

PRAYER *with* & SEARCHERS & SAINTS



Edward F. Gabriele

Cornelia Connelly

Educator and Worker for Women's Dignity

Cornelia Connelly's life (1809–1879) was a living parable of Christ's death and Resurrection. She endured death among her children, abandonment by a husband who impulsively sought careers in both the Anglican and Roman clergies, and harassment as her husband tried to have her rejected from the convent life she later found was God's will for her. In an era when most societies refused to educate women, she founded the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus for the betterment of women. Cornelia is today one of countless prayerful prophets whose legacy continue in her religious family's ongoing education of, and ministry to, children and women.

MORNING

Call to Prayer

At dawn the spirit of God hovers above our world breathing new life into our midst. As women and men created equally to steward creation, we join with Cornelia Connelly and all who champion human rights to work for the fullness of God's Reign.

Praise

O living God,
you fashioned 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 the love of
Christ
to work tirelessly for the rights of every woman and
man,
to tend creation as equal partners in holiness.

Your Spirit makes us one and calls us
to the task of Christian service,
so that the talents and gifts of every person
give glory to your holy name.

The Saints tell us many things which we take hold
of and apply to ourselves only when the Holy Spirit
gives us light to see, and the humility necessary to
acknowledge when we do really see, and the fidelity
to practise what He shows us. . . . It does happen
that some think very little about the particular devo-
tion to the Spirit from Whom all good comes.
Now I wish for you all the Seven Gifts of the Holy
Ghost, and that the Holy Spirit may whisper into
your ear all that He wishes you to do. (Cornelia
Connelly)

A new day has come. With the coming of the light, we
are caught up in the anticipation of God's gift of equal-
ity for all peoples. In joy we pray: *Honor, love, and praise
be yours!*

- We adore you, God, who called women and men to
be equal stewards of all creation, as we pray . . .
- We are filled with joy for the love of God that breaks
the bondage of discrimination and fear, as we pray . . .
- We worship you, God, whose Word made flesh has
revealed the dignity of our human nature, as we pray
. . .
- We are filled with hope for the presence of Jesus, who
urges us to preserve the human rights of the poor and
the oppressed, as we pray . . .

O God, from the womb of your goodness we have been
brought to birth. With Cornelia Connelly and all wom-
en of faith, you urge disciples of Jesus to work tirelessly
for the rights of every human being. Send forth your
Spirit. Break the bonds of oppression and make us in-
struments of your justice and peace. We ask this as all
things through Jesus our Messiah forever and ever.
Amen.

Reading

Acclamations

Closing

EVENING

Call to Prayer

On this day God has called us to teach one another new pathways of peace. With Cornelia Connelly and all those who suffered for the education and dignity of the oppressed, we pray this night that we might teach others the freedom of life that comes to us in the presence of Christ Jesus whose word is life itself.

Thanksgiving

Tender teacher whose word is life,
you instruct the human heart
by the power of the Holy Spirit
to put aside the weaponry of human hate
and take up the staff of peace and justice.
Jesus, your beloved and holy child,
ever present in our midst,
joyfully leads us through the night
toward a new dawn of justice and peace.
This night we praise and thank you, O God,
for the gift of your holy ones,
who are mother and father for us,
teaching us your ways of liberty and holiness of life.
With them we proclaim you as our God
and the sole cause of our joy.

Reading

Do not allow your heart to be wounded, and if it is wounded in spite of your efforts, stitch up the wound with the love of God. . . . I very often have to remember this and . . . not to allow one's poor heart to drop blood till it withers! . . . He condescends to show us the love of His Heart, pointing to it and saying: "Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart." (Cornelia Connelly)

Intercessions

With Cornelia Connelly and all those who work for the dignity of every woman, man, and child, we join our prayers to the God who wills justice for our life, as we pray: *Keep us mindful of your love.*



- For the church throughout the world, that the Christian community may teach others as Jesus did, let us pray . . .
- For universities, colleges, and schools, that they may be communities of humane and just learning while pursuing the life of the intellect, let us pray . . .
- For those who are called to the ministry of education, that the Spirit of wisdom may give them patience and joy as they labor to teach the Gospel, let us pray . . .
- For those who are held in the ignorance and fear that perpetuates human bondage, that God might set them free, let us pray . . .

Repeat morning's closing.

More on Cornelia Connelly

Flaxman, Radegunde. *A Woman Styled Bold: The Life of Cornelia Connelly*. London: Darton, Longman, and Todd, 1991.

Closing