

## **St. Ann's Home for Destitute Women, Project at Mount Rosary Charitable Institutions, Alangar, Moodbidri**

### **1. Aim of the Project:**

The main aim of St. Ann's Home project is to rehabilitate destitute women, of all caste and communities and thus help them to live a life of dignity as images of God.

The other aim of the Project is, to make the destitute women of St. Ann's home useful citizens, training them in different self building activities through micro activities of health, animal husbandry and floriculture.

### **2. History of St. Ann's Home project:**

Mount Rosary Charitable Institutions was founded by Very Rev. Msgr. Francis Elias Dsouza, in the year 1937. It was mainly a Tuberculosis sanatorium, where in the Holy Rosary ward, in the campus of Mount Rosary, TB patients were treated with herbal medicines, supported by a prayer life based on the devotion of the Holy Rosary. There were around 60 convalescent TB patients at that time and when they were cured, new patients came in not only from Moodbidri region but from the Malnad area.

Together with the TB sanatorium Msgr. Francis Elias Dsouza, started a home for destitute women. These women were either fallen in the streets and picked up by social workers and brought to Mount Rosary. Even Government officials, especially the Police department brought the young women who were loitering in the streets in the night. Some widows who had no children and had nowhere to go also came in and presently there are around 40 destitute women living in St. Ann's home for the aged.

### **3. St. Ann's home for the aged itself:**

These 40 destitute women did not have a home of their own at the beginning. The Mount Rosary Institution for the sake of TB patients in order to supply milk for the patients, had maintained a cow shed where half a dozen cows were reared. Attached to it, were two rooms, which were store rooms for the cows wherein either hay or grass or cow feed were stacked. These two rooms were cleaned up and the destitute women began to live in those two rooms.

But when the Sixth director of Mount Rosary charitable Institutions took charge, he saw the pathetic situation of these destitute women. His first project was to build a cow shed, a little away at the back side of St. Ann's home for the aged. Where there was the cow shed with two store rooms, he built six rooms on one side and another 6 rooms on other side both and wings were connected by a small hall. The destitute women lived in the 12 rooms and the small hall was used for multipurpose, either for prayer, to recite the rosary, or to have recreation and use it for dining purposes and also occasionally for get together. Nearby there was a convent for Sisters to live. Three or four sisters lived together with the inmates to take care of them, spiritually and to give medicare.

#### **4. The Need of a new home for St. Ann's home for the destitute:**

The original building of St. Ann's home is built 84 years ago, which was a cow shed with two store rooms. New additions of six rooms each on either side were built 34 years ago. The floor of the house is uneven, because it was a cow shed earlier. Walls built 34 years ago were of mud. Even though new six rooms were built on either side, of the small hall, there were no toilet and bathing facilities, which is necessary for a human being and especially for women. Therefore, the undersigned found that a new well planned home for the destitute for 40 or more destitute women needs to be built with proper hygienic facilities, rooms for prayer and recreation, dining. Therefore the enclosed project.

#### **5. Architects plan and cost estimates.**

I am enclosing separately the architects plan of St. Ann's home for destitute women. The plan has ground floor and first floor. There are 12 rooms on the ground floor with proper toilet facilities and first floor with 12 rooms and toilet facilities. There are also two halls which are for multipurpose, for prayer, for dining, to have recreation programme and conduct meetings. Each hall could be considered to have two rooms space. Hence it could be counted as four rooms. There are also two rooms each for the sisters to stay with the destitute women both on the ground floor and first floor. Therefore the total rooms that are planned in St. Ann's Home project is 32 rooms. The total cost of these 32 rooms is Rs. 2,10,10,000/-. Therefore one room costs around Rs. 6,50,000/-

#### **Appeal:**

May I request the Friends of Mount Rosary Charitable Institutions sponsor one room each with a donation of Rs. 6,50,000/-. Their names will be inscribed in the rooms of the inmates. Smaller donations are welcome. Their names also will be exhibited on a marble slab at the entrance of the St. Ann's home. The Project is dedicated to St. Ann, the mother of Mary and both the saints in heaven will bless the donors and their families abundantly.

**Msgr. Edwin C. Pinto**

Encl: Architect's plan