

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH CARE CENTRE, KILACHERY, THIRUVALLUR, TAMILNADU – 24th JUNE 1996

The year 1996 was an auspicious year for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence. Under the mandate of the Archbishop Aruldoss James, we were invited to take up furnished small hospital in Kilachery in the name of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Then Superior General Mother Franceschina Milanesio and Provincial Superior Rev. Sr. Martin Martin responded to the invitation immediately and sent Sr. Carmelita D'souza, Vicar of the Provincial Superior and Sr. Pauline to receive the keys of the hospital from Rev. Fr. K.M. Joseph, Parish Priest of Kilachery on 24th June 1996. Later Sr. Sheela Amalraj and Sr. Margarate Thiruvudula joined the community.

On 1st of July Sr. Miriam Adaikalaswamy Mary and Sr. Cruz Mary Stanislaus arrived to take up the hospital work, pastoral work and to take evening tuition for the children, especially in Fathimapuram one of the substations of Kilachery. Bishop's vision was to serve the poor children of the rural areas, which have no roads and transport facilities and whose economic capacity to visit a doctor or a hospital does not allow. Since then the sisters have been serving the poor of this area with a special concentration and preventive medical health care and education of children and their young parents. A vast majority of the population belongs to the lower socio economic status of the society. Eye camps were conducted; visiting doctors were coming twice in a week to treat the patients. Many cataract operations were 167 performed for poor people free of charges. For two widows small and comfortable house was built.

In pastoral work, we reached out to many people and teaching catechism in the parish, and visiting the houses, consoling the sick, assisting the dying. The significant event of growing years is marked by the education of the poor children, especially girls had great importance in the past twenty five years, and many of them now have finished their College education and working and they are able to stand on their own feet. Some of them are married and settled in life. And we are grateful to Sr. Felicita for sponsoring for forty children to do their studies.



Five years ago we were shifted from the old building which was near the parish to the new building which is situated on the road side. The new building St. Joseph's child health care hospital in Mappedu was built, blessed and inaugurated by Most. Rev. Dr. George Antonisamy, Archbishop of Madras Mylapore on 20th January 2014 along with the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Gilbert in the presence of Superior Sr. Mary Daphne along with other Parish Council and few parishioners. It is a blessing in disguise that the people can reach us easily. Since the hospital runs for twenty-four hours, many people are benefiting from it. At present we are seven sisters, four of us are working in the hospital, and one sister is in the hostel, taking care of the college girls, two sisters are studying in Christ College which is nearby. Apart from the hospital works sisters are involved in the pastoral work; every Sunday taking catechism, visiting the houses, attending the BCC meetings, taking care of the sick. Though this hospital belongs to Diocese, God has blessed us in healing service for the past 25 years. We invited 25 poor couple for the Eucharistic celebration, and for a meal and gift them with new clothes as gratitude for the past 25 years of good work in Kilachery.

