

THE SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY

SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY IS A RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION
FOUNDED BY MOTHER ANNA HUBERTA ROGGENDORF ON 27TH MARCH 1942 IN
THE ARCH DIOCESE OF MUMBAI INDIA.

VISION

We envisage a society where the values of compassion, equality, justice and harmony flourish and everyone experiences the fullness of life.

MISSION

To reach out to the powerless and the voiceless, especially women and children and empowering them.

Inspired by her vision, nine young women joined Mother Anna Huberta in her noble work in the year 1942 and dedicated their entire life in the service of the poor. Mother Anna Huberta called them "Helpers of Mary". They lived a simple life, in small communities in the midst of the poor, and shared their needs and sufferings. The sisters were bearers of love, peace and joy.

Mother Anna Huberta wanted the Helpers of Mary to go where no one dared to go, to live a challenging life. As a result, in 1959 they moved out to Worli and later to slums of Madh Island and Dharavi. Their newfound joy of serving others, attracted more girls and their numbers increased enabling the extension of work to more slums of Mumbai and remote villages.

As a visible sign of reaching out, we opened dispensaries, slum schools, care homes for children, soon to be followed by hospitals, tailoring centres, supporting classes for poor children, homes for the dying and destitute, hospice for HIV/AIDS children and women, empowering women and young girls, rehabilitation centres for leper patients and their children besides other social and welfare projects.

Mother Anna Huberta left no stone unturned in her desire to reach out to those who were at the edge of the society. She became victim of Cancer. On 4th July 1973 she was succumbed to her illness, leaving behind a great legacy. She was

laid to rest in the premises of Shraddha Vihar, Andheri, the head quarter of the Society.

NOW OUR SERVICES REACHED OUT TO ALL OVER INDIA AND OVER THE SEAS LIKE, ITALY& SOUTH AFRICA.

SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY AT A GLANCE

NAME OF THE CONGREGATION: **SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY**

ABBREVIATION: **SHM**

FOUNDER: **MOTHER ANNA HUBERTA GERTRUDE ROGGENDORF**

CO-FOUNDER: **FR. JOSEPH NEUNER S.J.**

YEAR OF FOUNDATION: **27TH MARCH 1942**

PLACE OF ORIGIN: **ANDHERI, MUMBAI, INDIA**

MOTTO: **LIVE FOR LOVE**

SUPERIOR GENERAL: **SR. STELLA DEVASSY**

THE SERVICES IN VAKOLA

Prem Seva (Loving Service), had its humble origin amidst the slums of Vakola Santacruz East, Mumbai in the year 1972. Identifying themselves with the misery and suffering of the needy inhabitants, the sisters of the Helpers of Mary took up residence in D'mello compound. A Single room inhuman surroundings the sisters undertook activities involved attending to the slum dwellers to their needs such as scarcity of water, sanitation difficulties, ration problems, training children living in the slum, running a nursery, organizing tailoring classes and conducting adult literacy classes.

SOCIAL

Activities for Children

The children come from a very poor situation. Poverty at home does not give a good scope for better education. To bring development in the area we organize supportive classes for the student up to 10th. 200 children regularly attend informal school in Prem Seva Gyan Mandir. These students are given snacks every day. The supportive classes enable them to score good result and progress in their future.