

THE SOCIETY OF SISTERS OF ST. ANNE-MADRAS AND ITS MISSION

Website: www.stanneschennai.in

Founding of the Society of Sisters of St. Anne-Madras.

The origin of our Congregation 'The Society of Sisters of St. Anne- Madras' can be traced back to 19th century in the State of Tamil Nadu, India. It was founded by a lay woman namely Thatipathri Gnanamma. She was an ordinary woman who hailed from Phirangipuram, a village in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, South India. She was given in marriage to Innaiah, the catechist of Phirangipuram. This pious couple was blessed with five sons. Unfortunately, she became widow at the early age of 37 years. Left all alone with five boys to bring up, she put her entire trust in Divine providence and raised her children strong in Christian faith. Four of her sons joined religious life and one settled in family life. Freed from all family commitments, Gnanamma moved to a village called Kilacheri, 40 km from Chennai and settled down there, although she had no acquaintances in that place. Thus the infinite wisdom of God led her step to the cradle, the Bethlehem of the new Congregation.

During her time, education of young girls was an unimaginable dream. Gnanamma was constantly in touch with the illiterate girls in the locality and identified education as a Principal means of empowering them. Fr. Arokianadar, Parish priest of Kilacheri, helped her to reflect effectively and to go ahead with her mission. To realize this mission, she went back to her native, sold all her property and started a school exclusively for girls in 1863. Inspired by the committed service to the cause of women, two young girls requested Mother Gnanamma to let them help her in her great work and expressed their desire to do so as nuns.

Mother Gnanamma, who was anxious to ensure that her work should continue, accepted their request and sent them to be formed at St. Anne's Novitiate of the Good Shepherd Congregation in Bellary. After their initial formation, on 04.10.1874, these two became sisters and thus a religious Congregation for women known as "Sisters of St. Anne-Madras" was born. Our Congregation was founded out of the need for empowering the women through education. The life of Mother Gnanamma was other-oriented and dedicated to the welfare of others. The noble qualities of our Foundress exhort us to commit ourselves for the cause of uplifting the life of the less privileged in the society.

Annites' Mission of Education: Following the words of our Foundress Thatipathri Gnanamma, The Sisters of St. Anne learn to live as women of service and translate the love of God into love of fellow human beings. The divine energy within her was transformed by time, thereby identified the opportunities, and explored possible solution to the illiterate women of the yester years. Her commitment, passion and perseverance still enable us to walk even through the untrodden path and take us to another level of development. She was sure of her vision and her insight is still very active in us.

Our primary apostolate is Education. Through this apostolate, we create an atmosphere in the educational institutions that is conducive to the imparting of Gospel Values to the pupils. We give a central place for value-based education in the curriculum and impart it with zeal and enthusiasm. The Society of Sisters of St. Anne is involved in Primary education for more than a century.

Higher Education in St. Anne's Madras: In view of continuing the faith formation and value orientation with the students going out from our PU/Higher Secondary Schools, Higher Education Institutions were started and the Congregation is into Higher Education from 2005 onwards.

Our Higher Education Institutions facilitate the development of the entire personality of students and also strive to inculcate in them honesty and a sense of responsibility.

A glance at the Educational Institutions under Bangalore Province

Total number Institutions: 13

I.Aided Institutions – 05

1. St. Anne's High School, Halasuru
2. Sacred Heart High School, Jeevan Bhima Nagar
3. St. Rock's Higher Primary school, Cleveland Town
4. St. Anne's Higher Primary school, Halasuru
5. Sacred Heart Higher Primary school, Jeevan Bhima Nagar

II.Partially Aided Institutions – 02

1. St. Anne's P U College, Halasuru
2. Sacred Heart P U College, Jeevan Bhima Nagar

III.Unaided Institutions – 06

a) Degree Colleges -02

1. St. Anne's Degree College for Women, Halasuru. www.stannescollege.in
2. Sacred Heart Degree College for Women, Jeevan Bhimanagar. www.sacredheartdegreecollege.in

b) High Schools - 02

1. St. Rock's High School, Cleveland Town
2. St. Anne's High School, Dodda Alahalli

c) English Primary Schools - 02

1. St. Thomas English Primary School, Jeevan Bhima Nagar.
2. Lourdes English Primary School, Halasuru.