

**Song: *Thou Art the Light***

Thou are the Light, the bright and morning star,  
In whom we ever live and move and are.

Thou art the key to treasures new and old  
That turns the toil of every day to gold, O Holy Child.

Thou are the Way in which we learn to run  
With ardour till thy Father's will be done.

Thou art the truth from proud and wise concealed  
In swaddling bands, to little ones revealed. O Holy Child.

Thou Alpha-Omega, first and last,

In whose eternal love our lives are passed.

Thou art the Christ, the living God's own son,  
Make us with thee in heart and spirit one. O Holy Child.



*Thank you!*

# Day of Remembrance

Sunday, August 12, 2012

*150th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Scotia*

—*Morning Prayer*—

**Introduction** (*aloud or silently*)

Whether you are alone or in a group for this time of prayer, you are invited to place your chair/s facing east, as a reminder of the Sisters on the *Scotia*, sailing to America to start the first Holy Child mission in Cornelias own dear country; at times the Sisters sat in their deck chairs facing... England! Clearly, there must have been mixed emotions at the departure and during the journey. You might want to re-read the annals to refresh your memory about what they said and to imagine what they did *not* say about this historic trip in the name of the Society.

**Opening Prayer**

Leader: We gather in the presence of our God.

All: **May God hear our prayer and strengthen us.**

**Let us Pray:** Lord of all anniversaries, be with us as we remember and celebrate the day of arrival of the first Holy Child Sisters in America. Help us to ponder what was in their hearts during that trans-Atlantic journey; no doubt the emotions they experienced on the *Scotia* are ones familiar to us as we remember journeys we have made — journeys to new and unfamiliar places. We praise and thank you, Lord, for all that has been and for all that is yet to come, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Recall a few of your own significant "departures", e.g. leaving home for college or entering the Society; embarking on a new ministry, moving to a new community and locale .... What/who drew you to something new? If you are praying with others, share a story; describe the various emotions and the spirit which drew you to something new.*

## Reading /

In the SHCJ Rule authored by Cornelia, many virtues are named as those that would characterize the Holy Child family, but when writing about the primary ministry of the Sisters at that time, teaching, Cornelia chooses the virtue of “zeal.” That word isn’t used much these days; we are more likely to say: “what are you passionate about?” or “what gives you life?” or “what energizes you for the kingdom of God?” Here’s how Cornelia described zeal:

a well regulated zeal

a humble and disinterested zeal

a courageous zeal

a gentle and persuasive zeal

a patient and persevering zeal

a discreet zeal

*Think about the kind of spirit necessary to “make departures” for something new. What kind of zeal did the Scotia sisters need? As you look at your own personal history, what kind of zeal prompted you to move beyond the secure and the familiar? What kind of zeal inspires your action day by day?*

*Recall the invitation to make this Sunday different from other Sundays:*

Wherever you are,  
however you are,

whatever else you may have planned for this day,

*we call on all members of the province*

*to make this a holy day.*

The heart of this day is our common prayer

throughout the province.

PLT, July 2, 2012

**How will you respond today to this invitation?**

Leader: Let us look to Cornelia for wisdom and as we face an unknown future; that like Sister Aloysia Walker we will be a sign of strength in difficult times. Let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Leader: Let us pray for a spirit of honesty that like Sister Josephine Kearn, we will speak what is in our hearts and act in humble ways. Let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Leader: Let us pray for all of those who have spent time in the Society, like Sister Marion McKay, and who, later, sought the Lord in a different way. Let us pray to the Lord. **R**

*Please add spontaneous prayers of petition if you wish.*

*Placing of wreaths & blessing of graves  
in Philadelphia & Mayfield, England*



## Closing Prayer (all)

God of Journeys,  
You brought the Society of the Holy Child Jesus across ocean and lands. In struggle and hardship, with hopeful endurance and a desire to give their all to this new endeavor these women and their successors joyfully persevered.

Keep alive their vision in us. Our journey now is across minds and hearts. Help us to recognize your presence in all peoples and cultures, in our common humanity, our unique differences, our relationship with Earth, and in the wonder of all possibilities.

Be with us, O God, as we continue their journey in the spirit of your Holy Child. With courage and confidence, with simplicity and humility, with joyful zeal we commit ourselves this year, this day to your will and purpose so that your merciful love may prevail on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## Reflection & Sharing

For each of us, this anniversary of an historical event in the SHCJ story, also falls somewhere in our personal history.

*What kind of zeal urges you to explore new territory:  
in prayer, in ministry, in relationships?*

*How do you imagine the Holy Child family full of a  
renewed zeal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and years beyond?*

*What kind of zeal do we need to pray for  
as we move into the future?*

## Pilgrimage to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (those gathered at

*New Sharon will depart for the cemetery to lay a wreath on the  
graves of our pioneer sisters and continue the prayer there)*

### Prayers of Petition

**Leader:** Let us pray for those in leadership in the Society and the Church; that like Mother Mary Xavier Noble, the first leader of the Sisters in America, they will lead with courage, confidence and cheerfulness. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Let us pray for all missionaries, those who are willing to risk all for the kingdom of God; that like Sister Lucy Ignatia Newsham, described by others as a “true missionary”, we will be able to embark on new, even risky endeavors. Let us pray to the Lord. **R**

**Leader:** Let us pray for humor, that like Sister Agatha Deacy the gifts of our own personalities will provide support to others when life events seem ludicrous and there is no rhyme or reason; Let us pray to the Lord. **R**

## Closing Prayer

Living God, loving God, we thank you and we praise you for the power of your presence in our hearts, the vitality of your spirit here in our midst, for this opportunity to come together to affirm our participation in the SHCJ family and to celebrate our common hope. As we draw close to one another today, give us the kind of zeal we may need to meet those in need: courageous, patient, humble, gentle, persevering. Strengthen our faith in your power at work in us to touch the hearts of those we meet. Help those we encounter to recognize your life and action in their own lives and in our world. You are the faithful one, O Lord; you walk with us. Remind us to walk humbly with others, to learn from them and to rejoice in your presence. Amen.  
*(all sing) Let us love one another and pray ...*



### —Mid-Day Moment—

Your day of celebration may include many elements: group festivity, service to someone in need, prayerful reflection.

*Take just a few moments some time in the middle of the day, to think about the SHCJ family today: individuals, groups, ministerial colleagues and those who participate in the spiritual life of the Society. Have a kind of 'slide show' in your imagination so as to picture them as they are... where they are, what they might be doing today. For those you know personally try to articulate what spirit characterizes them: how would you describe their "zeal" to someone who has never met them? How has the spirit of this person inspired you?*

Be connected to them by simply voicing a word of thanks to God in whatever way comes to you at this time.



## — Evening Prayer —

### Introduction

Whether you are alone or in a group, for this time of prayer, face your chair to the west. We don't have any documentation that the Sisters on the *Scotia* actually changed the direction of their deck chairs but we do know that, upon arrival, they looked toward New York harbor and saw the Statue of Liberty. They became ready for whatever the future held for them. So here we are, 150 years later.

### Opening Prayer (all)

O living God, you fashion our human race in your image to be a community of equality and love among women and men. With Cornelia Connelly and all the saints, we worship you for binding us together in your love to work tirelessly for the rights of all, to tend creation as equal partners in holiness. Your spirit makes us one and calls us to live the Gospel fully so that the talents and gifts of every person give glory to your holy name.

(all sing) **Glory be to God**

**whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine!**

### Readings from the SHCJ Constitutions

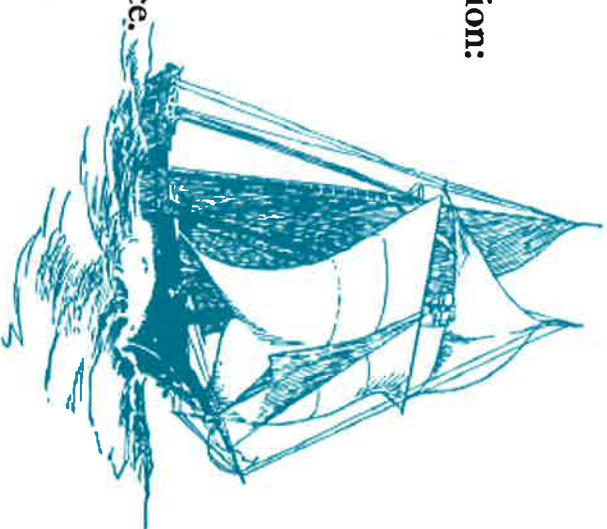
1. Love of Christ leads us to give him our hearts and lives as Jesus gave his, without reserve and without recall ... Like Cornelia we bring a capacity for human love and affection to our mission and our life together. (19 & 21)

2. God is faithful, and if we keep faith with God we become a sign of the fruitfulness of the Spirit at work in the world: it is possible to live in joy and to die in hope because we trust in the truth of God's word. (22)

3. God's grace enables us to leave all things and to use all things for God's sake, to be willing to have or not to have as our work requires, to be always at the service of others. (25)

### Response (all)

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



### Reading from *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue

When you are young you have a great intensity and sense of adventure. You want to do everything. You want it all, and you want it now. Your young life is usually not a time for reflection. That is why Goethe said that youth is wasted on the young. You are going in all directions, and you are not sure of your way ... Many people today are walking one way, but their lives are going in the other direction. Old age offers the opportunity to integrate and bring together the multiplicity of directions that you have traveled. It is a time when you can bring the circle of your life together to where your longing can be awakened and new possibilities can come alive for you.