

## Cornelia's life with the founding of the Society

1846 July. "L'Abbate Pierce Connelly," incardinated in Rome, had a three-year leave of absence and arrived in England to become assistant chaplain to Lord Shrewsbury's household at Alton Towers, N. Staffordshire.

1846 18 August. Cornelia arrived with the two children at Spetchley Park, Worcestershire, where Mercer joined them from Stonyhurst. At the end of August, she went to Sisters of Mercy in Birmingham to await Bishop Wiseman's plans.

1846 08 October. For the duration of Cornelia's canonical year of novitiate, Wiseman required that Adeline should be sent to boarding school at Convent of Holy Sepulchre, New Hall, Essex. A few days later Frank was taken to Mrs. Nicholson's school at Hampstead from the same period.

1846 13 October. Cornelia and three young women, Mary Anne Walker (Sr Aloysia), Emily Bowles, and Veronica, who left soon, arrived at the first Holy Child Convent, Derby.

1846 15 October. First Mass said in Holy Child Convent at Derby by Bishop Wiseman. Jesuit confessors came from Spinkhill.

1846 16 December. Cornelia superior, novice mistress, principal and teacher, received the habit and began her year of novitiate.

1847 04 March. Pierce accompanied by Dr. Winter OP, had an unsatisfactory visit with Cornelia, after which increasingly he suspected Bishop Wiseman and Sr Emily Bowles of dominating her.

1847 27 October. Because English Jesuits refused to continue directing the new congregation, Dr. Samuel Asperti arrived at Derby, recommended as chaplain and director by Father Grassi SJ. Later Asperti became a holy and distinguished Jesuit.

1847 24 November. Pierce issued a formal written protest against Cornelia's making vows on the false grounds.

1847 21 December. Cornelia renewed her vow of chastity and made vows of poverty and obedience. Bishop Wiseman received them, and installed her as superior general of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

1848 11-12 January. After acquiring visas, Pierce kidnapped Mercer, Adeline and Frank from their schools and took the two eldest to the Continent, as "the only way to get hold of her [Cornelia] through them."

1848 10 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 stability as a religious founder for the duration of Pierce's life. (He outlived her by 4 years.)

1848 May. Pierce returned to England.

1848 03 June. Pierce waited six hours in the parlor at Derby Convent to see Cornelia. She refused to see him, unless he returned Adeline to her care.

1848 16 June. Letter from Cornelia to Lord Shrewsbury explaining why she did not see Pierce on June 03.

1848 November. Cornelia visited the All Souls property at St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, offered to her by the Reverend John Jones through the mediation of Bishop Wiseman. She accepted.

1848 December. SHCJ left Derby to begin foundation at St Leonard's, in two contingents, on 10th and 21st. At that date, the Society numbered 18 sisters.

1848 December. Pierce began legal proceedings in the Court of Arches for restitution of conjugal rights.

1849 24 January. Cornelia was served with writ to appear in suit brought by Pierce before the Court of Arches.

1850 21 February. Reverend Mr. Jones died.

1850 25 February. Reverend Mr. Jones' funeral. His will could not be traced.

1850 25 March. The Case of Connelly vs. Connelly was decided against Cornelia. She immediately appealed.

1850 24 May. Mr. Jones' will was found.

1850 25 May. Will was read granting All Souls estate to Colonel Charles Towneley to be administered for the educational charity undertaken by SHCJ. It was understood that the local Catholic mission would also benefit.

1850 01 June. Bishop Wiseman gave formal written episcopal approval to the Constitutions that Cornelia had further developed for the SHCJ.

1850 30 September. Wiseman created Cardinal and Archbishop of Westminster.

1851 27 February. First mission from the motherhouse; small convent and poor school opened at Gate Street (Lincoln's Inn) London; moved April 5, 1853 to Queen's Square, Holborn, with two more schools to run at Bunhill Row and Baldwin Gardens - further east. All concerned - sisters and children - very deprived.

1851 08 May. Petition of Pierce Connelly, Clerk, to the House of Commons pleading for the return of his wife and requiring that “all nunneries and monastic establishments may be suppressed and forever prohibited by law.”

1851 28 June. The Privy Council heard Cornelia’s appeal and suspended the decision of the Court of Arches against Cornelia, pending an investigation into the marriage laws of Pennsylvania. Pierce never pursued the case because he had no money to pay the taxed-cost required of him.

1851 06 July. Dr. Thomas Grant was consecrated Bishop of Southwark.

1852 March. Foundation at St Anthony’s and St Helen’s poor schools, Liverpool.

1852 03 June. Colonel Charles Towneley, now owner of the All Souls property “in fee simple,” formed an irrevocable educational Trust and had the deed drawn up in Burnley, Lancs, from his aunt, Barbara Lady Stanley (Towneley) had originally conveyed the property. Bishop Grant accepted to be the first, ex officio, of seven trustees.

1853 February. SHCJ took charge of St Ignatius School, Preston.

1853 (about) 20 September. Mercer Connelly, still alienated from Cornelia and the Catholic Church, died in New Orleans of yellow fever.

1853 14 October. Letter from S.C. Propaganda Fide to CC summoning her to Rome, ostensibly about Rule.

1853 15 November. Second letter stressing need for her to come.

1854 January, New Year. Cornelia took to Rome the Constitutions approved by Wiseman in 1850, and supplemented by her in 1853. The Consultor confused Cornelia’s text with Pierce’s and a negative critique was sent to Wiseman and Grant.

1854 During Cornelia’s absence in Rome, without her or her deputy’s knowledge, Sr Emily Bowles purchased Rupert House, Liverpool, for a teacher training college.

1854 April. Cornelia Connelly back in England.

1854 May-July. SHCJ took charge in London of St Anne’s endowed school, St James school, Spanish place, and a young ladies’ school, Bentinck St, London.

1854 September. Without CC’s consent or the Society’s knowledge, Emily Bowles borrowed 5000 pounds from her brother John to pay balance on Rupert House.

1854 September, October. SHCJ took charge of St Wilfrid’s and St Walburga’s schools in Preston.

1855 January. Ralph Peacock (John Bowen), Cornelia’s brother, offered her an estate in Texas for a foundation. Correspondence had begun before March, 1854. The project was not realized.

1855 October. Rupert House in Liverpool closed when Sr Emily Bowles failed to establish a training college. SHCJ opened a school in Blackpool.

1855 09 November. Cornelia reported to the SHCJ teaching in 8 poor schools in London and 7 in Preston. (Infant schools were separate units at that time.)

1856 February. Training College for poor schoolteachers opened at St Leonards with government grant.

1856 06 February. First Queen's scholars arrived at St Leonards Teacher Training College.

1856 08 November. Sr Emily Bowles requested and received dispensation from vow of obedience and left the Society. She criticized Cornelia publicly for many years while Cornelia was still paying her Rupert House debts until final payment in 1871.

1856-64 Years of lay and clerical criticism to the Holy See of Colonel Towneley and SHCJ over the disposition of the property at St Leonards-on-Sea.

1856 Sisters staffed poor school in Blackpool and a boarding school established at the end of the year.

1858 27-28 April. Cure of Sr Walburga Bradley by St Walburga's oil at St Leonards.

1858 24 June. Connelly vs. Connelly was formally dismissed by the Judicial Committee.

1859 March. English translation of Walking with God printed.

1859 April. Cornelia completed payment for Pierce's liabilities on the suit.

1859 September. Bishop Grant forbade SHCJ to make perpetual vows; allowed them for one year only; was doubtful the SHCJ could survive.

1859 December. Move from Bentinck Street, London, to Upper Harley Street.

1860 Winter. Louisa Catherine Osbourne (nee Caton), Duchess of Leeds, met with Cornelia at St Leonards-on-Sea.

1860 Pius IX granted plenary indulgence for 25th of each month, which was celebrated in honor of the Holy Child Jesus.

1861 The first part of the two-part Constitutions (basically approved by Wiseman in 1850) were printed and circulated to the Society. The fact that the Duchess of Leeds was offering some property in USA to the Society would have made the availability of the Constitutions essential.

1862 02 August. Six SHCJ sailed from Liverpool to open a convent and school on land in Towanda, Pennsylvania, given by the Duchess of Leeds.

1862 12 August, Tuesday, 6 a.m. The first sisters arrived in New York. They went on the same day to Philadelphia.

1862 18 August. They set out for Towanda and arrived the next day, Father Carter accompanying them. The agent had totally deceived the duchess about the suitability of the house and project.

1862 29 September. First Mass said by Archbishop Wood in SHCJ chapel in America.

1862 19 December. Duchess of Leeds took up residence at St Leonards-on-Sea.

1863 March. CC organized retreat for secular ladies in London, Upper Harley Street.

1863 07 April. The Duchess of Leeds purchased an imposing mansion, Fairlight Hall, at Ore (Hastings) to be run as an orphanage by herself and the SHCJ. It was opened by Bishop Grant, May 8.

1863 26 May. Whit Tuesday. St Leonards school picnic at Mayfield, which sparked off the purchase of the Old Palace there.

1863 24 June. Cornelia published Book of the Order of Studies in the Schools of the Sisters of The Holy Child Jesus (printed by the convent printing press).

1863 July. Mother Walburga White, the future first USA provincial, arrived in America and opened a convent and school on Spring Garden Street, Assumption Parish, Philadelphia. This foundation became the provincial house.

1863 October. Duchess of Leeds gave the ruins of the Old Palace, Mayfield, a 14th century manor of the Archbishops of Canterbury, to the SHCJ, on the condition that they would restore it.

1863 12 October. Move into Villa at Mayfield.

1863 19 November. First Mass said at Mayfield by Reverend Joseph Searle.

1863 December. St Leonards Training School closed by Cornelia.

1863 16 December. Meeting to draw up plans for restoration of Old Palace; Edward Pugin - architect.

1864 February. Revised version of the constitutions translated into Italian and sent to Rome for submission to Propaganda Fide. Parcel remained unopened at English College for five years.

1864 11 March. Cardinal Barnabo enlightened by Bishop Roskell, trustee, revoked his strictures on SHCJ and settled the 13 year old St Leonard's affair in favor of Towneley and his Trust Deed.

1864 May. Sharon Academy, Sharon Hill, PA, purchased by Father Carter for SHCJ. Towanda closed because privations destroyed the health of the sisters.

1864 19 May. Restoration of Old Palace at Mayfield begun; sisters on begging tours seeking funds for restoration.

1864 16 July. Sisters to Sharon. After begging tours for money to furnish school and convent, school opened in September.

1864 27 August. Bishop Grant sent Cornelia, without comment, the report on the SHCJ constitutions issued by Propaganda Fide in 1854.

1864 07 September. Dr. Duke, the chief lay contender in the St Leonards controversy, died.

1864 17 November. Pope Pius IX issued rescript giving All Souls and its chapel for the use of the SHCJ with proviso that they should cooperate with the Trustees in the building of the mission [parish] church.

1865 15 February. Death of Cardinal Wiseman.

1865 15 August. First Mass at Mayfield in restored hall, formerly 14th century synod hall of Archbishops of Canterbury.

1866 24 May. Mission Church opened at St Leonards.

1866 SHCJ opened a school for young ladies at "The Culvers," Hadham.

1867 January. First all-American profession at Sharon.

1867 12 October. Cornelia sailed for America with Sr Mary Ignatia Bridges and Sr Francis Xavier Cusack.

1867 29 October. She arrived at Sharon, and on 11 November opened St Leonard's House in Philadelphia. She met many members of her family and some of the Connelys.

1867 11 November. Father Carter made over deed of possession of Sharon to the Society.

1867 27 November. Cornelia sailed from USA for England.

1868 January. Work begun to complete St Leonards chapel.

1868 June. Girls' orphanage at Ore transferred to Mark Cross.

1868 Autumn. Noviceship moved from St Leonards to Mayfield.

1868 19 October. Opening of convent Church of St Michael and All the Angels, St Leonards.

1869 May-July. Cornelia revised her constitutions extensively in Rome under the direction of Father Knapen, OFM, of Propaganda Fide.

1869 October. Cornelia gave Mother Lucy Woolley, Superior in Preston, the opportunity of reading the MS. constitutions, newly revised in Rome.

1869 November. Cornelia, 3 other SHCJ, and 5 pupils went to Hyeres, France, for the winter; classes were held.

1869 21 December. First Mass at Hyeres.

1870 13 February. Constitutions in Italian further revised, arrived at Hyeres from Rome.

1870 15 March. Copies, translated into English, sent to English and American Houses.

1870 01 June. Bishop Grant died in Rome while attending Vatican Council. He had preserved more than 400 letters of CC in his diocesan archives. He was succeeded by Bishop Danell.

1870 June. A near schism developed 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 Cardinal Barnabo, prefect of Propaganda Fide, Rome.

1870 01 July. Blackpool community removed from Raikes Hall to Layton Hall.

1870 July. School purchased in Toul, followed by perilous evacuation during the Franco-Prussian war; reopened June 1871.

1870 St James Parochial School, Philadelphia, opened by SHCJ.

1871 01 January. School of the English Martyrs, Preston, opened by SHCJ.

1871 31 January. Visitation of St Leonards by Bishop Danell to investigate charges against Cornelia's government.

1871 September. Sr. Mary Agatha Gray wrote to Cornelia telling her that a protest had been sent to Rome at the time that signatures of approval of revised constitutions were sent to herself.

1871 September. Mayfield junior boarding school opened at Villa.

1872 27 August. Cornerstone for novitiate at Mayfield laid. A bottle was deposited with contained: 1. SHCJ Constitutions; 2. various medals; 3. the date and all the circumstances of the possession.

1872 24 December. Madame Peacock (Cornelia's sister) died in Sacred Heart Convent, Rochester, NY. Cornelia got word January 24, 1873.

1873 Mayfield buildings completed.

1874 08 April. Duchess of Leeds died at St Leonards. Solemn funeral from convent chapel on April 16.

1874 May. CC to Toul, France.

1874 17 August - 4 September. First general chapter held. Cornelia elected superior general. Bishop Danell imposed his entirely new constitutions on the Society.

1875 February. Withdrew from St. Ignatius School, Preston. All nuns to live at 22-23 Winckley Square no matter what school they were teaching in, by order of Bishop O'Reilly of Liverpool.

1875 London. Sisters from St Anne's moved to 13 Nottingham Place. Boarding School begun on the feast of St Gertrude - with one child.

1875 SHCJ and students from "The Culvers" opened school at Hendon until 1879 when this foundation merged with 13 Nottingham Place, London.

1875 October. Mother 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 Grenelle, Paris, arriving 24 October.

- 1876 November. Two general assistants to Rome re Bishop Danell's constitutions and the sisters' comments on them.
- 1877 08 January. 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 averted minutes before a public court case began in March 1878.
- 1877 02-09 August. Second general chapter of the SHCJ. Bishop Danell presided. Father Bosio superintendent discussion on Rule. Some changes suggested by SHCJ in the bishop's constitutions were accepted by him.
- 1878 20 January. Cornelia pronounced in danger of death; received the Last Sacraments.
- 1878 24 January. She received Holy Viaticum.
- 1879 13 January. Bishop Danell cancelled prohibition of perpetual vows which had been issued by Bishop Grant in 1859.
- 1879 14 April. Cornelia was anointed for the second time in her long illness.
- 1879 16 April. Cornelia received Holy Viaticum for the last time.
- 1879 18 April. Easter Friday. Cornelia died at St Leonards, 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.
- 1879 23 April. Cornelia was buried in the Mayfield convent cemetery.