Congregation of the Mother of Carmel

Carmelites

Abbreviation | C.M.C.
Formation | 13th February 1866
Founder | St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara
Type | Centralized Religious Institute of Consecrated Life of Pontifical Right (for Women)
Headquarters | Mount Carmel Generalate, Thaikkattukara P.O., Aluva 683106, Kerala, India
Membership (2021) | 6,200
Superior General | Mother Sibi Varikkaplamthadathil, C.M.C.
Main organ | Syro-Malabar Church
Website | www.cmcgeneralate.org

The Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (C.M.C.) is a Syro-Malabar religious institute of Discalced Carmelite Religious Sisters founded in 1866. It was the first native congregation for women in that Church.[1]

History

Foundation

The congregation was founded as the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of the Order of Discalced Carmelites on 13 February 1866 at Koonammavu in the southern state of Kerala[2] by St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the founder and Rev. Fr. Leopold Beccaro OCD, the Co-founder.

The first house of the new community was opened in Koonammavu. The first members were Eliswa Vakayil, a widow, her daughter Anna Vakayil, Eliswa’s sister Tresa Vyppisserry and Clara Puthenangady another widow. They were given the rules of the Discalced Third Order by the Most Rev. Bernardine Baccinelli, O.C.D. the Vicar Apostolic of Verapoly.

Division

In May 1887, the Holy See established two separate Vicariates for the Syro-Malabar Church in India and thus separated them from the hierarchy of the Latin Rite. This caused problems for the young congregation, as both Latin and Syrian bishops claimed authority over them. This had to be settled by Rome, which ruled that the Sisters were part of the Syro-Malabar Vicariate Apostolic of Trichur. The Sisters who belonged to the Latin Church separated and was named the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites (C.T.C.).

With the eventual reorganization of the Syro-Malabar dioceses, the Sisters found themselves divided among five different Syro Malabar Vicariates, each under a different bishop and led by
its own Superior General. The first foundation outside of Kerala from among the different groups was to the Punjab in 1958.

Union

Full union of the independent units of the congregation took place on 16th November 1963, and the Congregation was raised to the Pontifical status in 1967 and then onwards the congregation took the name of Congregation of Mother of Carmel, by which it is currently known.

Current

The congregation today is divided among 24 Provinces and 4 regions throughout 4 Continents of the World namely Asia, Africa, America and Europe.[1]

Saints of the Congregation

Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the founder of the Congregation was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1986, along with Sister Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception in the course of his visit to India. One of the members of the congregation, Mother Euphrasia of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. Bl. Chavara and Bl. Euphrasia were canonized by Pope Francis on 24 November 2014.

Mother Mary Celine, the first Superior General of the united C.M.C. was declared as Servant of God by Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church on 9 April 2018.

References

The "Congregation of the Mother of Carmel" (C.M.C.) is a Syro-Malabar religious institute of Discalced Carmelite Nun founded in 1866. It was the first native congregation for women in that Church. <ref name="CMC">[cite web|url=http://www.cmcgeneralate.org/about.php|work=Congregation of the Mother of Carmel|title=About the Congregation|access-date=2012-03-26|archive-url=https://web.archive.org/web/20100327154450/http://cmcsisters.org/about.php|archive-date=2010-03-27|url-status=dead]]</ref>

==History==

===Foundation===

==History==

The first house of the new community was opened in Koonammavu with four women: Eliswa Vakayil, a widow, her daughter Anna Vakayil, Eliswa’s sister Tresa Vyppissey and Clara Puthenangady another widow named Clara Puthenangady. They were given the rules of the Discalced Third Order under the authority of the [[Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Verapoly|Roman Catholic Archbishop of Verapoly]], [[the Most Rev.]] Bernardine Baccinelli, O.C.D.

===Division===

In May 1887, the [[Holy See]] established the Syro-Malabar Church in India as independent of the hierarchy of the [[Latin Church|Latin Rite]]. This caused problems for the young congregation, as both Latin and Syrian bishops claimed authority over them. This had to be settled by Rome, which ruled that the Sisters were part of the Syro-Malabar [[Syro-Malabar Catholic Archdiocese of Thrissur|Vicariate Apostolic of Trichur]]. The Sisters who belonged to the Latin Church separated and was named the "Congregation of Teresian Carmelites" (C.T.C.).

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[[Mary Celine Payyappilly|Mother Mary Celine]], the first Superior General of the united C.M.C. congregation was declared as [[Servant of God]] by Mar [[George Cardinal Alencherry]], [[Major Archbishop]] of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church on 9 April 2018.

==References==

{{Reflist}}

{{Authority control}}

[[Category:Eastern Catholic orders and societies]]

[[Category:Syro-Malabar Catholic Church]]

[[Category:Discalced Carmelite Order]]

[[Category:Religious organizations established in 1866]]

[[Category:1866 establishments in India]]