

PHJC SISTERS' PROFIL IN SOUTH-INDIA

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in India was founded on November 25, 1970 in Dhani, Indore Diocese, Madhya Pradesh. As the PHJC grew stronger and increased in number, the Indian Region was declared a Vice-Province on August 15, 1997. Later in the year 2001 it was raised to the status of Province. In May 2012, during the Provincial Chapter the St. Mary's Province was bifurcated into south and north. The latter was named St. Joseph Province which is situated in Dhar, Indore diocese, Madhya Pradesh.

At present, there are about 120 sisters in St. Mary's Province serving the poor, sick and needy with special focus on women and children in different states: Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur

The volunteer project was launched in 2022 in cooperation with the Diocese of Limburg to give young people the opportunity to offer insights into social projects. South India is the first project. Here young people can help in these areas :

- Day Care Centres for children
- Poor Children's Education
- Remedial Classes for the underprivileged
- Foster Kids at Katherine Children's Home (a detailed description can be found on page 3)
- Ashalaya – Social Work Project for Skill Training (a detailed description can be found on page 3)
- St. Elizabeth Free Clinic for the poor (mobile clinic)
- Feeding program for the elderly & disabled
- Soup Kitchen for Mendicants
- Free Food Fridge for the poor

Volunteers will live and stay at the Katherine Nivas facility in Vidyanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.



View of the Katherine Nivas senior citizens home and sisters residence



Inner courtyard of senior citizens home and sisters residence



Girls Hostel – Katherine Girls home and Play school



Bedroom



Katherine Public school



Skill training centre and office for the social work

TWO EXAMPLES OF THE PHJC'S WORK:

Katherine Children's Home

Katherine Children's Home is for female children who are under privileged. We care for sixteen girls who are really in need of our support for a better life. We give them the best we can so that they experience real care and love. They are from difficult backgrounds some were street children, abandoned by parents who were unfortunately unable to care for them due to being HIV-positive, alcoholics, unemployed, etc. and currently we care for 16 girls between the ages of 5 and 11 years old.

The Katherine Children's Home provides a safe and vibrant home for these children, where they can pursue their right to an education, develop their many talents, and have their medical and social needs met. Equally important, it is a place where they can feel loved, and show love to each other and those around them!



Foster Kids at Katherine Childrens's Home

Support to skill training centres of Ashalaya

The Ashalaya Trust has been training unemployed young people of rural areas, giving them job-oriented skills and placement. Ashalaya has been implementing this program keeping the target of young people from the age of 18 - 35 years old. The training lasts for three months, specifically for those who are school drop outs, those who are not able to get a job due to the lack of basic computer-, English- and life skills.

For the past 11 years Ashalaya has been offering a service for people of the region, with good facilities in two training centres. Ashalaya has trained 10000+ young people in the past years without receiving any money from official resources and have placed 60% of them into jobs and another 20% with self-employment support. Otherwise the young people, who would not have been able to get any job in this competitive world, are now working and can support their families with the income they received.

The girls in the rural area have been making use of this opportunity to support their families financially and are getting a chance in the decision making of their families. Ashalaya runs this program in two centres with different types of courses for school drop outs and young people who are unemployed.



Trainees in practical training as sales assistants



Kindergarden



Teaching classes



Lunch at school



Help with the construction of family houses

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION:



Our foundress Saint Katherine

The charism and spirituality of our Foundress, Mary Katherine Kasper, are just as present in the PHJC Congregation today as they were at the time of the founding of the Congregation.

Thus "Urged by the serving love of God", the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ serve the poor, sick and needy whenever and wherever there is a need."

Blessed Mary Katherine inspires the PHJC to be poor in the sense of our own nothingness and complete dependence on God's providence. We witness to the Saving Love of God through : Health Action, Education, Social/Welfare Action, Pastoral service, Spiritual and Vocation Ministry.

Sisters accept the duties and rights of communal life. They support one another through prayer and care for the community. They draw strength for this from the Word of God and from their daily union with God in Eucharist. The community respects the dignity of each individual member and encourages the sisters to develop their gifts and talents.

In addition to these main ministries we extend our service through networking with other organizations, like in Nursing, teaching in Schools, B.Sc And M.Sc Nursing Colleges, non-formal education centers, special schools, retreat centres, hospitals and in mission counties. And we offer Psycho-spiritual Integral Growth Facilitation, Spiritual Guidance and as needs call us.



POOR HANDMAIDS OF JESUS CHRIST

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