

Sisters of Notre Dame



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The congregation of Sisters of Notre Dame was founded in Coesfeld, Germany, during a time of religious and social need. A young teacher, Hilligonde Wolbring, out of love for the poor, took orphaned and neglected children into her home. Together with Elisabeth Kühling, her friend and colleague, she educated and cared for them. Both women had been formed in the spiritual and pedagogical tradition of Bernard Overberg.

Through the support of their spiritual director, Theodor Elting, the spontaneous charitable service initiated by the two women became an organized work. Recognizing the significance of their apostolate in the Church, he invited them to consider religious life. At the request of Bishop Georg Müller of Münster, three Sisters of Amersfoort came to Coesfeld in 1850. Under their guidance, the two young women, Hilligonde Wolbring to be known as Sister Maria Aloysia and Elisabeth Kühling to be known as Sister Maria Ignatia, began their formation for religious life, abandoning themselves in strong faith to God's action. In the spirit of St. Julie Billiart, Sister Maria Aloysia, Sister Maria Ignatia and the first Coesfeld Sisters, our congregation continues to witness God's goodness and provident care throughout the world today.

Our Lady of Visitation Province Bangalore is the newest province of Sisters of Notre Dame worldwide. Our saintly pioneers from Chardon, Ohio, USA and our India Sisters both passionate missionaries, have been presenting to the society the best of education, holistic health care, spiritual assistance and family support since 1949. The ripple effect of Notre Dame education and other apostolic activities have reached far and wide in country. The Southern Region encompassing the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana and Odisha, was upgraded to status of Southern Province on 18th December 2004.

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