**Reflection for January 2025**

**By Monica Matthews, SHCJ, European Province**

The start of a new year is a time of new beginnings, of opportunities, of expectation. We place our hand in the hand of God and walk with faith into the unknown.

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a year when the Church prays especially for reconciliation, and the theme this year is Pilgrims of Hope.

As pilgrims through life, we journey together, discerning the voice of God amid the many challenges of our world.

In hope, we pray that the new year will bring an end to wars and violence, bring comfort to all who suffer, and bring relief to those for whom life is a constant struggle.

Christian hope enables us to have a positive outlook and to know that, whatever the year brings, we are held in God’s love. And let us remember that each one of us has a part to play in creating a better world this year.

As Pope Francis opens the Holy Doors to start the Jubilee Year, what doors would you like to open to help build a better world during 2025?

*Let all be diligent in giving daily proofs of love this year.*

* Venerable Cornelia Connelly