

Vanasthalipuram 1992

Vanasthalipuram is the outer part of Hyderabad city. It is situated 13 kms from the heart of the city. It is located near Vijayawada Highway, NH-9. It is a residential area with a peaceful atmosphere and abundant greenery. It is now a hub of commercial activity with rapidly expanding commercial business, transforming the colony into a town like atmosphere. The area was a dense wood with wild animals and was famous as a hunting ground. Hence the name Vanasthalipuram (Vana = "forest" + sthali = "place" + puram – a telugu postfix for a locality or site) came into existence.

Hyderabad, being the capital city of Andhra Pradesh, all the important administrative offices are situated there. The archbishop of Hyderabad, His Grace late Samineni Arulappa had expressed many times his wish to see a community of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy in his archdiocese. In the past the Major Superiors of the Congregation also had desired it but their efforts did not materialize due to some or other reasons. Sisters from the schools, hospitals and college often used to go frequently to Hyderabad for office work. They were finding it very hard to have a place where they could stay overnight when it was needed. Therefore, a community of Sisters somewhat closer to the administrative offices was a felt need. The archbishop once again asked the Sisters to come and work in Hyderabad in any capacity and while doing so look out for a suitable place and apostolate of their choice. This time, the Major Superior and her team complied with the offer. ***In 1991, an agreement was signed between the archbishop and the Provincial Superior and two Sisters:*** Sister Domitilla and Sister Lawrence were assigned to work for one year in the pastoral centre of the archdiocese. During this period, the Sisters came in contact with many priests both diocesan and those belonging to Religious Congregations and their apostolic activities. They came to know more clearly of the needs and possibilities of the area.

By the beginning of March 1992, The Heralds of Good News Fathers were moving into their newly constructed house. The house vacated by them and the compound of 10 cents was registered in the name of the Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, Visakhapatnam on 23rd March 1992. ***The blessing of the convent took place on 7th June 1992.***

