

Coloring Cornelia



The Life of Cornelia Connelly 1809 - 1879

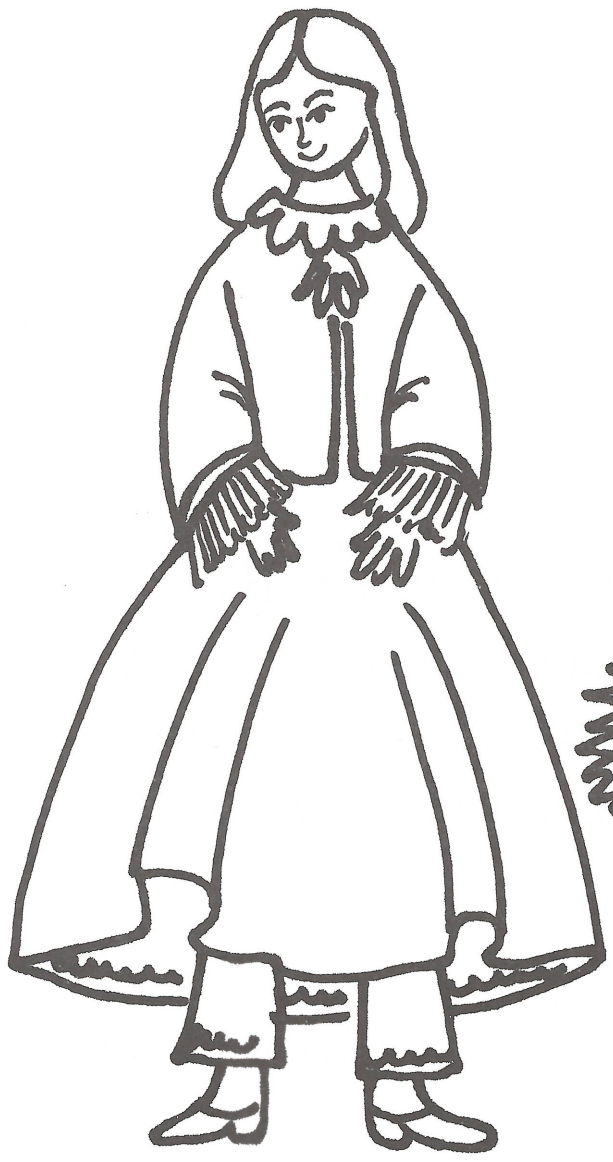
This book is dedicated to all who teach
children by example the meaning of love.

A long time ago a baby girl was born on
January 15, 1809, in Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania. Her name was Cornelia Peacock.
She had six brothers and sisters.
Sometimes, her family called her "Nelie."
That was her nickname.



Cornelia
Peacock
January 15, 1809

As a child, she was good at drawing and enjoyed music. Her dad owned a farm in Mount Holly, New Jersey. She liked to play at her dad's farm.

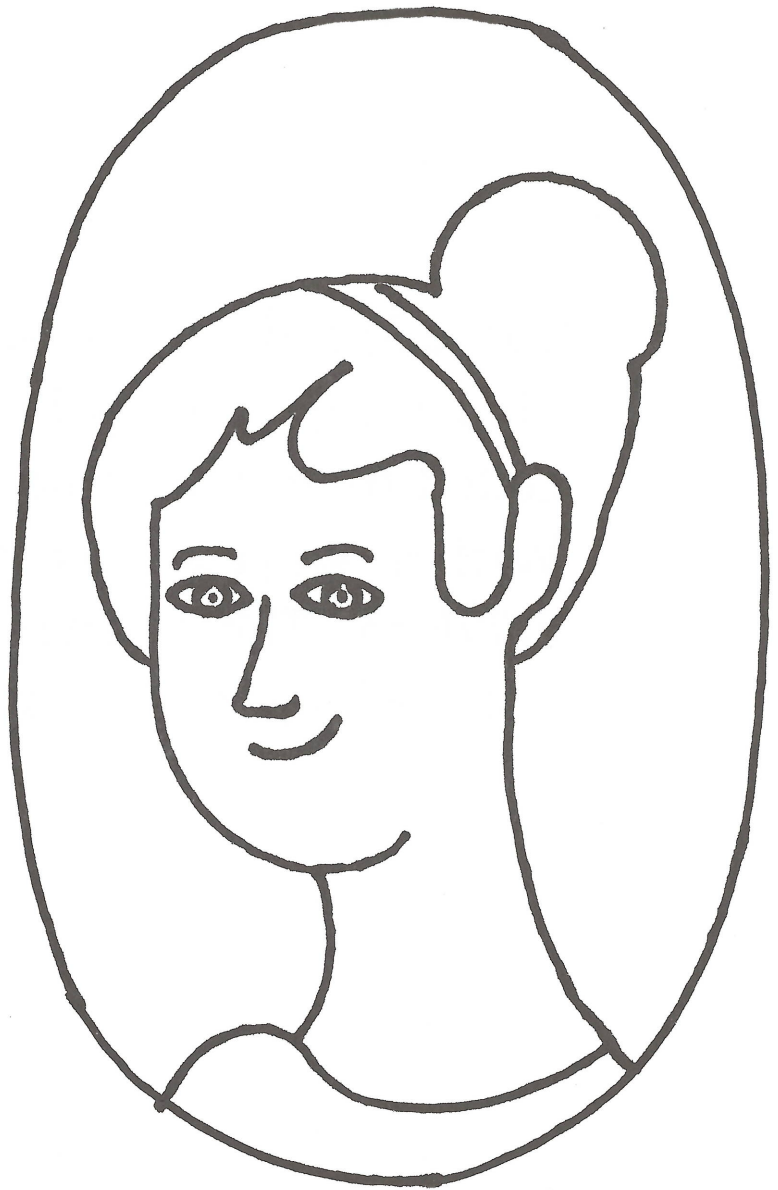


Amvini

When she grew up, in 1831, she married a minister from the Episcopal Church. His name was Pierce Connelly. Her name then became Cornelia Connelly. Everyone knows her by that name today.



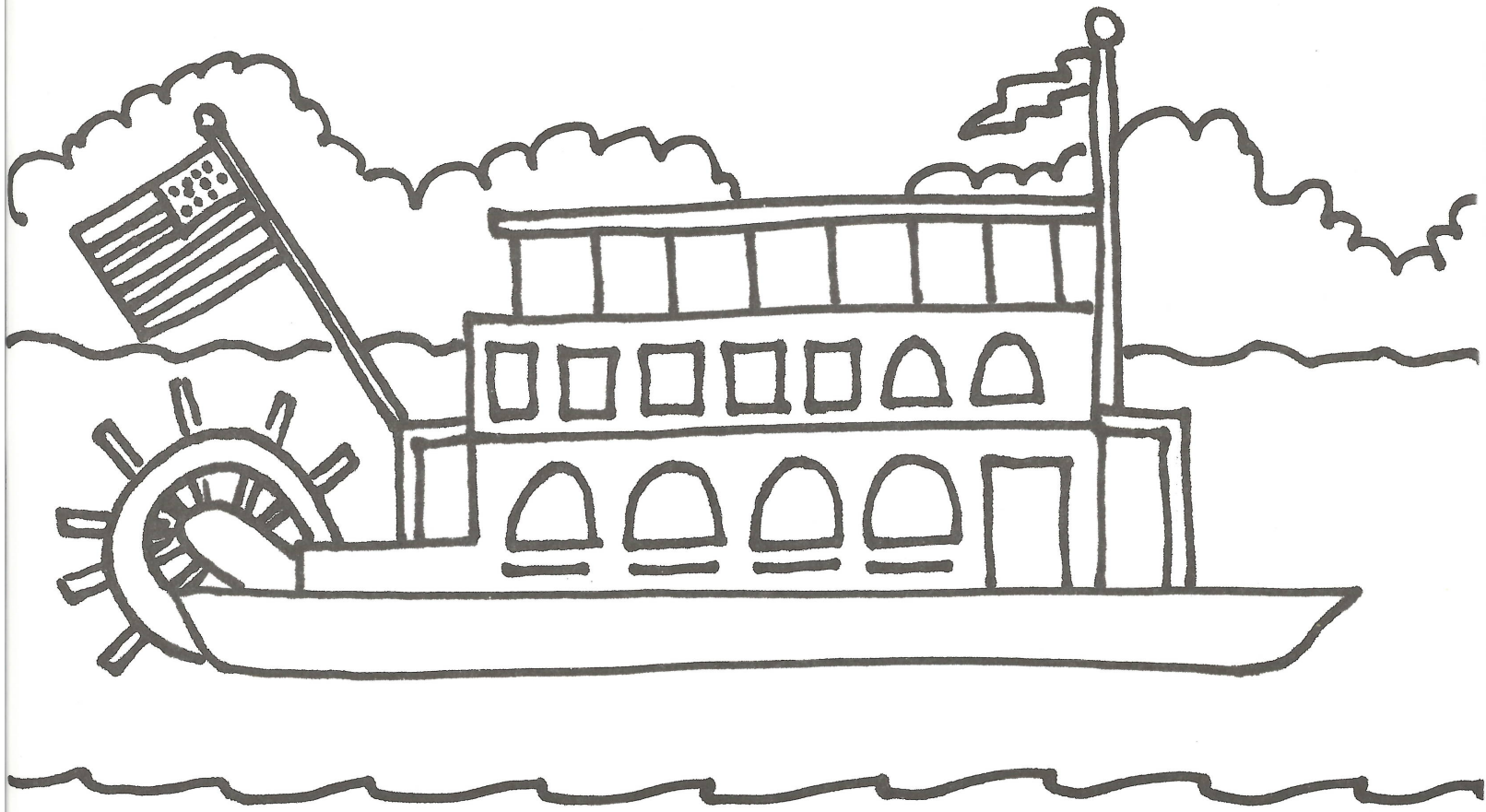
Pierce



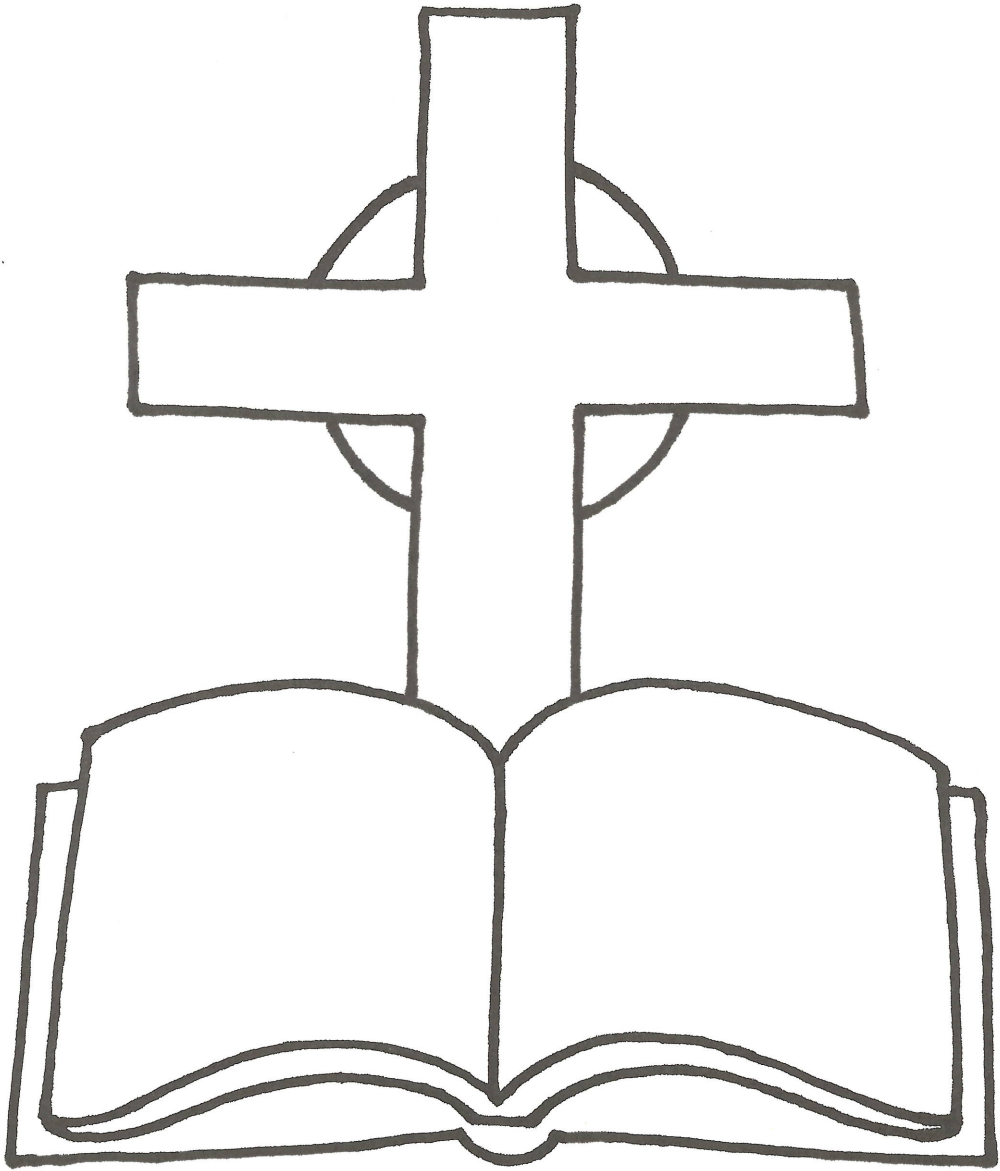
Cornelia

Cornelia and her husband, Pierce, traveled by steamboat to a new home in Mississippi. They called their new home "White Cottage."

Within ten years Cornelia and Pierce had five children. Their names were: Mercer, Adeline, John Henry, Mary Magdalen, and Frank.



Pierce and Cornelia enjoyed learning about many different things. One day Pierce started to wonder about his religion. Both he and Cornelia started to study about the Catholic faith.



After praying to God, Cornelia decided to become a Catholic. Pierce wanted his family to go to Rome where he could study more about the Catholic religion. So, the family traveled to Rome, and he became a Catholic, too!



The Connelly family had a good time in Rome. The children loved to go to new places. Cornelia's love of the Church grew as she visited many shrines and read about the lives of the saints. She enjoyed the various celebrations throughout the Church year.

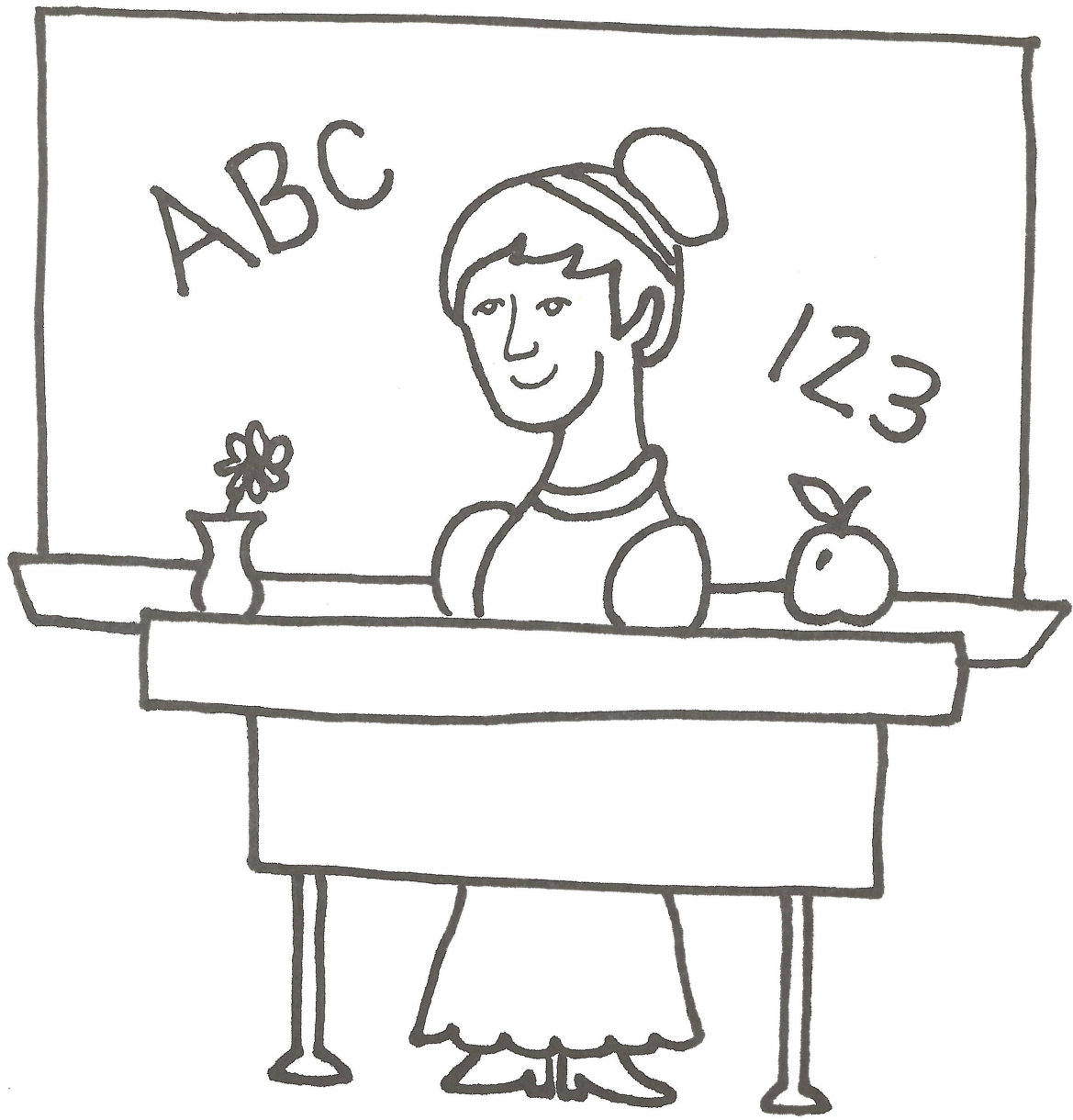


In 1838 the Connelly Family returned to the United States and settled in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. They started out in a small cabin, but eventually bought a home which they called "Gracemere."



Grand Coteau, Louisiana

Cornelia and Pierce were teachers. Pierce taught in a Jesuit school and Cornelia, at the Sacred Heart School. It was during this time that Pierce told Cornelia that he wanted to become a Catholic priest.



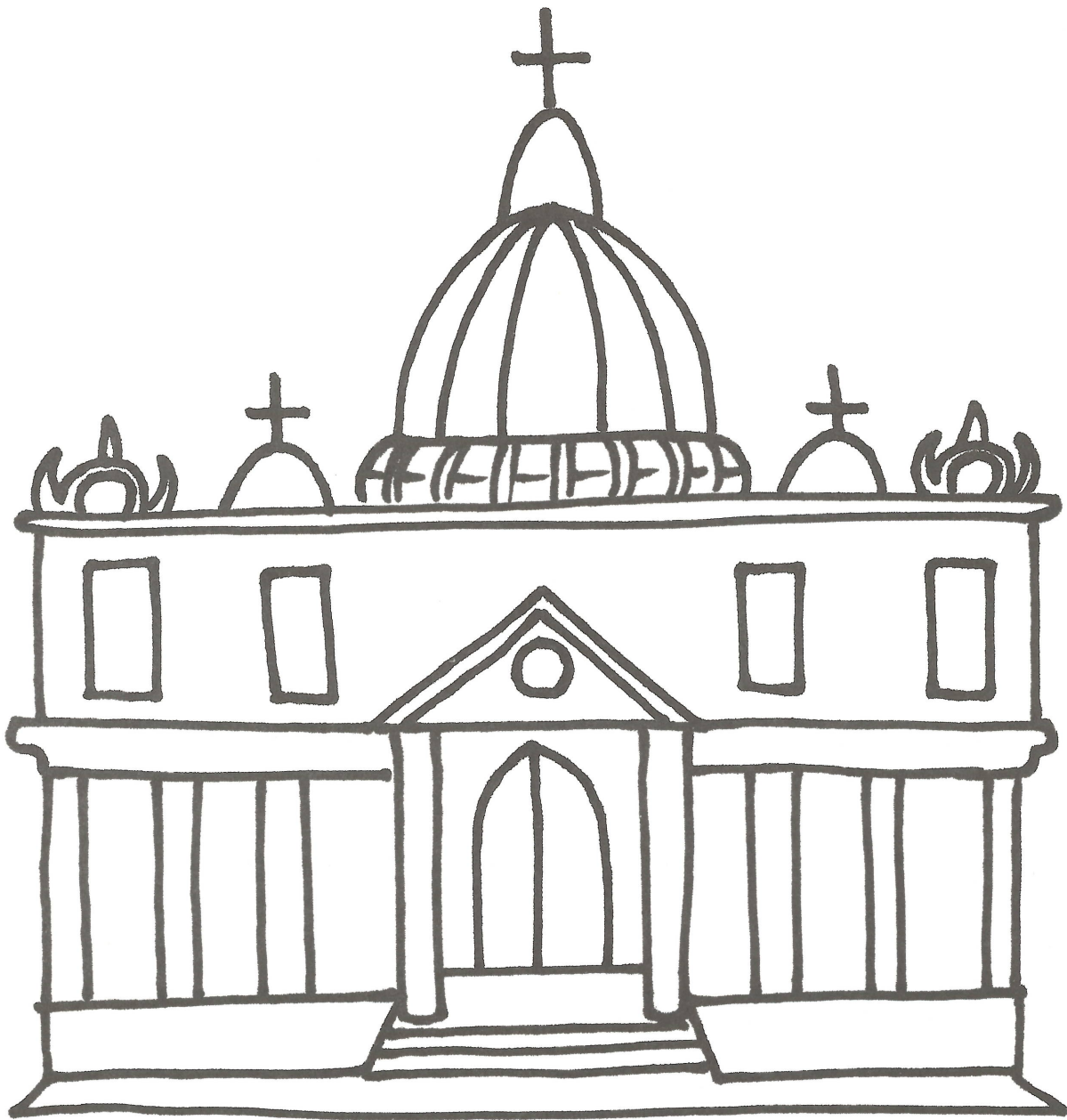
In order to do this, Pierce would have to leave Cornelia and the children. This made the family sad. Pierce loved his family, and they loved him. Cornelia prayed and shared her sadness with God. She was comforted by God, and was able to comfort her children as well. She thought if God wanted Pierce to be a priest, she did not want to get in God's way.



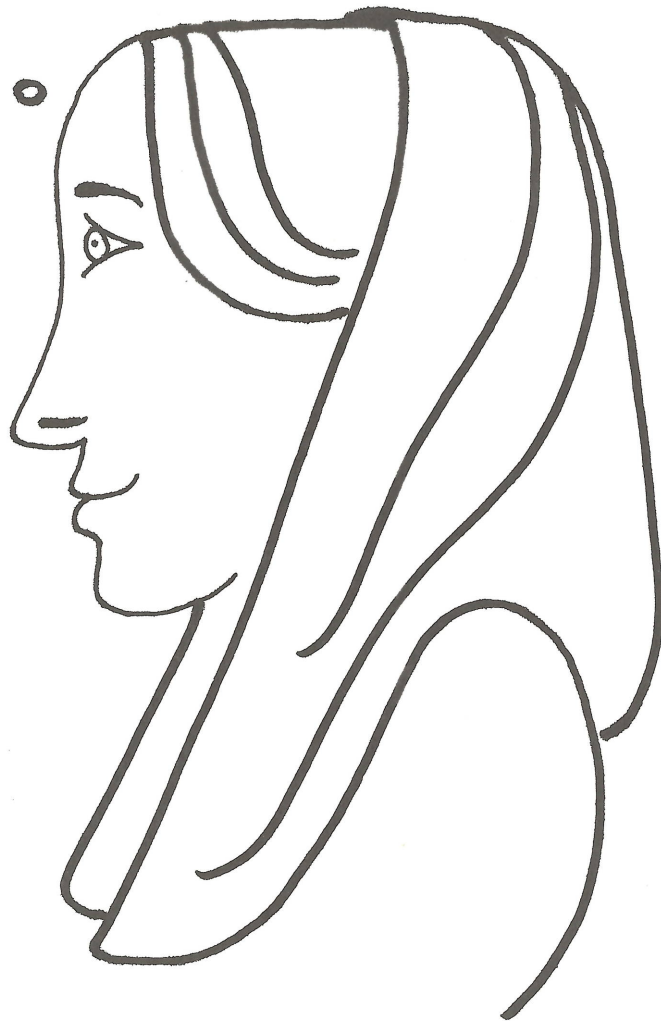
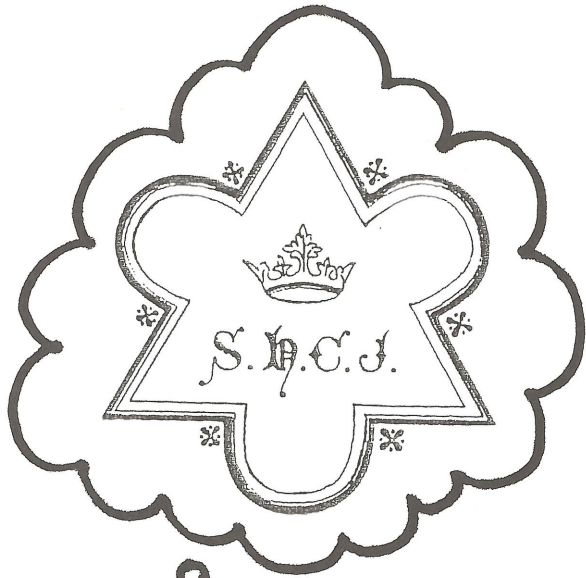
After Pierce left for Rome to become a priest, Cornelia stayed in Grand Coteau and learned much about the life of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart with whom she taught at the school. She continued to teach some classes and took care of her children.



Soon Cornelia was asked to go to Rome, too. She and Pierce made a special promise to God. They promised not to live as husband and wife anymore. Cornelia and her children lived with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.



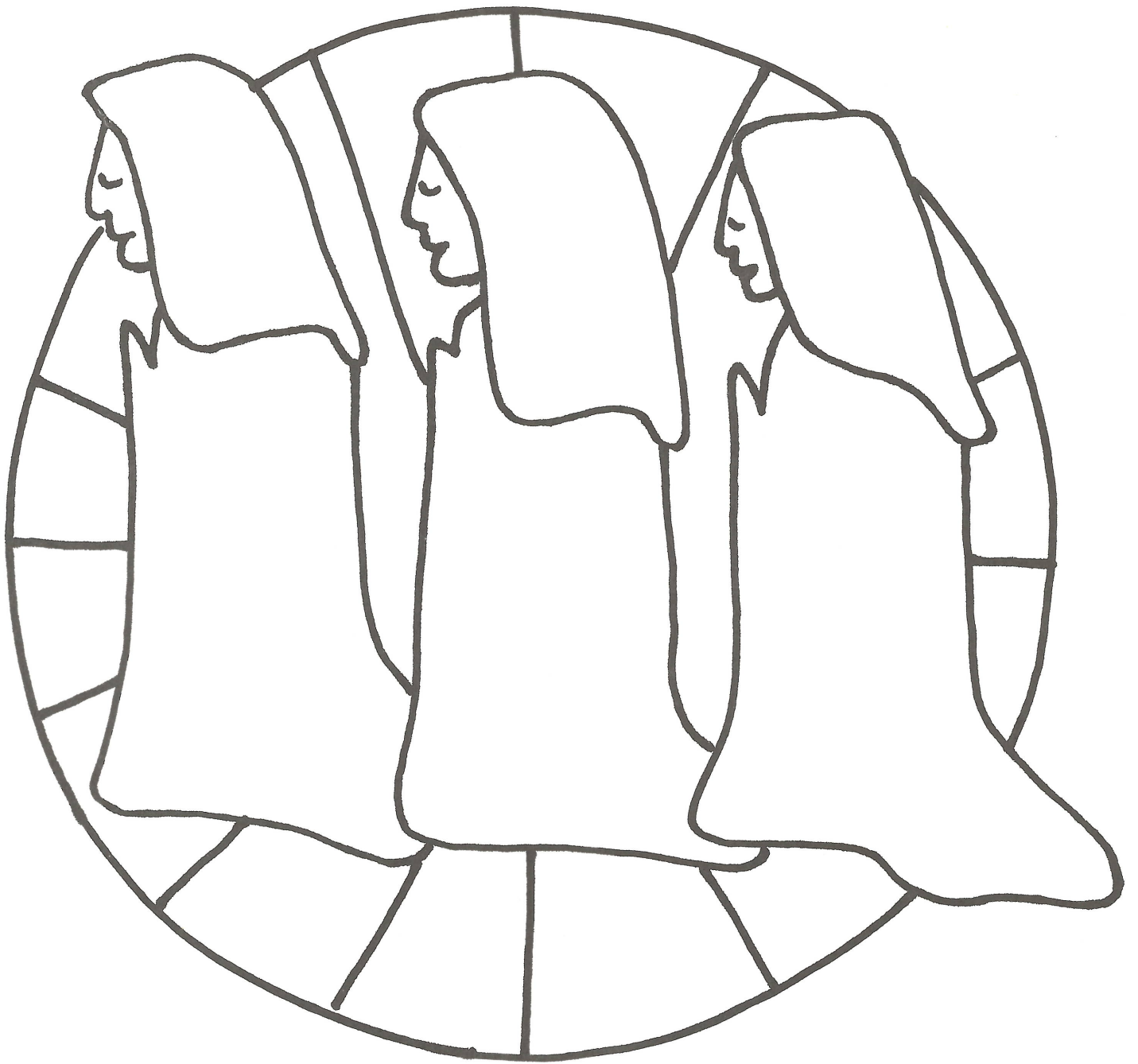
Cornelia learned much about the religious life from the Sacred Heart Sisters. She loved God and wanted to help those in need. She believed that God is in everyone and everyone is special. Cornelia wanted everyone to know that very special love. She had an idea to start a new community, in America, a Society to do God's work.



Some bishops in England had another idea; they wanted Cornelia to start a new community of Sisters in England. She agreed to do this, and that's how the Society of the Holy Child Jesus began.



She and some friends opened a school in Derby, England, on October 13, 1846. The first Mass was celebrated in the convent on October 15. This has been a special feast, St. Teresa's Day, for the Sisters of the Holy Child ever since.



St. Teresa's Day
October 15

Cornelia became a Sister and made a promise to live for God and to do God's work for her whole life. Others joined her. Soon Holy Child schools were opening all over England.



Derby, England

Cornelia held on to her dream of wanting the Society to go to the United States. She sent six sisters to set sail for America in 1862. They arrived by ship in Philadelphia and settled in a town called Towanda in Pennsylvania. Those days were not easy for the Sisters, but they knew that God would take care of them as they did God's work.

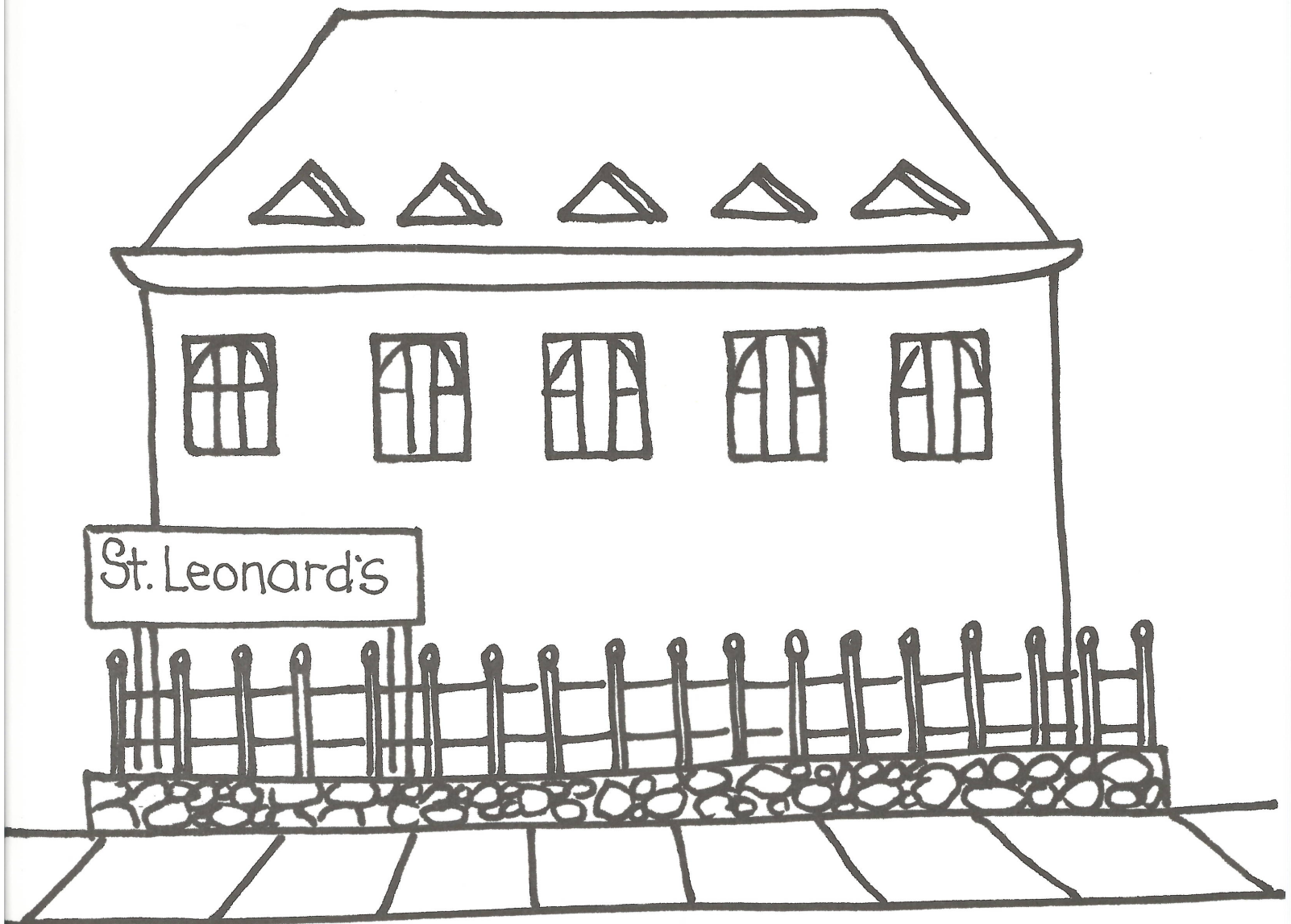


More sisters were sent to America and soon they were in charge of a parish school and an academy on Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia. Another place they opened in Pennsylvania was Sharon House in Sharon Hill.



Sharon Hill, PA

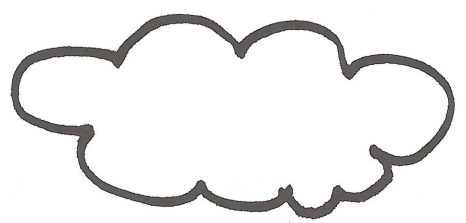
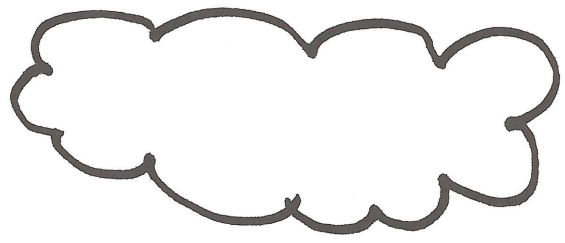
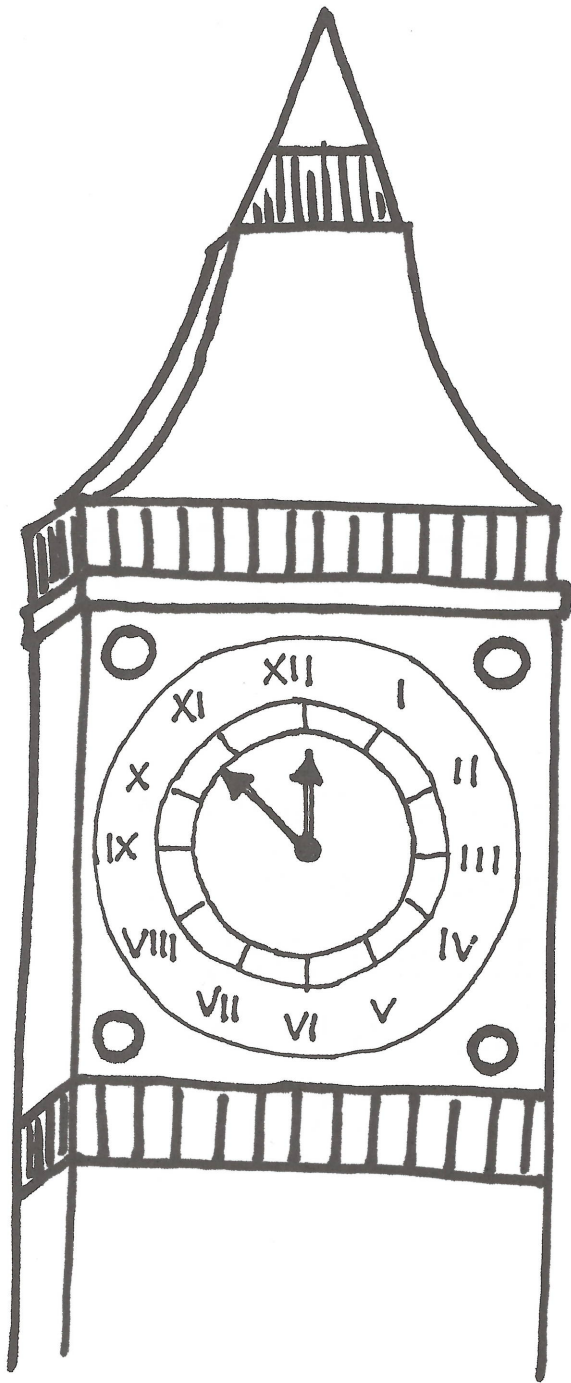
Cornelia finally visited America in 1867.
While she was there she bought new property
for a community and a school on Chestnut
Street. They called it "St. Leonard's."



Holy Child Schools were known to be happy places. The Sisters trusted the students and made learning fun. Cornelia loved learning. She helped all students learn in whatever way was best for them. She knew that being the best we can be is what God wants for us.

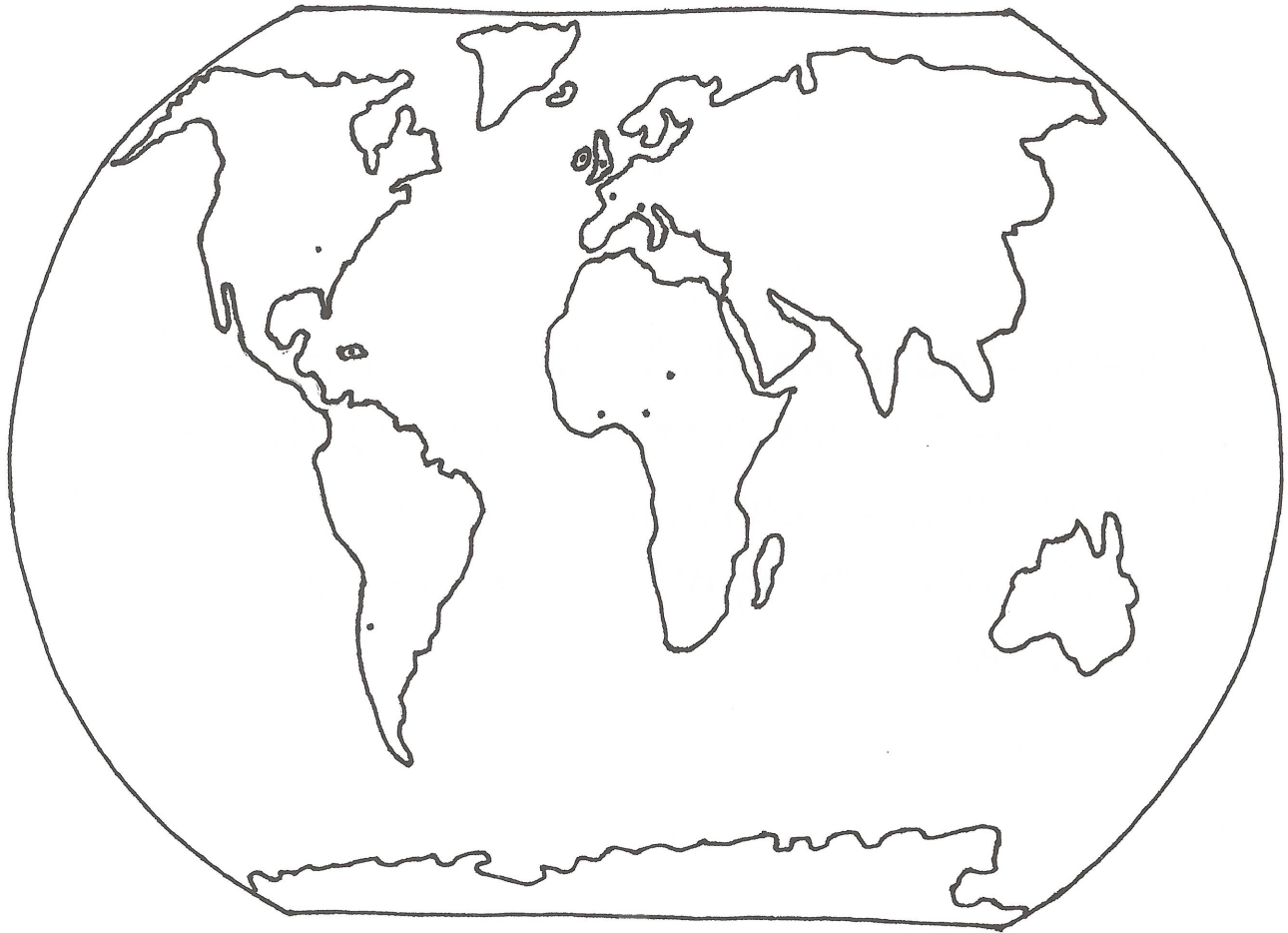


Cornelia went back to England and over the years the Society continued to grow in America and in other countries around the world.



England

Today, the Sisters of the Holy Child can be found in Chad, Chile, Dominican Republic, England, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, the United States, and Wales.



Cornelia died in April 18, 1879. Since her death, the Sisters in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus have continued to follow her example by teaching others and helping them to know God.



The Catholic Church is studying the life of Cornelia Connelly and how holy she was. We hope that the Catholic Church will declare her a saint. In the mean time, we can ask Cornelia to help people with special needs by asking God for a miracle to heal them. Because of the great love that Cornelia showed during her life time, many people believe that her sainthood is well deserved!

