

HOME FOR THE AGED 1978

“Our Founder Father J.P. Medaille, in his apostolic zeal, set no limits to the Mission of his Little Design. Thus the Congregation may devote itself to whatever forms of work meet the requirements of time and place. It goes by preference to the most neglected”. (Const. Art. 69) In the last quarter of the 20th Century, “animated by the spirit of zeal which knows how to discover needs” (Const. Art 77) the then Provincial Superior Sister Marie de Chantal and her team, inspired by the signs of the times, decided to start “A Home for the Aged” for Visakhapatnam and the surrounding areas. It was a challenging venture and required a lot of courage but it was a call to serve the aged at the most vulnerable period of their lives, when they try to see meaning in life with the impending death in their sight, instilling new hope and joy in them.

St. Joseph’s Home for the Aged has the capacity to look after the needs of 50 aged persons, both men and women, of all caste, creed and religion. They are well looked after by the Sisters and their helpers. The goals of the institution are:

1. To help the elderly to live in peace with their God, themselves and with others,
2. To prepare them to forgive their children and families, who have abandoned them, if such be the case.
3. To teach them to pray and to offer to God the sufferings common to all aged persons, regardless of their station in life; To the Christian inmates, the Sisters explain the Gospel value of suffering.

Admission to the Home for the Aged was deliberately slow. A few at a time were admitted in order to create a congenial atmosphere for the elderly and allow them the time to get used to their new surroundings, new friends and a new order of the day. To come to the home meant for them a real uprooting and hence they needed time to go slowly and get reconciled to the new rhythm of life.

