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CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF CORNELIA CONNELLY

This chronology is offered to service the many projects in progress for the Year of Cornelia and, hopefully, in the years ahead. It is the result of the generous and effective labors of Sr. Virginia Whitten, SHCJ, who revised and fused several shorter chronologies compiled previously by SHCJ, and who helpfully supplemented these. We regret that the earlier compilers are anonymous; we thank them, as we thank Sr. Marie Madeleine Amy, SHCJ, for valuable corrections and suggestions, and Mrs. Dolores McCaffrey for welcome suggestions from the lay person's point of view.

Caritas McCarthy, SHCJ

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF CORNELIA CONNELLY

- 1732 Daniel Steinmetz, Cornelia Connelly's great-grandfather, arrived in Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A., from the Palatine, Germany.
- 1768 Susanna Steinmetz, daughter of Daniel, Cornelia's grandmother, married Dr. Jacob Swope in the First German Reformed Church. Their daughter, Mary was Cornelia's mother.
- 1797 Ralph Peacock, Yorkshireman, Cornelia's father, was naturalized as citizen of U.S.A. in Philadelphia.
- 1798 Ralph Peacock and Mary Swope, Cornelia's parents, married in Christ Church, Philadelphia, by Bishop William White.
- 1804 Aug. 9. Pierce Connelly born to Henry and Elizabeth Pierce Connelly; baptized Oct. 25, 1807, in First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.
- 1809 Jan. 15. Cornelia Augusta Peacock born to Ralph and Mary Swope Bowen Peacock at 1 Filbert Street, Philadelphia.
- 1809-1831 Cornelia resided in Philadelphia.
- 1818 Ralph Peacock, Cornelia's father, died.
- 1822 Cornelia's eldest brother, Dodsworth, died.

- 1823 May. Cornelia's mother died; Cornelia's half-sister, Isabella Bowen Montgomery, wife of Austin, adopted Cornelia.
- 1828 Oct. 5. Pierce ordained in St. James' Episcopal Church, Kingsessing (now part of Philadelphia) by Bishop William White.
- 1831 Feb. 25. Cornelia baptized by Rev. James Montgomery, first rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and brother-in-law of Isabella Bowen Montgomery.
- 1831 Dec. 1. Cornelia married to Pierce by Bishop White in the home of her sister, Adeline Duval, near 13th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.
- 1831 Dec. 17. Pierce resigned from St. James Episcopal (formerly Swedish Lutheran) Church in Kingsessing and accepted rectorship of Trinity Church, Natchez, Mississippi.
- 1832-1835 Connelys resided at Natchez.
- 1832 Dec. 17. Mercer born; named for Dr. William Newton Mercer, vestryman at Trinity Church.
- 1834 Joseph Nicholas Nicollet, French Catholic scientist and explorer, visited the Connelys and encouraged their deeper investigation of the Roman Catholic Church, then under violent attack from the rising Nativist movement.
- 1835 March 6. Adeline Maria Duval born. April 19 (Easter). Adeline baptized by Pierce.

- 1835 Summer. Nicollet visited the Connelys and again encouraged them in what was now a spiritual odyssey for both.
- 1835 Aug. 26. Pierce sent letter of resignation to Episcopalian Bishop Otey.
- 1835 Sept. 6. Pierce delivered his farewell sermon in Trinity Church, Natchez, and published this with his letter of resignation.
- 1835 Sept. 17. Pierce arrived in St. Louis; Nicollet took him to Bishop Rosati to discuss conversion to Roman Catholicism and the dilemma of his continuing belief in his vocation to the priesthood. He made plans for taking his family to Rome.
- 1835 October. Cornelia wrote to her sister that there was no possibility of Pierce's becoming a Roman Catholic priest while she lived.
- 1835 October. Connelys held auction at White Cottage, preparatory to journey to Rome.
- 1835 Nov. 21-Dec. 11. The Connelys stayed in New Orleans and conferred with missionary bishops there. Cornelia asked to abjure before sailing. Bishops Blanc and Rosati received her abjuration. Bishop Purcell heard her confession, and Blanc gave her First Communion. Her two children were accepted into the Church.
- 1835 Dec. 12. Connelys sailed for Europe.
- 1836 Feb. 2. Connelys arrived Marseilles. Feb. 25. They arrived Rome.

- 1836 March. Audience with Pope Gregory XVI.
- 1836 March 27 (Palm Sunday). Pierce made his abjuration in the hands of Cardinal Odescalchi, and was received into the Church.
March 31 (Maundy Thursday). Pierce & Cornelia confirmed by T. Cardinal Weld. At this time Pierce was still discussing the possibility of priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church.
- 1836-37 Connelys resided in Europe, mostly in Rome, where they were warmly received by Pope Gregory XVI as a "big catch" from the Mississippi Valley, U.S.A. They were also well received by the diplomats and nobility in Rome and Vienna who were supporting missionary efforts in the U.S. and England.
- 1836 Spring. Pierce in England. Cornelia remained in Rome.
- 1837 The Connelys met Nicholas Wiseman, rector of the English College.
- 1837 Bishop Flaget met the Connelys.
- 1837 Apr. 25. Connelys had a private audience with Gregory XVI.
- 1837 Spring. Connelys went to Vienna, Austria. Pierce had interview with Prince Metternich.
- 1837 June 22. John Henry born in Vienna.
June 24. John Henry baptized.
- 1837 August. Connelys in Paris.

- 1837 October. Received news of financial reverses due to the Panic of 1837.
Nov. 7. Left Europe from Le Havre.
- 1838 Jan. 7. Connelys arrived New Orleans. Before Jan. 26, back in Natchez to try to repair their finances ravaged by the Panic of 1837.
- 1838 May 8. Pierce attended meeting of Board of Trustees of Roman Catholic Church, Natchez.
- 1838 Spring. Nicholas Point, S.J., arrived in Natchez to ask Pierce to teach in St. Charles, Grand Coteau.
- 1838 June 16 or 24. Connelys arrived at Grand Coteau. Cornelia resided there from June '38 to June '43; Pierce, from June '38 to May '42.
- 1838 June 25. Pierce began to teach at St. Charles, Grand Coteau. Cornelia taught at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, piano, singing and guitar.
- 1839 July 22. Mary Magdalen Elizabeth Julia born.
July 29. Mary Magdalen was baptized.
Sept. 10. Mary Magdalen died. Cornelia had contracted a fever.
Sept. 13. Mary Magdalen buried at Grand Coteau.
- 1839 Dec. 21. Cornelia made Spiritual Exercises for first time under the direction of N. Point, S.J. She resolved "never pass one year without making a retreat . . . follow the Exercises of St. Ignatius."

- 1839 Dec. Mary Frances Peacock came to live at Grand Coteau.
- 1840 Feb. 2. John Henry died from burns, after 43 hours of suffering in Cornelia's arms.
- 1840 Feb. 3. Mary Frances Peacock received into the Church.
- 1840 June. Fr. Abbadie, S.J., replaced Fr. Point, S.J., as Cornelia's spiritual director.
- 1840 July 16. Fr. Point, S.J., went on mission to Rocky Mountains with P. de Smedt, S.J.
- 1840 Oct. 13. Pierce, while making the Spiritual Exercises, told Cornelia that he had decided that God was calling him to the Catholic priesthood. Cornelia's answer recorded by Fr. Abbadie, S.J., her spiritual director, was "Think of it twice and with deliberate attention, but if the good God asks the sacrifice, I am ready to make it to Him and with all my heart."
- 1841 Jan. 1-10. Cornelia made retreat with Fr. de Theux, S.J. "Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity."
- 1841 March 29. Pierce Francis Cornelia Joseph born.
- 1841 June 18. Mary Frances Peacock entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau.
- 1841 July 23. John Connelly, Pierce's brother, received into the Church.

- 1841 July 25. John Connelly confirmed.
- 1841 Aug. 15. Mary Frances Peacock received the Habit of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- 1841 September. Cornelia made retreat with Fr. de Theux. 17th: "Examined Vocation. Decided."
- 1842 Feb. 22. Angelica Connelly was baptized. Mar. 12. Angelica makes her First Communion.
- 1842 May 5. Ascension Day. Pierce left for Europe taking Mercer to Oscott boarding school. Connellys sold Gracemere, and Cornelia lived in Bishop's Cottage next to Sacred Heart School from May '42 to July '43.
- 1842 Oct. 1. Cornelia made Fr. Abbadie's retreat at Grand Coteau.
- 1843 June. Mother Peacock was professed in the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- 1843 July 8. Cornelia left Grand Coteau with Adeline and Frank to join Pierce in Philadelphia before sailing for Europe to present their petition for separation, preparatory to Pierce's priesthood. Sept. 29. Connellys arrived in England. Dec. 7. Connellys arrived in Rome.
- 1843 December. Audience with Pope Gregory XVI.
- 1843 Dec. 17. Adeline became boarder at the Trinita.
- 1843- Connellys resided in Rome.

- 1844 Jan. 4. Cornelia was made E. de M. at Trinità.
- 1844 Jan. 11. Mercer changed from Oscott school to Stonyhurst.
- 1844 Mar. 4. Cornelia made retreat at Trinità with Fr. Zuliani, S.J.
- 1844 Mar. 15. Connellys submitted formal petition for separation to Gregory XVI, who dispensed from further requirements for Pierce to receive minor orders.
- 1844 April 1. Deed of perpetual separation signed before Cardinal Patrizi, Cardinal Vicar of Rome, and two witnesses.
- 1844 April 9. Easter Tuesday. Cornelia entered Trinità as quasi-postulant and lived in small cottage on grounds with Frank and his nurse while Adeline boarded in the school.
- 1844 April 10. Pierce received tonsure.
May 1. Pierce received Minor Orders.
- 1844 Cornelia wrote in her Spiritual Notebook: "I belong all to God. There is nothing in the world that I would not leave to do His Holy Will and to satisfy Him."
- 1844 Cornelia helped with painting of "Mater Admirabilis."
- 1844 Nov. 2. Retreat with Fr. Arregone, S.J., at the Trinità.
- 1844 George Peacock (Cornelia's brother) and Adeline Duval (Cornelia's sister) and her family were received into the Church.

- 1845 By February Cornelia had communicated to the superior of the Sacred Heart Convent at the Trinità that she had no vocation to to the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- 1845 Spring. Cornelia, prior to Pierce's receiving Major Orders, "had previously warned him of the difficulties and trials of the state into which he was about to bind himself irrevocably, and offered to release him from all such difficulties and trials by returning to their previous mode of life, . . . he persisted however, notwithstanding such warnings and representations."
- 1845 Before June 18. The Cardinal Vicar of Rome declared to Cornelia that her forthcoming vow of chastity did not interfere with her duty to care for her children, and left her free of monastic or religious obligations.
- 1845 June 18. Cornelia professed a solemn vow of chastity; signed by Pierce, Fr. J. Rosaven, S.J., and two Religious of the Sacred Heart.
- 1845 At the Trinità. June 22. Pierce received subdiaconate.
June 29. Pierce received diaconate.
July 6. Pierce ordained priest.
July 9. Pierce said first Mass at which Adeline made her first communion. Cornelia sang in choir.
- 1845 Fr. J. Grassi, S.J., assisted Cornelia in tentative plans with Bp. Fenwick of Boston and Fr. G. Ryder, S.J., for a ministry in the U.S. With Fr. Grassi

- 1845 (cont.)
and Pierce, Cornelia began to outline Constitutions for a religious congregation she would help to initiate.
- 1846 Cornelia discerned the will of God in the urgings of Lord Shrewsbury, Bp. Wiseman, Cardinal Fransoni and Pope Gregory XVI that she begin her ministry in England.
- 1846 April 18. Easter Saturday. Cornelia went from Rome with Adeline and Frank to Assumption convent, Paris, as the first stop on her way to England.
- 1846 May or June. Pierce became assistant chaplain at Lord Shrewsbury's estate, Alton Towers, England.
- 1846 Aug. 18. Cornelia arrived with two children at Spetchley Park, England. At the end of August went to Sisters of Mercy in Birmingham to await Wiseman's plans. Mercer spent short time with Cornelia before going back to Stonyhurst in September.
- 1846- Cornelia resided in England.
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- 1846- Pierce resided in England.
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- 1846 Sept. 12. Cornelia wrote to her brother Ralph: "It is very little consequence to me what anyone says about me; time and eternity, eternity will prove if I have abandoned my duty to God and my dear children.

- 1846 Oct. 8. Adeline sent to boarding school at Convent of the Holy Sepulchre, New Hall, Essex. A few days later Frank was taken to Mrs. Nicholson's school at Hampstead.
- 1846 Oct. 13. Cornelia and three young women: Mary Anne Walker (Sr. Aloysia), Emily Bowles, and Veronica, a postulant who left soon, arrived at Derby, first Holy Child Convent.
- 1846 Oct. 15. First Mass said in Holy Child Convent at Derby by Bp. Wiseman.
- 1846 Dec. 16. Cornelia superior, novice mistress, principal and teacher, received the habit and began a year of her own novitiate.
- 1847 Mar. 4. Pierce had an unsatisfactory visit with Cornelia; after which increasingly he suspected Bp. Wiseman and Sr. Emily Bowles of dominating her.
- 1847 Nov. 24. Pierce issued a formal written protest against Cornelia's making vows on the false grounds that he was liable for her debts.
- 1847 Dec. 21. Cornelia renewed her vow of chastity and made vows of poverty and obedience. Bp. Wiseman received them, and installed her as superior general of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.
- 1848 Jan. 11 & 12. Pierce kidnapped Mercer, Adeline and Frank from their schools to the continent, writing to Cornelia that this was "the only way to get hold of her through them."

- 1848 February. Pierce presented spurious Constitutions to Propaganda Fide in Rome posing as founder of the SHCJ. Although Cornelia repudiated them, these Constitutions and Pierce's claim weakened Rome's confidence in her throughout her life.
- 1848 May. Pierce returned to England.
- 1848 June 3. Pierce waited six hours in the parlor at Derby Convent to see Cornelia. She would not see him.
- 1848 June 16. Letter of this date which Cornelia wrote to Lord Shrewsbury explaining why she did not see Pierce on June 3.
- 1848 November. Cornelia visited St.-Leonards-on-Sea and recognized every detail of the place having seen it all before in a dream.
- 1848 Dec.10-27. SHCJ left Derby to begin foundation at St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, Eng.
- 1848 December. Pierce began legal proceedings in the Court of Arches for the restitution of conjugal rights.
- 1849 Jan. 6. First renovation of vows. Retreat in preparation.
- 1849 Jan. 25. Cornelia was served with writ to appear in suit brought by Pierce before the Court of Arches.
- 1850 Mar. 23. The Case of Connelly vs. Connelly was decided against Cornelia. She immediately appealed.

- 1850 Feb. 21. Rev. Mr. Jones died.
Feb. 25. Rev. Mr. Jones' funeral. He was administrator of Trust under which St. Leonards was held.
- 1850 May 24. Mr. Jones' Will was found.
May 25. Mr. Jones' Will was read. Right of SHCJ to administer St. Leonards under a trust deed was established.
- 1850 June 1. Bp. Wiseman gave formal written episcopal approval to the Constitutions Cornelia had compiled for the SHCJ.
- 1850 September. Wiseman made Cardinal and Archbishop of Westminster.
- 1851 Feb. 27. Gate Street convent and school, London, opened; first mission from the Motherhouse; moved in 1851 to Queen's Sq., Holborn; schools in Bunhill Row and Baldwin Gardens opened.
- 1851 June 28. The Privy Council heard Cornelia's appeal and suspended the decision of the Court of Arches against Cornelia, pending an investigation of the marriage laws of Pennsylvania. Pierce never pursued the case.
- 1851 July. Dr. Thomas Grant was consecrated Bishop of Southwark.
- 1852 January. Foundation at St. Anthony's and St. Helen's Poor Schools, Liverpool.
- 1852 January. Pierce made an appeal to House

of Commons in a pamphlet slandering the Catholic Church, and making clear his apostasy.

- 1852 Request from Cornelia for approbation of Constitutions approved by Wiseman presented by Dr. Melia to Card. Franzoni.
- 1852- Frank at Marlborough College.
58 1858. Frank studied art in Paris.
1871. Royal Academy exhibited his works.
1876. Several of his sculptures were at the American Centennial Exhibition in '76.
- 1853 Mar. 10. SHCJ took charge of St. Ignatius School, Preston, England.
- 1853 Sept. 20. Mercer Connelly, still alienated from Cornelia and the Catholic Church, died in New Orleans of yellow fever.
- 1853 Oct. 14. Letter from Sacred Congregation to C.C. summoning her to Rome about Rule.
Nov. 15. Second letter arrived telling her to come. Too ill.
Jan. 1854. C.C. went to Rome.
- 1854 January. Cornelia took to Rome for approval of Propaganda Fide in Rome the Constitutions approved by Wiseman in 1850, and supplemented by her in 1853. Propaganda did not give full approval.
- 1854 Mar. 30. Cornelia wrote to her brother, Ralph: "My dear children were as much under my eyes as if I had not left the world till their father broke his word and his promises and stole them away from me in a moment of excitement and unjust anger, may God forgive him."

- 1854 Purchase of Rupert House, Liverpool, for a teacher training college by Sr. Emily Bowles without Cornelia's knowledge.
- 1854 SHCJ took charge of St. Wilfrid's and St. Walburga's schools in Preston.
- 1854 SHCJ took charge in London of St. Anne's endowed school, St. James' school, Spanish Place, and a young ladies' school, Bentinck Sq., London.
- 1855 Rupert House in Liverpool closed when Sr. Emily Bowles failed to establish a training college. Sisters opened a school in Blackpool.
- 1855 Ralph, Cornelia's brother, offered her an estate in Texas for a foundation.
- 1855 Aug. 10. Sr. Lucy Ignatia Payne died (first death in the Society).
- 1855 Nov. 9. Cornelia reported the SHCJ teaching in 8 poor schools in London and 7 in Preston.
- 1856 January. Plays given by St. Leonards students for the first time; given at Christmas holidays every year thereafter.
- 1856 February. Training College for "Poor School" teachers opened at St. Leonards with government grant.
- 1856 Feb. 6. First Queen's scholars arrived at St. Leonards Teacher Training College. School passed to others in 1863.

- 1856 Oct. 26. Sodality of E. de M. inaugurated at St. Leonards.
- 1856 Nov. 10. Sr. Emily Bowles was dismissed from the SHCJ. She criticized Cornelia publicly for many years.
- 1857-64 Years of dispute with parish over the disposition of the property at St. Leonards-on-Sea.
- 1858 Apr. 27-28. Cure of Sr. Walburga Bradley by St. Walburga's oil at St. Leonards.
- 1858 Move from Bentinck St., London, to Upper Harley Street.
- 1858 Monthly devotions to Holy Child began. Statue of the Holy Child placed in St. Leonards chapel.
- 1858 June 24. Connelly vs. Connelly was formally dismissed by the Judicial Committee.
- 1859 Cornelia completed payment for all Pierce's liabilities in the suit, Connelly vs. Connelly.
- 1859 September. Bishop Grant forbade SHCJ to make perpetual vows; allowed them for one year only; was doubtful the SHCJ could survive.
- 1860 Winter. Duchess of Leeds met Cornelia at St. Leonards-on-Sea.
- 1860 Pius IX granted a plenary indulgence for 25th of each month.

- 1861 Cornelia had the first part of her two-part Constitutions printed and circulated to the Society, even though she had received no word from Rome since submitting them in 1854.
- 1861 Duchess of Leeds offered property in Towanda, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., to the Society.
- 1862 Aug. 2. Six SHCJ sailed from Liverpool to open a convent and school on land in Towanda given by the Duchess of Leeds.
- 1862 Aug. 12, Tuesday, 6 a.m. The first sisters arrived in New York. They went on the same day to Philadelphia.
- 1862 Aug. 18. They set out for Towanda and arrived the next day. Fr. Carter accompanied them.
- 1862 Sept. 28. First Mass said in SHCJ chapel in America.
- 1862 Dec. 19. Duchess of Leeds took up residence at St. Leonards-on-Sea.
- 1863 Apr. 7. SHCJ took possession of Ore, an orphanage given by the Duchess of Leeds.
- 1863 May 26. Whit Tuesday. Picnic at Mayfield.
- 1863 Cornelia published her Book of the Order of Studies in the Schools of the Srs. of the Holy Child Jesus.
- 1863 July. Mother Walburga White, the future first U.S. provincial, arrived in America and opened a convent and school on

Spring Garden Street, Assumption Parish, Philadelphia. This foundation became the provincial house.

- 1863 Duchess of Leeds gave Mayfield, a 14th century manor of the Archbishops of Canterbury, to the SHCJ, on condition that they restore it.
- 1863 September. Some sisters from Towanda went to Spring Garden Street.
- 1863 Sept. 29 or Oct. 6. Mayfield was taken possession of by the SHCJ.
- 1863 Oct. 12. Move into Villa at Mayfield.
- 1863 November. St. Leonards Training School closed. Middle School opened.
- 1863 Duchess of Leeds purchased Mayfield. Nov. 19. First Mass said by Rev. Joseph Searle.
- 1863 Dec. 16. Meeting to draw up plans for restoration of ruins at Mayfield. Pugin-architect, Wilson-builder.
- 1864 February. Cornelia had a revised version of the Constitutions translated into Italian and printed for submission to Propaganda Fide.
- 1864 March. First 3 American postulants clothed.
- 1864 May. Sharon Academy, Sharon Hill, Pa., purchased by Fr. Carter for SHCJ. Towanda closed because privations destroyed the health of the sisters.
- 1864 July 16. Sisters to Sharon. School opened in September.

- 1864 Aug. 27. Bp. Grant sent to Cornelia the report on the SHCJ Constitutions issued by Propaganda Fide in 1854.
- 1864 Autumn. St. Leonards controversy. Dr. Duke dies.
- 1864 November. Holy See's decision gives St. Leonards chapel, claimed by the parish, to the SHCJ.
- 1865 Boarding School opened at Mark Cross, England, given by Duchess of Leeds.
- 1865 Feb. 15. Death of Cardinal Wiseman.
- 1865 Aug. 15. First Mass at Mayfield in restored hall, formerly 14th century synod hall of Archbishops of Canterbury.
- 1865 Dec. 21. First profession ceremony at Sharon of 2 English novices.
- 1866 Apr. 4. First choir novices clothed. Pupil of Spring Garden Street.
- 1866 May 24. Mission Church opened at St. Leonards.
- 1867/68 January. First all-American profession at Sharon.
- 1867 Oct. & Nov. Cornelia visited her foundations at Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia, and Sharon Hill, Pa., and opened a school at 39th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. This was her sole visit to the U.S. after leaving in 1843.

- 1866 SHCJ opened a school for young ladies at "The Culvers," Hadham; moved in 1875 to Hendon till 1879 when this foundation merged with 13 Nottingham Place, London.
- 1867 Oct. 12. Cornelia sailed for America with Sister Ignatia Bridges and Sister Francis Xavier Cusack.
Oct. 29. She arrived at Sharon, opened St. Leonard's in Philadelphia.
Nov. 27. Cornelia sailed for England.
- 1867 Nov. 11. Fr. Carter made over deed of possession of Sharon to the Society.
- 1867 Nov. 27. Cornelia sailed from U.S. for England.
- 1868 June 2. Ore transferred to Mark Cross.
- 1868 Autumn. Noviceship changed from St. Leonards to Mayfield.
- 1869 Jan. 17. Sr. Lucy Ignatia Newsham died in Philadelphia of consumption.
- 1869 Mayfield Poor School begun.
- 1869 May-July. Cornelia revised her Constitutions extensively in Rome at the direction of Fr. Knapen of Propaganda Fide.
- 1869 October. Cornelia gave in ms. the Constitutions just revised in Rome to the superior in Preston to read.
- 1869 November. Cornelia, other SHCJ and students went to Hyères, France, for the winter; classes were held.

- 1869 Fr. Carter consecrated ground at Sharon for cemetery.
- 1869 Dec. 21. First Mass at Hyères.
- 1870 Feb. 13. Constitutions arrived at Hyères from Rome.
March 15. Copies sent to English and American Houses, translated into English.
- 1870 June 1. Bp. Grant died at Rome while attending Vatican Council. Succeeded by Bp. Danell.
- 1870 June. A possible schism began in the SHCJ when SHCJ in Preston sent their signatures approving the revised Constitutions to Cornelia, while at the same time sending a protest re Cornelia and the Constitutions to Card. Barnabo, prefect of Propaganda Fide, Rome.
- 1870 July. School purchased in Toul; closed for Franco-Prussian war; reopened June, 1871.
- 1870 St. James Parochial School, Philadelphia, opened by SHCJ.
- 1871 Jan. 1. Preston - School of the English Martyrs opened by SHCJ.
- 1871 July 31. Visitation of St. Leonards by Bp. Danell to investigate charges against Cornelia's government.
- 1871 September. Sr. M. Agatha Gray wrote to Cornelia telling her that a protest had been sent to Rome at the time signatures of approval of the revised Constitutions were sent to her.

- 1871 September. Mayfield boarding school opened at Villa.
- 1872 Aug. 27. Cornerstone for novitiate at Mayfield laid. A bottle was deposited which contained: 1. SHCJ constitutions; 2. medals-Holy Child, Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Hearts of Joseph and Mary, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph, St. Aloysius, etc.; 3. Douay Cat. Directory for '72, coins, etc. The date of the feast and all the circumstances of the possession, etc.
- 1872 Dec. 24. Madame Peacock (Cornelia's sister) died in Sacred Heart Convent, Rochester, N.Y. Cornelia got word Jan. 24, 1973.
- 1873 Mayfield buildings completed.
- 1874 M. Francis Xavier recalled from America.
- 1874 April 8. Duchess of Leeds died.
April 16. Funeral from St. Leonards-on-Sea.
- 1874 Aug.17-Sept.4. First general chapter held. Cornelia elected superior general. Bp. Danell imposed his constitutions on the Society.
- 1875 February. Preston. Withdrew from St. Ignatius School. All nuns to live at 22-23 Winckley Sq. no matter what school they were teaching in.
- 1875 London. Sisters from St. Anne's moved to 13 Nottingham Place. Boarding School begun on feast of St. Gertrude - one child.

- 1875 SHCJ and students from "The Culvers" opened school at Hendon.
- 1875 Mth. Lucy Woolley, leader of the SHCJ who appealed to Rome against Cornelia and the revised Constitutions, left the SHCJ.
- 1876 Cornelia at Toul when it closed. Sisters went to live at Grenoble.
- 1876 November. Two general assistants to Rome re the Bp. Danell's Constitutions and the sisters' comments on it.
- 1876 December. Negotiations for foundation at Neuilly.
- 1877 Jan. 8. SHCJ opened a school at Neuilly, Paris.
- 1877 March. Cornelia Connelly returned to St. Leonards from France.
- 1877 April. Death of Sr. Mary Francis Kenworthy. Trouble over her will.
- 1877 Cornelia wrote: "The Society of the Holy Child Jesus is not my work. I have only followed the inspirations of God in obedience to His not my will."
- 1877 Aug. 2. Second General Chapter of SHCJ. Bp. Danell presided. Some revisions of his Constitutions were accepted.
- 1877 Aug.3-9. Fr. Bosio superintends discussion on Rule.

- 1878 Jan. 20. Cornelia pronounced in danger of death; received the Last Sacraments.
Jan. 24. She received Holy Viaticum.
- 1879 Jan. 20. Dr. Danell cancelled prohibition of perpetual vows which had been issued by Dr. Grant in 1859.
- 1879 April 14. Cornelia was anointed for the second time in her long illness.
April 16. Cornelia received Holy Viaticum for the last time (Leo XII's Jubilee).
- 1879 April 18. Easter Friday. Cornelia died, leaving a religious congregation which 100 years after her death would be continuing Christ's mission on the continents of Europe, Africa, North and South America.
- 1883 Pierce died in Florence, Italy, having been rector, since 1868, of a Protestant Episcopal Church in Florence, Italy.

"PENETRATED BY AN APOSTOLIC SPIRIT"

Caritas McCarthy, SHCJ

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus has clear emphatic statements from Cornelia Connelly starting as early as 1846 and marking its history at intervals up to the time of her death, that she had founded one of the new "lately approved active orders" as distinct from the "old cloistered orders." Very much influenced by the Jesuits and by her active engagements in the missionary life of the American frontier, she seems to have caught the vision which religious women especially are still trying to implement under the direction of Vatican II:

. . . the entire life of . . . these communities should be penetrated by an apostolic spirit. . . . They should skillfully harmonize their observances and practices with the needs of the apostolate to which they are dedicated. (PC 8)

In Mother Connelly's own time a perceptive canonist, the Abbé Craisson, published a manual of canon law to instruct the new active orders in France because he noted the confusion caused by the application to them of legislation proper only to cloistered religious under solemn vows.¹ She obtained his manual after the Chapter of 1874 and she and other Society superiors were much helped by it.

¹ Des communautés religieuses à voeux simples: législation canonique et civile (1869), pp. ix-x.