

Society of Servi Domini, Girls' Orphanage, India



Josephine and Michaelammal: "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile."



"Au revoir to the old orphanage," says Anne Sophie as the bus leaves.



*"This way please gentlemen."
Sr. Maria Immaculata is very much in control.*



Mary Rose has a lot on her mind.

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Thank You Letter

May 2010

To all our Friends and Benefactors,

Thank you very much for all the support you have given us by your prayers or otherwise during this last one year when the Tamil Nadu government was creating problems for us for having children from Andhra (the neighbouring state to Tamil Nadu).

With the help of your prayers and by the grace of God, all our problems have been resolved. The government kept telling me to send the Telugu (Andhra) children away as they belong to another state and not to Tamil Nadu. I tried speaking with the Collector of Tirunelveli (the head of the town), but he was not ready to listen to anything I said. He point blank told me to send the children away by 10th April.

After many trips to the government offices in Tirunelveli, I was finally told that if I get letters from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Cuddapah, a town in Andhra where most of our children were born, saying that I am a fit person to take care of the children, then I can keep the children. It could not have been made any easier for me as I know the CWC's Chairman and he readily agreed to give me the required letters. The only difficulty was that I had to go to Cuddapah (20 hrs by train) with the children to get these letters. I sent the children home to their relatives' houses in Andhra by 11th April and at the end of the month I also went and met the children and the official and obtained the letters.

So, one problem solved. But I still have to get the recognition for the orphanage and for that they asked me to obtain four certificates from different offices – Fire, Sanitation, Building Stability and Local Government. Well, after spending nearly Rs.20,000 in bribes and fees, I finally got all the four certificates and tomorrow I am going to hand them over to the Social Welfare Department who have yet to grant me the recognition. So please continue to pray.

In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Sister Maria Immaculata

Of the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Society of Servi Domini, Girls' Orphanage, India



VIP waiting lounge.

DEO GRATIAS

On 29th November 2008, the ceremony for laying of the first stone took place on the “New Land.” Four hundred and ninety six days later on 9th April (Easter Friday) the orphanage relocated to their splendid new building set in five acres of land.

During construction, Sr. Maria Immaculata visited the site almost every single day. She designed, negotiated, haggled, cajoled, insisted, stamped her foot (only metaphorically of course), corrected, discussed, argued, hired, fired, organised, administered, accounted and she prayed—even more than usual.

When the building site was at its least engaging (after the concrete floors in the bathrooms had been poured before the plumbing pipes were in place) Sister ad-



The finished result is truly splendid.

mitted quietly at the end of a long day, “You know, father, I really hate all this.”

Now her sacrifices, and the sacrifices of all those who have contributed to this project, have borne fruit and one cannot restrain a joyful smile to see the sisters

and children about their daily routines in this spacious and elegant building.

May God continue to bless this apostolate and may it glorify Him by the consolation it gives to His most Sacred Heart.

Ω



“Scrub, scrub; a woman’s work is never done,” thinks Libya to herself.



Then the real and much more agreeable work begins. Fr. Couture officiates in the new oratory as the sun sets. “From the morning watch even until the night, let Israel hope in the Lord.”