

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

The Congregation of the sisters of St. Charles Borromeo of Wez-Velvain was founded in 1684 by Father Adrien Bresy, parish priest of Wez. Diocese of Tournai- Belgium. His charism was to impart Christian education to the poor children of his parish. We the sisters of St. Charles follow the footsteps of our founder by imparting Christian education through our various ministries.

The first missionaries arrived in India at Vellore District Madras and laid the first foundation in Ranipet on Dec. 29th 1929. Today we have branched out in 5 Continents and carry on the mission of our founder Father Adrien Bresy.

ST. CHARLES CONVENT, VAKOLA.

A Call to the City of Dreams in India's West-Coast– Bombay the Capital of Maharashtra State.

In 1965, urged by the spirit of God, Mother Christiane Tonneau, provincial Superior responded to the invitation of Cardinal Valerian Gracias from the Arch Diocese of Bombay. Rev. Fr. Alfred Augiar, the Manager and Principal of St. Anthony's High School, Vakola wanted a congregation of Sisters to take care of the girls studying at St. Anthony's High School.



OUR MISSION AT VAKOLA.



The Lord chose Sisters, Hyacinth Lewis, Gertrude D, Julia, Gemma Chavara, Sr. Regina Rodrigues and Sr. Victoria Braganza to work in the vineyard of Vakola on June 8, 1965. Gods graciousness was manifested on December 29th, as Fr. Augiar blessed the foundation stone of the convent building. The year 1966, is etched in the history of

Vakola, as the school started for girls and initial stages of kindergarten was held in the present day sacristy of St. Anthony's Church, with Srs. Gertrude and Victoria as first teachers of the infant school. The Holy Spirit intensified the vision of our sisters in Vakola on November 20, 1966, when Cardinal Valerian Gracias blessed the convent building. A memorable day for the vakolites and thus came into existence a Charlian Bee- Hive in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

ST.CHARLES HIGH SCHOOL, VAKOLA

Our dream towards educating girl children turned into reality on June 30, 1967, as the Primary section of St. Charles High School was inaugurated with Sr. Gertrude, Sr. Baptista and Sr. Paul on the teaching staff. In January 1972, the Director of Education gave permission to upgrade the school and standards V, VI, VII, and VIII were opened simultaneously. Thereafter Secondary School started to enjoy the benefits of Grant-in-aid. Sr. Gemma was the Principal of the growing school from 1968-1975. The first batch of SSC students were sent for the Secondary School Certificate Examination in 1975. From the inception till today the school has undergone drastic changes and it has shaped the lives of thousands of young girls.

Today the school has about 3000 students on roll belonging to different castes,



creeds and communities. St. Charles has grown rapidly in strength and size ever since its inception. The achievement of this goal is the fruit of constant and dedicated labour of sisters and staff who were instrumental in steering the institution to its reputed glory. The Lord has indeed blessed the school by preparing the students not only academically but also helping

them to take challenges in life and create a balanced judgement enabling them to be worthy citizens of our country. The holistic education imparted in the school has made many young girls to embrace religious life. Six of our students have joined the Congregation of The Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo and few others have joined other Congregations.

PASTORAL CARE

The Sisters worked relentlessly to build Christian communities in the parish. In 1978 the first B.C.C was introduced by Fr. Alwyn D'silva who was the pioneer in starting the communities and assisted by Sr. Louisa Rasquinha & Sr. Auxilia. The mission of Small Christian Communities continues to this day by the Sisters of the Community. In 1980 Sr. Felcy introduced a Domestic Bureau with the support of Fr. Alwin D'silva. The domestics were given a training programme every month in St. Charles Convent. In 2004, Sr. Auxilia was nominated to the FILMC (Formation & Involvement of the Laity in the Mission of the Church) by Bishop Bosco Penha for SCC Animation. Apart from being engaged in the education ministry, the sisters were actively involved in Pre- Baptism instruction with the preparation of the Sunday liturgy, Sunday school catechism, Sacrament of Initiation and youth organization. The presence of the sisters of St. Charles have truly changed the visage of the vicinity at Vakola.