings for prayer and reflection on some of Cornelia's key letters. These will be translated to become part of the growing store of Cornelian material available in Spanish.

Rome: Opening Mass / Oct. 27, 2008

Cornelia discerned her vocation to begin a new religious congregation, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Convent in the church of the Trinita dei Monti in Rome. The Opening Mass for the Bicentennial in Rome will be at the Trinita. Cardinal John Foley will preside.

Maryland: Connelly School of the Holy Child / Jan. 4, 2009

The Sisters of the Holy Child are joining with the Connelly School of the Holy Child, which they founded in 1961, for the school's annual Epiphany Mass. Several Sisters of the Holy Child will renew their vows during the Mass, while celebrating the life and legacy of Cornelia.

North Carolina: Mass & Reception / Jan. 18, 2009

In Charlotte, N.C., a Mass will be said in Cornelia's honor at St. Luke's parish at 11 a.m., followed by a reception. Holy Child Sisters Veronica Grover and Jay McCann both serve at St. Luke's.

New York: Metropolitan Celebration / Apr. 20, 2009

A reception and short play presented by the students from the Cornelia Connelly Center for Education will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Fordham Law School at Lincoln Center.

Pennsylvania: Holy Child Awards Dinner / Apr. 30, 2009

This inaugural awards dinner will honor J. Gordon Cooney, Esq. and Mary Evelyn Tucker, Ph.D. with the *Faith in Action* Award, as well as John Connelly with the *Holy Child Spirit* Award. Presented annually, these awards honor individuals whose lives and work embody Cornelia's spirit. The dinner will be held at the Philadelphia Marriot West Hotel in West Conshohocken, Pa.

Pennsylvania: Cornelian Tour / May 9, 2009 & May 13, 2009

Because Cornelia was born in Philadelphia, many areas in the city are significant to her and the Society. Several Holy Child Sisters will lead a walking tour that highlights these areas and offers further insight into Cornelia and her life.

Pennsylvania: Special Bicentennial Exhibit / July - November 2009

At the Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Child in Rosemont, Pa., special relics of Cornelia Connelly will be on display including the documentation for her Beatification, the oldest

(Over)

BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

and latest books and articles about her, pictures of her and her family, genealogical chart, and the newly discovered letter she wrote to Cardinal McCloskey! Appointments to view the exhibit are necessary.

Massachusetts: Celebration at St. Mary's / Oct. 4, 2009

In honor of St. Mary's 100th Anniversary Celebration and the 200th Anniversary of Cornelia's birth, a Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's at 11:30 a.m., followed by a reception.

Pennsylvania: Closing Prayer Service / Oct. 11, 2009

The Bicentennial Celebration will close with a prayer service in Philadelphia.

For more information, contact:

**Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or
theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com**

SPONSORED MINISTRIES

Sponsored Ministries Expand the Society's Reach

Many Holy Child Sisters have identified needs in underserved areas and founded ministries which are supported by the Society. Combined, these sponsored works serve more than 3,700 people every year. The Society's sponsored ministries include:

African Sisters Education Collaborative – Begun in 2002, the African Sisters Education Collaborative helps Catholic Sisters in Africa access education so they can become qualified to serve as teachers, as well as in health care, spiritual, or social service ministries in their countries. As the Sisters themselves are educated, they, in turn, educate more African people.

Casa Cornelia Law Center – Founded in 1993, Casa Cornelia Law Center has handled nearly 600 cases. The Center provides a variety of pro bono legal services to immigrant women and children in San Diego, Calif.

Centro Cornelia Connelly – Located in Santiago, Chile, Centro Cornelia Connelly offers spiritual direction and retreats.

Fe y Algeria – The learning center and medical clinic, which serves 2,100 individuals a year, began in 1995. Fe y Algeria is located in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

Los Angeles Ministry Project – Begun in 1993, the Los Angeles Ministry Project offers parenting classes, English classes, childcare, and bilingual counseling to 200 of the poorest residents of Los Angeles, Calif.

Providence Center – Founded in 1993, Providence Center offers afterschool and summer programs, retreats, sewing classes, prayer groups, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to 300 individuals in Philadelphia, Pa.

Response-Ability – Response-Ability trains and inspires more than 20 college graduates to serve in inner city Catholic schools in Philadelphia; Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. The program serves more than 500 children each year.



For more information, contact:

Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com

Society Keeps Education at the Forefront

“Trust the children and never let your confidence in them be easily shaken. Confidence begets confidence. Let them show their true colors and then we shall see the highlights and what needs to be toned down.”

—CORNELIA CONNELLY, FOUNDRRESS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CHILD JESUS

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus employs Cornelia’s powerful words and her early groundwork for educational success as the Schools it has founded educate more than 5,000 students annually in the U.S. Since its founding, the Society has sponsored a number of schools, as well as a college.

The **Holy Child Network of Schools** is an association of 10 Catholic, independent elementary and secondary schools founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child. Together, these Holy Child schools educate more than 3,500 children every year. The schools, which are located in California, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, are committed to the educational mission of the Catholic Church through the philosophy and spirituality of Cornelia Connelly.

Rosemont College, an independent, liberal arts institution in Rosemont, Pa., was founded by the Holy Child Sisters in 1921. After undergoing an intense yearlong strategic planning process in 2007-2008, the College’s Board of Trustees voted to make the college co-educational in September 2009, while also expanding the College’s programs and offerings. The College is rooted in Catholicism and guided by the educational principles of Cornelia Connelly and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Society also sponsors **collaborative schools** which were founded through partnering with other religious communities and nonprofit organizations. This collaboration enables the Society to operate four schools that serve more than 600 at-risk youth in New York, Philadelphia, Illinois, and Washington, D.C.

Holy Child Network of Schools

Connelly School of the Holy Child (Potomac, MD)

Cornelia Connelly Center (New York, NY)

Cornelia Connelly School (Anaheim, CA)

Holy Child Academy (Drexel Hill, PA)

Holy Child Academy (Old Westbury, NY)

Mayfield Junior School of the Holy Child (Pasadena, CA)

Mayfield Senior School of the Holy Child (Pasadena, CA)

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child (Summit, NJ)

Rosemont School of the Holy Child (Rosemont, PA)

School of the Holy Child (Rye, NY)

Higher Education

Rosemont College (Rosemont, PA)

Collaborative Educational Ministries

Cristo Rey New York High School (New York, NY)

Hope Partnership for Education (Philadelphia, PA)

St. Martin de Porres High School (Waukegan, IL)

The Washington Middle School for Girls (Washington, DC)

For more information, contact:

Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com



Meet the Society's American Province Leadership Team

Helen McDonald, SHCJ

American Province Leader

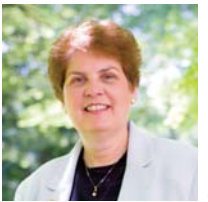


Sr. Helen began serving her six-year term as Leader of the Society's American Province in 2005. She is responsible for the overall management, fundraising, administration, and communications for the Society. Prior to taking the helm as Province Leader, Sr.

Helen served on the Society Leadership Team in Rome from 1999-2004. A leader in education, Sr. Helen taught at several schools throughout her career, and served as Head of the Rosemont School of the Holy Child from 1975 to 1983. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of several educational entities, including Rosemont College. She has also served as a legislative assistant to Congresswoman Connie Morella in Washington, D.C. Sr. Helen holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in American history.

Carroll Juliano, SHCJ

American Province Leadership Team Member



Sr. Carroll is serving a second six-year term as a member of the American Province Leadership Team, having previously served from 1993-1999. Sr. Carroll taught and served in education and administration. A well-known author and respected speaker,

two of Sr. Carroll's books have been honored by the Catholic Press Association. *Building Community* was awarded first place in the professional books category in 1999, and *Collaboration: Uniting Our Gifts in Ministry*, a book Sr. Carroll co-authored, was awarded second place in the Professional and Pastoral Ministry Books category. Sr. Carroll has given presentations on collaboration, pastoral ministry, and human development throughout the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. She has also served as an advisor on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Women in the Church. Sr. Carroll holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences and a master's degree in counseling.

For more information, contact:
Theresa Katalinas at 215-884-6499 or
theresa@comsolutionsgroup.com

Carol Ann Knight, SHCJ

American Province Leadership Team Member



Sr. Carol Ann's passion for education has led to a 38-year career, in which she assumed a number of positions including that of teacher, administrator, and principal at the Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Annunciation, St. Anastasia's, Immaculate

Conception School, Holy Spirit School, and Holy Child Academy, Old Westbury. Before assuming her role as a member of the American Province Leadership Team in 2005, Sr. Carol Ann co-founded Hope Partnership for Education and served as the school's first Principal from 2002 to 2005.

Anita Quigley, SHCJ

American Province Leadership Team Member



For almost 20 years, Sr. Anita served as a teacher and counselor at Holy Child Academy, Drexel Hill, Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, and Holy Spirit School. In 1997, Sr. Anita came on board with Response-Ability, a ministry founded and sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Child, as a teacher supervisor. Sr. Anita holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Jeanne Ronzani, SHCJ

American Province Leadership Team Member



Sr. Jeanne is serving a second six-year term as a member of the American Province Leadership Team, having previously served from 1993-1999. Sr. Jeanne has led a successful 30-year career in education and social service. She served as Head of the

School of the Holy Child in Rye, N.Y. from 1974-1979, in addition to teaching in the school and in many others, including Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md. and parish schools in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Sr. Jeanne also ministered at Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a nonprofit organization in Pacoima, Calif. The organization is committed to helping poor children and struggling families become self-reliant. Before joining the American Province Leadership Team in 2005, Sr. Jeanne established an afterschool program at All Saints Parish in Milwaukee, Wis. Sr. Jeanne holds a bachelor's degree in math and a master's degree in educational administration.