

Villivakkam 1989

Villivakkam is a neighbourhood located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is situated between the industrial estates of Ambattur, Padi, ICF, Perambur and Loco works. This place is populated mostly by the working class people of Chennai. According to the legend Sage Agasthya killed the demons with his mystical powers that tortured the entire world and killed many innocent people. It got the name of Villivakkam which has its own bearing - which Sage Agasthya planted "Vilvam" plant and hence the name Villivakkam came into existence.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy crossed the borders of Andhra Pradesh to sow the seed of the Gospel in a poor, modest corner of the State of Tamilnadu. Now with pardonable pride Sisters can say that their apostolates extended to 4 Indian States – Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. The Apostle St. Thomas might have been very happy when he spied the Sisters with their bag and baggage coming to settle down in his domain – Chennai, (formerly Madras) the sacred site reddened with his Martyr Blood. In spite of the acute shortage of personnel, trusting in the divine providence, Sister Mary Teresita, the Provincial Superior embarked on this new venture. God always uses intermediaries to accomplish His designs. In this particular case, it was through a certain priest, Father Dominic of the Society of St. Paul that the Sisters received the invitation to open a community in Chennai in 1987. With the blessings of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Casimir Gnanadickam S. J. the Archbishop of Madras – Mylapore and with the approval of the then Superior General Sr. Monica and her team, Sister Raphael, the Provincial Bursar and Sister Albertine went round to look for a suitable place. The Archbishop suggested 3 sites, out of which the village of Villivakkam, in the suburbs of the city of Chennai, was chosen. ***In 1998, on 9th May, during the Marian year and the centenary year of the Salesians of Don Bosco, His grace most Rev. Dr. Casimir Gnanadickam blessed the house.***

