



# Defining Elements of SHCJ American Province Associates

Striving to be the  
people of God in the  
21<sup>st</sup> century

Eager for growth in  
spirituality as we seek  
ways to discover and  
manifest the Incarnate God

*Do  
what  
you are doing  
CC*

## PRAYER

## SPIRITUALITY

**We are drawn to  
the charism of Cornelia Connelly**

*Meet the wants  
of the age.  
CC*

*Be "cosmopolitan."  
CC*

## MINISTRY

Open to engage the  
challenges of the  
21<sup>st</sup> century

Embracing an  
ecumenical vision  
in a global world



**"I'm cosmopolitan. The  
whole world is my  
country and heaven is  
my home."  
Cornelia Connelly**

## Preliminary Mission Statement

We are rooted in Cornelia's charism and desirous to grow in her spirit. We struggle to make known in our age the reality of God's love enfolded in men and women. We are called to help others believe that God lives and act in them and in our world and to rejoice in that Presence.

## Connecting with Cornelia and Charism

Marcia Sichel has extended a welcome to those in association with the SHCJ to participate in a Heritage Day during the Provincial Chapter. The Associate Team extends a further welcome to you to participate in two working sessions for associates.

In preparation for that meeting, we suggest that you communicate with other associates following these simple guidelines:

- Personal reflection and prayer
- Contact one or more associates and share your reflections
- Please respond to the questions on the response sheet enclosed by January 15, 2003.

### CHARISM

I wish we could all pray so fervently as to obtain for all the true Spirit of the Holy Child and the love of all He loved and taught...Humility must be dear to us as the apple of our eye, for all true charity is focused on humility which is always mistrustful of self and full of confidence in God.

*11/13/1873 Letter to U.S. Novices*

### LIFE AS MINISTRY

“Action not words”

Let all be diligent in giving proofs of love this year, and as you step on through muddy streets, love God with your feet, and when your hands toil, and when you teach the children, love Him with His little ones, and may you be blessed in your actions and in your members with an abundance of divine love, and purified and prepared in this world, as far as possible, to acquire an eternity of love. Pray for your unworthy servant in Christ, C. *1854 Epiphany*

### SPIRITUALITY

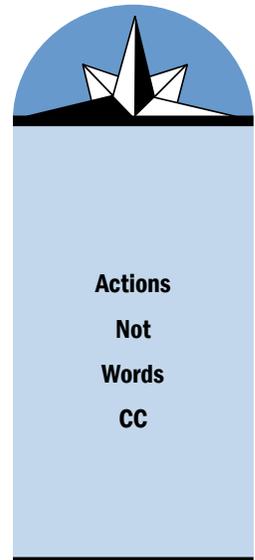
... so ought all to begin again with the most sweet and holy and loving Child Jesus – a humbled God – walking with him step by step in the simplicity of the child in humility and poverty, so that they may be united to our crucified Lord and then look forward to a glorious eternity. *1850 SHCJ Constitutions*

### MINISTRY/SPIRITUALITY

Now we must delight in Him by our homely actions of charity, and by our passive cooperation, not resisting the love that would fill our poor hearts - -let us not rest, my dear sisters, for we are ourselves the only obstacles to the overflowing of His divine love. *1857 Epiphany Letter*

### COMPANIONSHIP/ECUMENISM

God grant that we may march at an equal pace in the path of perfection, that the Pax Vobis of our Lord at this season (Easter) may bring peace of conscience for each and everyone – peace with God, peace with your neighbor and not only peace for your own sake but that all may possess that peace which is God’s gift... *Letter to Mother Teresa, Mother Emily and Mother Lucy*



**Actions  
Not  
Words  
CC**

## Reflection Questions

1. Which of these words from Cornelia Connelly speak to you right now?
2. How do you incorporate the grace of these words into your life?
3. What would help you be more faithful to God?

## Timeline

December 2002	First mailing to Associates
January 15, 2003	Cornelia Connelly's Birthday
	Responses due to Catherine Quinn
February 14-16	Associates Team meets in Philadelphia
March	Second mailing to Associates
April 18	Responses from second mailing due
April 20	Easter Sunday
April 23	Associates Team meets in Rye, NY
May	Third Mailing to Associates
June 27-29	SHCJ Chapter; Associates Meeting Renaissance Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
July 11-12	Associates Team meets in Philadelphia, PA

### RESOURCES

Moment By Moment: A  
Retreat in Everyday Life—  
Carol Ann Smith, SHCJ  
Ave Maria Press

Finding the Treasure, Sandra  
Schneiders, (pp. 41-49; 92-  
98)

### CALLING ALL SPANISH SPEAKERS

We need volunteers at the June meeting to translate for our Associate companions from Chile and the Dominican Republic. Please let us know if you can help with this.

### UPCOMING TOPICS for FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

- Formation for associates
- Questions regarding funding
- Communication and dialog
- Opportunities for spiritual growth

### IN THIS MAILING

- Response sheet to be returned to Catherine Quinn
- Address, phone and e-mail list of Associates – if you notice that someone is missing from this list or you would like to add someone interested in the Associates program, please let us know.
- Article by Joan Chittister
- Flier from NACAR

## Cornelian Ministries

The SHCJ in the American Province are undertaking an exciting new venture to continue and expand the work of Cornelia Connelly. Three years ago, the province leadership team met to consider how the SHCJ could best forward this mission. The General Chapter in 1998 had articulated their responsibility clearly: to tend the fires of the extraordinary gift Cornelia Connelly gave them and the Church. For two years a planning group has worked on the development of by-laws and articles of incorporation. A search has begun for an Executive Director of Cornelia Ministries. The starting of Cornelian Ministries presents a challenging opportunity for a ministry-oriented person to build an organization that will enable talented men and women to share their gifts with God's poor and disenfranchised. Please help in the search by contacting women and men who have the gifts for this work and urge them to consider applying. Contact: Cornelian Ministries, Inc. c/o Pat Hope, 460 Shadeland Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA 19026

### VISIT THE WEBSITE

WWW.SHCJ.ORG  
CLICK ON AMERICAN PROVINCE,  
THEN CLICK ON ASSOCIATES

### ENCLOSURES

We hope you enjoy reading the article by Joan Chittister and the flier from NACAR. In order to get this out as quickly as possible we put this newsletter together in two weeks, so please forgive the "less-than-professional" look. Please give us suggestions for items you would like to see in future issues.