

Consoling Sisters of the Sacred

The foundress of the Nav Jeevan orphanage and her assistant spent several weeks in early summer of 2005 and late November (respectively) in Italy visiting a lesser known traditional order of nuns by the name of “*Instituto Suore Consolatrici del Sacro Cuore di Gesu.*” Having seen the life of these nuns, both Miss Swarna and Miss Swarupa agreed that they would like to join this order of sisters. Where does this order of sisters originate and what is their history? They were founded in 1961 by a Passionist priest by the name of Father Basilio Rosati. The primary ends of the order are: to console the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to sanctify their own souls, to pray for priests, to help with religious instruction, to care for the elderly and also to help in schools. After a long life of holiness and zeal, Fr. Basilio was nearing his death in 1996 and he called upon the SSPX in the person of Fr. Emmanuel du Chalard to take charge of the sisters and to be their spiritual guide.

Obviously, the work of the orphanage and old age home in India can easily dovetail with the work of the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Therefore, on August 21st three sisters from the order traveled to south India along with their chaplain, Fr. Emmanuel du Chalard. Only two of the four visitors spoke Eng-

spoke English fluently and thus the priests of the Indian Mission, the sisters, the chaplain and the orphanage ladies all communicated with a mixture of hand signals, facial expressions, kitchen English, French, Italian and Latin. Fr. Emmanuel was only able to stay for two weeks but the three sisters were able to spend two months living at the orphanage. The main purpose of this privileged visit was in order to get a grasp on the situation, to obtain good information “on - location”, and to make possible plans for the future with the ladies of the orphanage. Altogether there are five women presently living at the orphanage waiting to go to the convent and several other young ladies are anxiously awaiting the day of their entrance. The Consoling Sisters helped the ladies to set up a daily schedule of prayer, work, and recreation. The sight of religious habits (white, of course) walking around, talking, singing and full of joy truly lit up the eyes of all the children and the parishioners. It has been many years since the south Indians have seen nuns in true religious garb since most now wear secular dress.

The nuns and Fr. Emmanuel were happy with all that they witnessed and plans to set up another house in south India are currently being drawn up.

After experiencing the magnificent driving



Left: Don Emmanuel with Srs. Maria and Rita in the priory atrium. Truly there was a generational “gap” between Fr. Summers and Don Emmanuel: the latter was ordained the same year the former was born!
Right: Sr. Louisella enjoys the Indian Sari.



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customs of India, the priest and nuns admitted that they could not complain anymore about Naples or Rome. They were pleased to see the conservative morals and hardness which still hold place in rural south India and they recognize that true religious life requires those same predispositions which still exist here.

The sisters also visited several mission chapels to give talks to the parishioners on the religious life and to describe the daily schedule of a nun, especially in their institute.



***Above:** Many tears were shed at the departure of the nuns. All the adults noticed a remarkable change for the better in the girls after two months of cohabitation with the sisters. **Below:** Preparing future religious, Sr. Rita shows the girls the most beautiful clothing in the world...the wedding dress of those who have married the King of Kings, Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

