In July, second of the two mid-year months in this particular Jubilee Year, and, as a Society, halfway between general chapters, let us reflect on ‘middle times’. Lona Fowler reminds us:

“… between the exhilaration of beginning

and the satisfaction of concluding,

is the middle-time

of enduring, changing, trying,

despairing, continuing, becoming.

Jesus Christ was the man of God’s middle-time

between creation and accomplishment …”

We often associate Cornelia with beginning again but she was also a ‘middle-timer’. Having begun the Society but unsure of its future, she spent many years holding on to hope and trust to get her through - and it did!

The poet goes on to describe our middle-time as patches

“of wondering, waiting, hurrying, hesitating,

regretting and revising … becoming more - and less …”

This mirrors our global context of uncertainty and change, hence:

“May [Christ] keep us from sinking, ceasing,

wasting, solidifying,

that we may be for him

experimenters, enablers, encouragers,

and associates in accomplishment.”

In what way(s) do you find yourself in a “middle time”? What bold, hope-impelled steps could you choose to help bring about “the satisfaction of concluding”?