

MARIA BHAVAN CONVENT, DEREBAIL



Maria Bhavan Convent is situated in the small hamlet of Derebail village and belongs to the Province of St. Joseph, Western India of Sisters of St. Ann of Providence. At present, the convent is home to four sisters who are engaged in the mission of education and pastoral service. The convent manages St. Ann's High School, which provides quality education from Nursery to Class X (Secondary School), nurturing the intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth of the children of the locality.

The story of Maria Bhavan began in 1980 when the then Parish Priest of Most Holy Redeemer Church, Derebail, Rev. Fr. Francis Serrao, recognized the need for dedicated sisters to assist in the parish school and to serve the wider parish community.

At his request, and with the necessary permission, a house belonging to Mr. Abunduics and Mrs. Agnes Pais was purchased for Rs. 2,25,000. Until possession was handed over to the Congregation, the sisters travelled from Angelore Convent to serve in the parish school.

Sr. Ancilla became the first Headmistress, while Sr. Perpetua came from Raichur as Assistant Teacher to take up this mission.

Under the leadership of the first Superior, Sr. Adolfa, the sisters received a warm welcome from the parishioners, school staff, and neighbours. Sr. Ancilla, Sr. Perpetua, and Sr. Bernice worked together with dedication and

harmony, helping Maria Bhavan Convent quickly earn the love and appreciation of the community.

Maria Bhavan Convent was officially inaugurated on 1 June 1980 by Most Rev. Dr. Basil D'Souza. The house was dedicated to Our Lady and named "Maria Bhavan."

As the convent expanded its mission, a kindergarten was started in the adjacent garage with 42 tiny tots. At the same time, tailoring classes for young girls of the parish were introduced under the guidance of Sr. Bernice.

In 1981, the adjoining land owned by Mr. Anthony Lobo was purchased to support further development. A chapel for daily worship and two kindergarten classrooms were constructed. These were blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Basil D'Souza and inaugurated by the Provincial Superior, Sr. Benjamin.

As part of its continued growth, the convent was renovated into a stronger and more spacious building. The renovated convent was inaugurated by Provincial Rev. Sr. Patricia and blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius D'Souza on 4 September 1997.

Later, responding to the persistent encouragement of the beloved Provincial, Sr. Charlotte, Sr. Alice purchased the adjoining land owned by Mr. John Vas. A new school building was constructed, making it possible to provide English-medium education from Classes I to X for the children of the locality.

Today, Maria Bhavan Convent has established a respected place in the community through its dedicated service to the parish, its people, and society.