**SHCJ reflection for January 2023 by Monica Matthews, SHCJ**

“So ought all to begin again...”

 – Cornelia Connelly, Foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

While originally intended for women entering SHCJ, Cornelia’s advice can surely be followed by anyone, at any stage of life or faith, at the beginning of each new day, each new year, or at any time when a new stage or turning point in life is encountered. “So ought to begin again” is daily advice for anyone seeking to grow in faith and hope.

How badly our troubled world needs a new beginning right now, whether it be in areas of conflict, the effects of the COVID pandemic, the climate crisis, or so many other situations.

Having celebrated the birth of the Christ Child, we rejoice in Emmanuel, God-with-us, and we trust that our world continues to be held in God’s care and that we will find a way forward to a new beginning and a brighter future in 2023.

A poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins encourages us to

 “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

 That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

What new beginning would you like to see in your life as we move into the unknown world of 2023?