

THE APOSTOLIC CARMEL

KARNATAKA PROVINCE

CHARISM: 'God Alone suffices'

All that is beautiful and to be cherished in the Apostolic Carmel is summed up in Mary, Queen of Carmel ... whose hidden presence with us as in the early Church invites and encourages us to efface ourselves in service in the Church, so that more and more the world will come to know that God alone suffices. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the Patron of the Congregation.



CARMEL - A CALL TO PRAYER

To enter the Apostolic Carmel is to enjoy the heritage of Carmel firmly rooted in Prayer; to be drawn to seek God above all things as the single purpose of our lives. Through Prayer and Contemplation, God invites us to receive His message and offers us divine strength to bring His Word to effect in our lives from moment to moment. As we grow in prayer, we become increasingly conscious of our insufficiency and come to the realization that GOD ALONE SUFFICES.

A CARMEL FOR THE MISSIONS

Apostolic Carmelites reach out in a unique fashion as "contemplatives in action". This is our Mission: TO MAKE CHRIST THE CENTRE OF ALL CULTURES and in doing so - to live a truly fraternal life with the sisters of the Congregation and with all men and women of all nations and cultures; God's overflowing love fills us with prophetic zeal to share this love with all; receiving even as we give it through education and other works of mercy and charity.

Today our work continues to flower and bear fruit in convents across the globe - in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Africa and Italy. We serve in Degree and Training Colleges, Training and Technical Schools, Primary and High Schools, Hostels, Boarding Houses, Children's Homes, Special Schools, Nurseries, Balwadis, Clinics, Creches, Needlework Centres, Community Welfare Projects and Mission Stations.

HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC CARMEL

The seed of the Apostolic Carmel was sown in the heart of a woman who little realised the greatness of the mission, God was entrusting to her. Born as Sophie Leeves, the daughter of an Anglican Minister, she was led by God first to the Catholic faith in 1850 and then to the religious life as a sister of St. Joseph of the Apparition in the following year, where she took the name of Sister Mary Veronica of the Passion. Being sent to India in 1861, she felt an interior call to Carmel, not understanding where it would lead her.

At this time, the Carmelite Bishops of the West Coast of India were experiencing the need for a teaching Order of Carmelite Sisters to further the work of the missions. Mother Veronica's call to Carmel seemed to be a providential response to this need. Under the guidance of Father Marie Ephrem, she came to accept her mission to found this new Congregation. After much struggle

and many difficulties, Mother Veronica found admission into the novitiate of the Carmel of Pau where she imbibed the spirit of Carmel as one born to it.



The Apostolic Carmel was founded by **Mother Veronica** at **Bayonne in 1868**, and established at **St. Ann's Convent, Mangalore, India, in 1870**, by Bishop Marie Ephrem OCD.



The first batch of three sisters reached Mangalore, Bunder on November 19, 1870 along with three Cloister Carmel Sisters.

Father Gratian was waiting for them at the docks and he took them directly to the Cathedral, to meet Bishop Marie Ephrem. The old Bishop Michael Antony had also come to the Cathedral to greet the sisters. Mangalore wore a festive look, as Bishop Marie Ephrem, Mgr. Michael Antony and a large number of people, warmly welcomed the sisters. After the Solemn High Mass of thanksgiving and the 'Te Deum' at the Cathedral, the sisters were led in procession to St. Ann's Convent, little girls strewing flower petals on their path.

The work begun by Mother Veronica was not to die, for it was the work of Divine Providence. It was kept alive through the instrumentality of Mother Marie des Anges, the Superior General, who was one of the pioneers from Bayonne. In course of time, the little Congregation grew in number and in stability as a teaching Institute of active Carmelites, and was subsequently aggregated to the Order of Discalced Carmelites. Under Mother Aloysia who succeeded Mother Marie des Anges the Congregation further stabilized and became one of pontifical right in 1925. During Mother Aloysia's tenure of office, the Apostolic Carmel took root in Sri Lanka in response to the earnest request of the Bishop of Trincomalee who recognized the educational competence of the sisters and eagerly sought for their services in his diocese. In 1949, the Constitutions were granted pontifical approval.

Today the Congregation renders service in six Provinces and a Region. They are –

- Karnataka Province
- Southern Province
- Western Province
- Northern Province
- Eastern Province
- Sri Lanka Province
- Kenya Region.

The Karnataka Province: Provincial Team



Sr. M. Linette A.C., Provincial Superior



{From Left to Right - Sisters Magdalene, Edna Furtado, Carmel Rita, Linette, Rose Agnes & Nirmala Francis.}

Provincial House:	The Apostolic Carmel Provincial House St. Ann's Convent Mangalore - 575001 Karnataka, India
Provincial Superior:	Sister M. Linette, A.C.
Contact Number	0824-2441084; 0824-2425286
e-mail ID	karnatakaprovince@yahoo.com
Total No. of Convents:	28
Total No. of Sisters:	382
Provincial Councillors:	1. Sister Carmel Rita A.C. 2. Sister Edna Furtado A.C. 3. Sister Rose Agnes A.C. 4. Sister Nirmala Francis A.C.
Provincial Bursar:	Sister M. Magdaline A.C.
Novice Directress:	Sister. M. Julie Ann A.C.
Postulant Directress:	Sister Maria Venitha, A.C.
Candidate Directress:	Sister M. Daisy A.C.
Province News Letter:	Karnataka Vani

The Apostolic Carmel Sisters have pioneered the education of students without any caste or creed. The School Education started in the year 1870, Teacher Education in 1890, College, in 1920, College of Education in 1943 and Special Education in 1970.

Inspired by the life and example of Mother Veronica, the Apostolic Carmel Sisters reach out to the people, particularly the youth, through education and faith formation in Schools, Colleges and Welfare Centres, by employing formal and non-formal techniques.

APOSTOLIC CARMEL ASSOCIATES (ACA) and CARMEL BLOSSOM

Unity and communion in love, fellowship and service are the deepest yearnings of our world today and the greatest need of our country at the present moment in history. One of the fruits of the Church's teachings on Communion has been the growing awareness that her members can and must unite their efforts with a view to co-operation and exchange of gifts in order to participate more effectively in her mission. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II made this desire of the Church very clear and specific in his post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of 1996, '**VITA CONSECRATA**' No. 56, when he said,

"A significant expression of lay people's sharing the richness of consecrated life is their participation in various Institutes under the new form of so-called associate members or ... as people who share fully for a certain period of time the Institute's community life and in particular dedication to contemplation or apostolate."

To make this a reality, the General Chapter of 1996 came out with the following recommendation:

"We zealously seek to bring to life in others this special gift of our Charism sharing it specially with the Apostolic Carmel Associates."

With this mandate, we ventured out to spread the A.C. spirituality beyond the frontiers of our Congregation through the institution of the 'Apostolic Carmel Associates' on three levels, namely

- -- Catholic Adults
- -- Catholic Students in our Institutions as well as others

The Associations were well received by adults and children and within a period of few years the number of associates has risen to 3350 ACAs and 6700 Carmel Blossoms all over India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kuwait and Kenya.