



On the way to the

56° GENERAL CHAPTER
2024

PROVINCE OF INDIA

In 1971, the sisters were sent from the Province of USA for a foundation in India. They arrived in a village called Kuttikad, Kerala, a small state in the south west corner of the country and formed a community there.

Slow and steady growth, formed India to be a Region under the leadership of Sr. Mary Patricia Sullivan, USA on July 26, 1975. Twenty years later, it became a Vice Province on December 31, 1995 with Sr. Vimala Vadakkumpadan as its first Vice Provincial Superior and on January 1, 2009 erected India as a Province having Sr. Mariamma Paul Ollukaran as its first Provincial. She was succeeded by Sr. Philomina Vengachottil in 2014 and Sr. Deepa Moonjely since 2019.



Sr. Dorothy Ruggiero, Sr. Mary Patricia Sullivan, Sr. Jos Mary Mookan

The missionary presence in India is marked by variety, simplicity and generosity to respond to the pressing needs of the time in its multireligious, multicultural and multilingual context, trying to make a difference to the people through service in the parish, education and care for the sick poor embodying God's love and spreading His word in love of neighbour in the style of Marie Poussepin.

At present, the Province of India has 20 communities, 19 in India and one in South Korea, having 93 sisters of which 15 are temporary professed; another 14 sisters offer their services in different structures.

OUR MISSIONARY PRESENCE

Jeevadhara - Kuttikad: The first community in Kuttikad started with health ministry through Jeevadhara Hospital in the beginning. After 17 years of valuable service, this hospital was closed in March 1989. At present the community is involved in health care, pastoral ministry, education, social work, and counselling in collaboration with the diocese of Irinjalakuda. Community also runs a home for girls from shattered family situations.



Sr. A. Reeja

Formation House: This house was established in Bangalore in 1975. Sr. Marina Mejia took charge as the first Novice directress in India. At present, Sr. Reetha Mechery is the directress of the novices having 3 novices this year.

Sr. Reetha Mechery, Novices: Flora Kindo, Lolita Urang, Reshma Tirkey, Postulant, Sr. Jeena Varghese Pazhayatil, Sr. Madhuri Jojo



Provincial House: Besides formation, Bangalore was chosen to be Region House established on July 1, 1981 and today it stands as the Provincial House for the animation and administration of the Province. Provincial House Community is also involved in pastoral ministry in the parish, social ministry in the surrounding slums and runs a home to educate girls from disintegrated families in collaboration with Dream India Net Work.



Dhulkot: Was founded in 1984 in response to a call to a challenging mission under Khandwa Diocese, Madhya Pradesh in central India by its then Bishop Abraham Viruthukulangara. Dhulkot was a precarious village with no transportation and with few catholic families. Sisters ventured into starting a dispensary, social projects, later a school, a hostel for girls. All these institutions are under the diocese of Khandwa named as Ashirvad (Blessing). Here service is offered to Hindu brothers and sisters. It is beautiful to witness the changes in Dhulkot ever since the sisters arrived there.



Sr. Lisiue Mathew.

Khargone Community: Was established in the same diocese (Khandwa) in July 2, 1989 to administer and teach in St. Jude`s English Medium School, Khargone, a city which accommodates people from many faiths: Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains and Christians of various languages and cultures.

Since 1992 our Congregation is responsible for the educational management of this reputed institution. The school has grown into an elite higher secondary school of the area catering to about 2500 students.

Karehally: Established on June 5, 1993 in Shimoga diocese, Karnataka in response to the invitation of Bishop Ignatius Pinto. Karehally is a small village of 67 families, most of them below poverty line. Focussing on pastoral and social ministries over many years, the community established St. Dominic`s School to educate the poor children of this village with high quality education to offer them opportunity for a better future. Today this institution has 1000 students.

Dalmadih: Established on July 16, 1995 in the diocese of Gumla, in a small agricultural village with good catholic population, is in the tribal state of Jharkhand. Dalmadih is 120 km away from Ranchi, state capital. However, it was without any transport facility or even electricity when a community was established. Sisters work to alleviate poverty and suffering of the poor people in the parish, collaborate in education, serve in the dispensary and in the centre for social projects.



Sr. Elsy Vadakumpadan

Varadium: With a vision to begin an insertion community to mark the third centenary of the birth of our Congregation, this community was established in June 1996 in the Archdiocese of Trichur to work with low-income families who are addicted to alcoholism, immorality, corruption and many other forms of abuse. The sisters help them discover the values of the Gospel through social, pastoral and health care ministries.

Paruthiyoor: With the invitation of Archbishop Soosa Pakiam of Trivandrum, established a community in the coastal village of Paruthiyoor on May 31, 1997. This village parish has 2000 catholic families whose main occupation is fishing. They live in environmentally vulnerable situations with constant threats of tsunami, tempests and floods. Living among them nearby the sea, sisters face the same dangers and share their conditions.

Though Catholics, their faith is shallow resulting in poor moral conducts. Sisters are involved in pastoral, social and education ministries.

Basti: With an invitation from the Little Flower Congregation (CST Fathers), in Gorakhpur diocese, Basti Community was erected on June 22, 1997 in the further north of India. Our mission here involves teaching in St. Basil's School and work in the Social work centre (DISA) in collaboration with this Congregation. Population of this area are predominantly Hindu and however there are a few Catholic families migrated from other states of India.



Sr. Philomina Vengachottil

Soganur: This is the first community in Tamil Nadu established in Soganur, a remote village, on October 24, 2001, under Vellore Diocese. The people here belongs to Dalits (Scheduled Caste). Most of them are Hindus and there are just 73 catholic families among them. Responding to the needs of the people, sisters render services in St. Xavier's Matriculation school and pastoral ministry in the parish.

Ranchi: With the invitation of Bishop Vincent Barwa, Auxiliary bishop of Ranchi, a community was opened in the capital city of Ranchi in Jharkhand state on June 19, 2006. Sisters offer accommodation for 8 girls, daughters of the prisoners to educate them in a proper environment and offer them a better future. This community also assumes the responsibility for promoting vocations and accompanies the candidates in their education. Sisters are also involved in education ministry in Divine Saviour School by Salvadorian Fathers and pastoral ministry in the parish.

Bucheon: Congregation started a community in Bucheon City, Incheon diocese in South Korea on June 20, 1995 by the USA Province. This community integrated to the Province of India on August 15, 2007.



Sr. Suman Gabriel Kujur

Sisters render their services through Dominican Charity Day Care started in 1999 with the possibility to educate about 100 children between the age bar of 2 to 7 years. In 2008, the sisters began Poussepin's Group Home, to care for the young girls from broken families and give shelter to 7 girls in the house to offer them a safe home and adequate education. Besides, sisters have formed a group of Lay Associates and benefactors to collaborate in their mission.



Sr. Anula Irvin Suguna y Sr. Moly Pengiparamban

Nagpur: With the invitation of Archbishop Abraham Viruthukulangara, a Community was established in the Archdiocese of Nagpur in Maharashtra state on July 9, 2008. This place is characterized by people with diversity of religious beliefs and practices. Situated in Mahsala, a small village, the Congregation began an educational Institution called Marie Poussepin's Academy. Today it has a strength of around 1500 students.

Marie Poussepin's Home Community: was established on May 31, 2009 in the Provincial House Campus in Indiranagar, Bangalore. This is a hostel for young working women and 100 young women find accommodation there and accompaniment of the sisters.



Dourdan: Mr. Albert Royan, a widower and benefactor of the Congregation offered his house requesting the Congregation to begin a social project in the name of his late wife, Mary Francis Royan. Dourdan community was established on May 31, 2010 in this building and four sisters render their services to differently abled girl children through Marie Poussepin's Children's Home in the ground floor of this building. They also operate a sewing project for women from the surroundings.

Mysore: Was established in Hulikere, to respond to the invitation of Bishop Thomas Vazhappilly on June 3, 2017 in Karnataka in the Diocese of Mysore. The primary mission of this community is formation of the Postulants. At present there are five postulants and three sisters accompany their formation. Sisters also collaborate in the parish.

Duliajan: Heading to the North East of India in response to the call of Bishop Joseph Aind, of Dibrugarh a community was opened on August 8, 2016. Majority of the people of this area are Hindus; and there are just 63 Catholic families. Sisters collaborate in the mission of education in St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School and are responsible for the Hostel for girls.

Diphu: Diphu Community was erected on October 21, 2021, with the invitation of Bishop Paul Mattekkat in Karbi Anglong, a backward area with low prospects for educational facilities. There is vision to start a hostel in collaboration with the Salesians of Don Bosco (Religious men) and an Apostolic home for aspiring candidates to religious life.

Wayanad: With the invitation of Bishop Jose Porunnedam, a new community was established in the diocese of Mananthavadi, Kerala, in St. Joseph's parish Neikuppa, by the Pallottine Fathers, on August 15, 2023. Sisters are involved in pastoral ministry in the parish.

IN THE PROCESS OF RESTRUCTURATION:

- Attention to the communities and its internal process. There are signs of growth, freedom and communion among sisters and communities.
- Reorientation of mission in different communities.
- A new vigour and enthusiasm in the Province to respond to the needs during and after the pandemic. This gave way to begin a home for girls in precarious situations and home for girls with special abilities in Bangalore.

CHALLENGES:

- Responding to day to day needs of each one.
- Silence and interiorization.
- Achieve a balance between mission, community and spiritual life.
- Motivate and encourage Catholics to participate in spiritual activities.
- To live interculturality

TO MEET THE CHALLENGES, THE SISTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Be faithful to community project, assembly, celebration and a simple lifestyle; to be co-responsible.
- Dialogue, discern and build fraternal relationships in the community and with those with whom they work.
- Live daily forgiveness and reconciliation, accepting each other in their weakness and strength.
- Live interculturality.
- Strive to have consistent communities.

MISSION IN THE PROVINCE:

Sisters involved in different services:

- Education: 33
- Pastoral Service: 37
- Health Care: 4
- Social work: 15
- Formation: 7
- Administration: 7

Institutions in the Province:

- Schools: 2
- Children's Creche: 2
- Day Care: 1
- Children's Home/Shelter: 7

- Working women's Hostel: 2
- Health Centers: 2
- Social Work Institutions: 2

Mission in Collaboration

- ◇ **Collaboration with seven Dioceses in education**
- ◇ **Collaboration with four different congregations in education.**
- ◇ **Collaborating with 4 NGOs in social work projects.**