



## ***Motto 2025***

***Let the Spirit descend upon their (our) hearts,  
filling them (us) with PEACE***

*Conference I*

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Another year has passed and we commence with great anticipation and joy the Jubilee Year of Hope for 2025. This special year will offer each of us many graces as we continue on our journey as pilgrims. Pope Francis in his message for Vocations in 2024 invited us to be pilgrims of HOPE and builders of PEACE. On pilgrimage, what does one do/need? Their eyes are fixed on the goal, they travel lightly, carry only the essentials and start afresh each day with renewed enthusiasm on the journey to discover the love of God. The ultimate meaning of the Christian Pilgrimage is to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover the interior journey in ourselves, nourished by our relationship with God and love for others. Each day as we respond to God's call we advance towards creating a new world where all people will live in peace, justice and love. We are called to be pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future for all. As Consecrated Women and Associates we are called to embody the Gospel message of hope. To be the light in the darkness for those in our world who suffer due to conflict, war, exploitation, refugees seeking a better future and the threat and destruction of climate change. Our prayer can change hardened hearts, so they are filled with love and PEACE.

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The icon Our Lady Queen of Palestine, used this year depicts Mary carrying the city of Jerusalem, was painted by nuns from a monastery in Israel. Contemplating this icon we see Mary's maternal gaze, her tenderness, her merciful eyes, as she shows us how to discover Jesus in those we meet. Mary of the Holy Land intercedes for all for peace and reconciliation. This is such an important intercession for us this year as the violence, destruction and numerous deaths, continues throughout many parts of our world and especially in the middle east. Let us ask Mary to heal the hardened hearts and bring PEACE and justice to the Holy Land and indeed all the world. Let the prayer of Mary Potter be our prayer.

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Venerable Mary Potter had a very similar painting commissioned depicting Mary holding the Church. In the Spiritual Exercises, she wrote, that in God's good time Mary would be proclaimed Mother of the Church. We know what she foretold, has come true in our lifetime. We now have the Feast of Mary Mother of the Church, on the Monday after Pentecost as recognition. Mary Potter would be rejoicing that this has happened.

In Conference I, Mary Potter speaks of the love God has for each of us, and the love we have for God which brings us PEACE and contentment. Let's all seek to be lovers and peace bearers as we pray for peace and

reconciliation in our world. A PEACE that is so desperately needed, so all can live in harmony, in our beautiful world. God give us the courage to stand against injustice and to work tirelessly for PEACE that reflects Your Kingdom on earth.

Let us continue as Sisters and Associates, on our pilgrim journey of hope, to be peace bearers to our world. While celebrating this our special feast day for the Congregation, let's ask Mary to intercede for us and bring healing, PEACE and reconciliation to our world. Let us go forth as hope-filled people of the Gospel and may we too:

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One in the Heart of Mary,



On behalf of Congregational Leadership