**St. Teresa’s Provincialate, Tamil Nadu**

The year 1982 was a significant landmark in the history of the CSST Institute. As part of growth process, and for the sake of administrative viability the Institute, on an experimental basis was divided into four Regions, viz. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and North. Sr. Mary Rose, the retired Professor of St. Teresa’s College, Ernakulam, was appointed as the first Regional Superior of Tamil Nadu Region for the period 1982 – 1985. The convent of Mt. St. Joseph, Thiruvannamalai was all set as the Regional House; but due to health reasons Sr. Mary Rose could not make her residence in Thiruvannamalai, but continued to operate from Ernakulam. In 1985, Sr. Alcantara, the retired professor of Mt. Carmel B.Ed. College, Kottayam was appointed as the second Regional Superior for the term 1985 – 1988.

The origin, growth and development of a Congregation, we believe, is the work of the Holy Spirit. In the year 1988, the Regions of the Institute, with the approval from Rome, were raised to the status of Provinces and the eleven convents of Tamil Nadu came to be known as the Tamil Nadu Province with Sr. Hildegarde as the first Provincial Superior. As though the long awaited day had dawned, there was great rejoicing among the sisters, at this historic event. In August 1988, as per orders from the Generalate, a prayer service was organized at Sacred Heart Convent, Villupuram to congratulate the first Provincial team, the members of which were:

**1988 - 1990**

Provincial Superior: Sr. Hildegarde

Assist. Prov. Sup. Sr. M. Therese

Councillor - Edn.

Councillor – Spirituality: Sr. Gloria

Councillor – Formation: Sr. Alcantara

Councillor – Soc. Apost.: Sr. De Pazzi

Prov. Secretary – Sr. Rose Marie

Prov. Bursar – Sr. Fabiana

As on the first Pentecost, this created a new spirit, new life, new enthusiasm, a we – feeling and a new sense of Mission in the whole Province. Henceforward the formation of the Province, its growth and Mission were recognized as God’s Mission and His special intervention was experienced at every moment.

Being on the High School staff of Sacred Heart Anglo- Indian School, Villupuram for 14 long years, prior to this appointment, Sr. Hildegarde was accepted by everyone as a ‘daughter of the soil’ and this elicited co - operation from all sides, in the growth of the Province.

As a temporary measure, the Provincial Superior made her residence in the Sacred Heart Convent, Villupuram. The small young Province with low finance ‘stretched out’ at all levels. The Principal of the school, Sr. Miriam Therese, who was also the Asst. Provincial Superior made the office facilities of the school readily available for the Provincial’s work. Thus the Tamil Nadu Province was so to say, ‘created’.

The first term of 2 1/2 years of the Provincial Superior, fled very fast and it was time for the first Province Assembly. In October 1990, at the Chapter held in Sacred Heart Convent, Villupuram, Sr. Hildegarde was re – elected for a second term as Provincial Superior.

The members of the team were:

**1990 - 1993**

Provincial Superior: Sr. Hildegarde

Assist. Prov. Sup. Sr. M. Therese

Councillor - Edn.

Councillor – Spirituality: Sr. Gloria

Councillor – Formation: Sr. Constance

Councillor – Soc. Apost.: Sr. Fabiana

Prov. Secretary – Sr. Bernetta

Prov. Bursar – Sr. Tressa

The Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa entered Villupuram for the sake of service to the needy and less fortunate ones of the place. In creative fidelity to this Charism, the first activity embarked by the Provincial Team was construction of a Home for the needy Aged of the locality. The house, very aptly named ‘Anbu Illam’ was inaugurated on 16th March 1991, was blessed by Fr. Jacob and opened by the Provincial Superior ,Sr. Hildegarde CSST. This building was sponsored by Manos Unidas, Spain and Aid Canada.

The extension of the building on the 1st floor, sponsored by Missio, Germany was blessed by Fr. Jacob and opened by the Provincial Superior, Sr. Gloria CSST.

The General Council had mandated the four Provincial Superiors to see that the Provincial House and Formation House be constructed during the second term of office. With minimum funds at hand, trusting in Divine Providence, like our Mother Foundress who said, ‘My treasure is trust in God’, the Provincial team boldly ventured on the new Project. A small plot of land at Valudareddy purchased by Mother Lydia, a great visionary of Tamil Nadu, owned by the Sacred Heart Convent was made use of for the Provincial house.

God stretched out his hands on T.N. Province because they depended totally on Him and marvelously, so to say, as the need arose, funds came in from sources known and unknown.

1. To every ones joy, by 1991, the Provincial house, lovingly known as STP was almost completed. As the structure was nearing completion, generous parents, teachers and benefactors of the Sacred Heart Hr. Sec. School offered their help for furnishing and electrification. The Principal Sr. Miriam Therese made use of all her friends for making the Provincial House beautifully furnished and the inaugural function took place on 26th April 1991.

Important persons, events and dates that go down the history of Tamil Nadu Province:

* Provincial House, opened by Mother Yvonne Marie, Superior General and

Blessed by Most Rev. Selvanather. D.D, Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore on 26.4.1991 – Propaganda Fedei, Rome

* St. Teresa’s Chapel – Opened by Sr. Hildegarde, Provincial Superior

Blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Michael Augustine, Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore – on 18.12.1992, sponsored by Sisters of St. Peter Claver, Rome and Dioceze Bozen – Brixen

* Over the years, 5 more plots of land adjacent to the main building was purchased.
* The following convents were started :

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| Ser. No. | Na me of Convent | Year of opening |
| 1 | St. Teresa’s Provincialte, Villupuram | 1991 |
| 2 | Idhaya Kudil , Villupuram | 2000 |
| 3 | Mt. Carmel Convent, Mylode | 2000 |
| 4 | St. Joseph’s Convent, Villupuram | 2001 |
| 5 | Villa Teresa D’Lima, Surapet | 2002 |
| 6 | Mt. Carmel Convent, Erukkur | 2005 |
| 7 | Carmel Villa, Karaikudi | 2010 |
| 8 | Teresa D’Lima, Villupuram | 2012 |