



SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PROVINCE

SPRING 2011
VOLUME IX ISSUE II

The Associates have grown significantly with the support of the current Provincial Leadership Team. We are indebted to them and offer them our prayers as they complete their service to the American Province. May they each know our gratitude! Abundant blessings to each as they take time for rest and relaxation before they 'begin anew'.

Many thanks to all who are participating in the Associates Annual Appeal. We are grateful to all who can help. We are hoping to surpass last year's appeal and need more help to accomplish our goal of funding our office expenses.

The new Provincial Leadership Team begins their term on June 1st. Let us all offer them our prayers as they begin their 6 years of leadership ministry for the province.

For international news, the Associates' International News Exchange is due out this month. Watch your mailbox for the latest Associates news throughout the Society!

Inside this issue:

Farewell from Sr. Helen McDonald	1
Actions not Words:	
Sharing our Stories	2
Book Recommendations	2
Cornelia and Charism:	
Associates Begin Anew	3
Meet the Associates	4
Poetry Off the Shelf	5
Book Recommendations	6

Dear Associates,

Six years have flown by and our Province Leadership Team is cleaning out and writing transition notes for the next PLT. I am delighted that in these six years, the number of SHCJ Associates has doubled. I've met you in the batey in the Dominican Republic and purchased some unique batey beads. I've joined you for some of your summer meetings and deeply appreciated reading and praying with Incarnational Spirituality. Sister Rose Uche Nwosu, the African Province Leader was delighted to receive 50 copies of this book when I traveled to Cape Coast, Ghana in March.

Cathi Duffy, the Director of the SHCJ Associates in the United States began almost at the same time our team began and we are deeply grateful for her leadership during these six years. We know Cathi has been supported by several Core Teams that have helped administer the Associates program during this time, and I want to thank them for this ministry of service to the Associates program.

The celebration of Cornelia's 200th birthday throughout the Society brought SHCJ and SHCJ Associates, as well as many others, to focus on Cornelia's life of unwavering faith and boundless trust in God. Her spirituality has drawn all of us to reflect on her life, her great and generous love of God and her deep awareness of God's love for her.

In 2012 the Society will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first sisters, led by Mother Mary Xavier Noble, who came to the United States in 1862, in the midst of the Civil War. Cornelia had written in 1846 to her brother Ralph, "Our rules were at first drawn up for the United States as I had no intention nor have I now of deserting my own dear country." No doubt we will be joining together to commemorate this historic event.

My wish for each of you is from Cornelia, "Love what he loves and thus make our life one with him, being in one continued act of love, from night till night and from year to year."

With love,

Helen T. McDonald, SHCJ
American Province Leader

Action Not Words



Sharing Our Stories at Rosemont
(March)



Sharing Our Stories at Rye (April)

Sharing Our Stories continues this summer

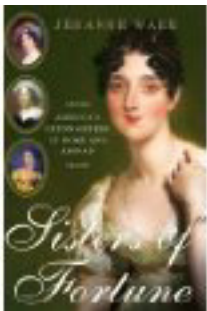
*Charlotte (NC)
Melrose (MA)*

*Saturday, June 18
Sunday, August 14*

We will be sharing our stories in light of the mystery of the Incarnation. The basis for our sharing are reflection materials sent to all SHCJ Sisters and Associates as part of the chapter resource booklets over the past several months. Copies will be supplied at the event.

If you would like to participate or host an event in your area, contact Cathi Duffy, cduffy@shcj.org, or your local leader for more details.

Book Recommendations by Cathi Duffy



Sisters of Fortune:
America's Caton Sisters at Home and Abroad
by Jehanne Wake

For any one who enjoys American (and yes, English) history and / or historical novels, this is a great read. Although it is a history of these women, it engaged me in a way that a novel usually does. This

book gives us a wonderful glimpse into the life of Louise Caton who ultimately became the Duchess of Leeds, an important benefactor (Towanda, Mayfield) of the Society in Cornelia's time. Cornelia and the Society are mentioned in the final pages, the final years of Louisa's life.

*Give us, O Lord,
a love full of action*

Send your photos to Cathi Duffy to share local activities with Associates throughout the United States.

Connecting with Cornelia and Charism: Associates reflect on beginning anew

*Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
See, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers.*
Isaiah 43:18-19

There are many times in our lives when we begin anew in big ways and small. Two Associates share about beginning anew in big ways! We thank Liz and Dolores for sharing their reflections with us.

Frank (Martino) and I got married in July. Being married is wonderful! As newlyweds, we take time to enjoy one another's company. The practice of allowing people to be themselves has certainly helped me as I begin my life with Frank. Whether it is an awareness that he relaxes with the television while I prefer listening to music or giving him space to spend time with friends while I go to the gym, I am finding the value of reverence of the individual has found its way into our home. At the same time, the call to community also is a shared value. We both go to church together, like volunteering when we can and appreciate having people over for dinner. When I am with Frank, I can be myself and am challenged to grow into a better self for him and others.

Liz Eager Martino

Retirement - a wonderful time in one's life - no schedules - no deadlines. But I had enjoyed all that for the 22 plus years that I worked for the SHCJ. What would my new life become? This is what worried me at first. I knew that it would be wonderful having the luxury of visiting the grandchildren often and planning a trip whenever my husband and I chose. But I still had qualms about this new life. Cornelia came to mind. Her life changed many times. Thinking of her and her adjustments to all the new phases in her life helped me to realize that this is a new and exciting phase of my life.

Dolores McCormack



Frank and Liz at Response-Ability's
Living a Legacy Celebration
(May 2011)

Don't forget that the "Behold I Am Doing Something New" reflection book begins on May 31. Hope that the reflections stir in you, calling you to something new.

As this issue gets ready for printing, our summer work hours are beginning. It reminds me that we 'begin anew' in some ways on a seasonal basis too. The longer days beckon us to 'do more' or 'get outside' in ways that are special to the season. Whether it is rediscovering the garden, getting more active in open spaces, and/or sitting in outdoor cafes with friends, summer calls us to different ways of being. Reflect how your understanding of the Holy Child spirit shapes your responses to these invitations. Consider how God is present in each of these summer encounters.

If you would like to share your thoughts, do contact Cathi, cduffy@shcj.org. Perhaps your reflection will appear in a future Associate communication.



Dolores at
Sharing Our Stories
Rosemont
(March 2011)

Meet the Associates by Barbara DeConcini

BD: Anne, welcome and warm congratulations to you on being awarded the Holy Child Spirit Award at the recent SHCJ Awards Dinner! I want you to tell our readers about your work, but first, how about introducing yourself?

AA: Well, I grew up in the Overbrook neighborhood of West Philadelphia, the oldest of four children. I have one sister, Kate, and two brothers, John and Bill. My Mom died in May of 2007. My Dad, who still lives in our big family home in Overbrook, is doing pretty well.

My husband Fred and I have been married for 29 years, and we have three children—Fred (28), Emily (24), and Charlotte (19). We met and became good friends when we were in college (at St. Joseph's University) in the early 70's. We married in 1981. He started out as a teacher and later became a self-employed computer programmer. We live in Havertown, a suburb west of Philadelphia.

BD: And how about your own work?

AA: I've been with the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 32 years, almost my whole career. Right after finishing college at St. Joe's, I worked there in the admissions office for a few years, but I've been with the archdiocese ever since. Our program, Nutritional Development Services, connects children and other persons in need with healthy, nutritious food and food resources. My role is Community Relations, so I'm out seeing what's working and where there are unmet food and nutrition needs. I love visiting local food cupboards, soup kitchens, and schools. I always say I have the best job in the office!

BD: With a husband, three children, and a challenging career, you must look forward to some leisure activities when you can fit them in, yes? What do you enjoy doing to relax?

AA: I'm a reader. I love the Mitford Books by Jan Karon. And my recent new favorite author is Juliette Fay. I'm hoping to meet her at an upcoming booksigning. I've been so moved by her excellent first book, Shelter Me, that I'm reading it for the third time!

My family and I enjoy our times together in Ocean City on the Jersey shore. I also like Broadway theatre a lot. And then there's my spinning class at the local gym. . . .

BD: How did you come to know the Society, Anne?

AA: I am a Sharon graduate. Even though the School of the Holy Child in Sharon Hill was a fairly long commute from my home, I really felt immediately at home there. My folks were good enough to let me go even though there were options a lot closer to home. I've stayed in touch with the sisters over the years through various Sharon alumnae activities (such as the annual Christmas sing-along at the Holy Child Center).

BD: What attracted you to join the SHCJ Associates?

AA: The Holy Child spirit has always been close to my heart. And my close friend and classmate at Sharon, Cathi Duffy, has—most surprisingly!-- been a source of encouragement.

BD: Well, it's pretty clear that "Actions not words" has been formative for your life's work! How has becoming an SHCJ Associate affected your everyday life?

AA: It has helped me to look at life with a more intentional "Incarnational" focus. I try to recognize Jesus in others and hope they can see Him in me as well.

It has helped me to feel connected to a circle of persons with a common vision. I've especially appreciated the prayer/reflection resources. Using them has helped to deepen my own spirituality.

BD: What are your "dearest hopes" for the SHCJ Associate relationship?

AA: My hope is that through prayer and a "love full of action," we may keep Cornelia's spirit alive in today's world. And the international dimension of the Society is important to me. I hope that we can find ways to become acquainted with SHCJ Associates in Africa and Europe, as well as across our own country.



Anne Ayelle with Robert Pollack at American Province Awards Dinner (Robert was also honored)
Photo by Michael Leslie
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Poetry Off the Shelf by Barbara DeConcini

A Morning Song (For the First Day of Spring)

*Morning has broken
Like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where His feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.*

Eleanor Farjeon

Here is a simple religious verse celebrating the arrival of the day and of Spring—with both as the mimesis of the act of creation. In 1931, British children's author Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) composed it as lyrics for a hymn which she set to a traditional Gaelic tune. Many of us are familiar with her verse in the version popularized by the folk rock musician Cat Stevens, who recorded it in 1971, during what was for him an intense period of spiritual searching, a few years before his conversion to Islam and subsequent abandoning of his pop music career. Such a simple and straightforward poem needs little, if any, commentary. So, just a few remarks!

I am struck by how Farjeon achieves a freshness at the very start of her poem by fooling around with our linguistic expectations, substituting for

the more familiar noun (daybreak) a surprisingly dynamic passive verb form (morning has broken).

In John Keats' Ode to a Nightingale, the speaker celebrates what he calls the "immortal Bird," eliding the song he hears with that heard in ancient days by powerful and powerless alike, as if the selfsame bird were singing through the centuries. So too does Farjeon identify what she hears and sees at the start of this day and this spring with the act of creation in the Genesis account: the first light, the first rain, the first bird, Eden itself.



Finally, the poem, simple and straightforward as it is, expresses some sophistication, both in its knowledge of the Scriptures and in its theological implications. By identifying the act of creation with the Word, the second person of the Trinity rather than the first, Farjeon is following John's gospel, which begins by declaring,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God: all things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made.

And, in her wordplay in the poem's final lines, praising each new morning both as God's act of re-creation (creation again) and as God's recreation (play), she echoes the description of Wisdom in Proverbs 8:30-31,

When he laid down the foundations of the earth, I was by his side, a master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere in his world.

It is worth noting that the feminist theology of the 1970s and ff. has found in the Hebrew Bible's description of the female-gendered Wisdom an allusion to the Spirit.

2011 SHCJ Jubilarians of the American Province

75 Years

Ita Guthrie, SHCJ

70 Years

Nell Carbin, SHCJ (M. M. Kentigern)

Gemma Gargano, SHCJ

Elizabeth Gorvin, SHCJ (M. M. Berchmans)

Mary George O'Reilly, SHCJ (M. M. George)

60 Years

Inez Berger, SHCJ (M. John Vianney)

Mary Bryan, SHCJ (M. M. Cleophas)

Joan Clark, SHCJ (M. St. Edward)

Margaret Farrell, SHCJ (M. M. Felicitas)

Bernadette Gaynor, SHCJ (M. Bernadette Mary)

Virginia Skrdlant, SHCJ (M. M. Lydia)

50 Years

Elizabeth Clarke, SHCJ (M. Emmanuel Mary)

Joan Greany, SHCJ (M. Edmond Mary)

Roseanne McDougall, SHCJ (M. M. Roseanne)

Mary Alice Minogue, SHCJ (M. Grace Mary)

Michele Puma, SHCJ (M. Marie Michele)

Margaret Scholle, SHCJ (M. M. Marina)

Marcia Sichel, SHCJ (M. M. Marcia)

Claire Smith, SHCJ (M. John of the Cross)

We honor and celebrate these sisters who have dedicated their lives to the service of our loving God.

We wish them abundant blessings!

To view a video of the jubilarians, go to <http://www.shcj.org/amer/2011SHCJJubilarians.html>