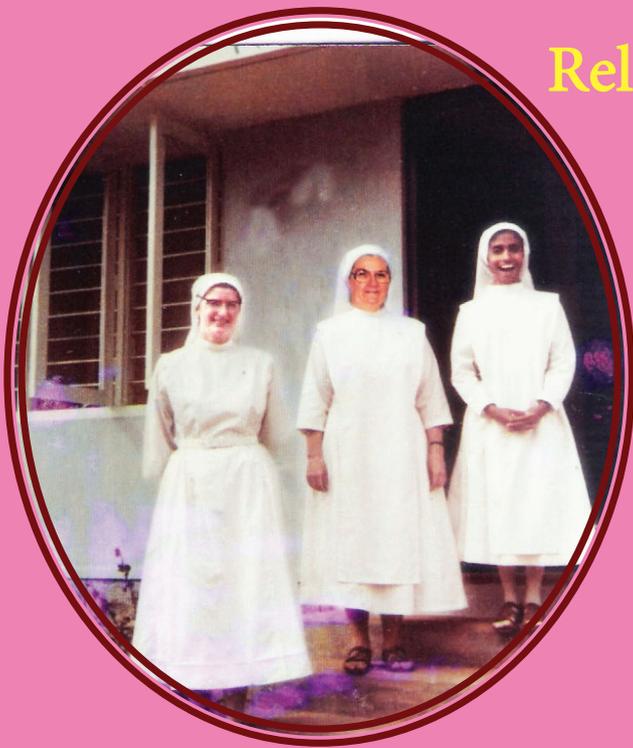


Relishing the Memories-1



The first Dominican Sisters of the Presentation put their feet for the first time in India in 1967. As some of us from India were already in Dighton, USA for our initial stages of formation, Sr. Patricia Sullivan, an American and Sr. Marie Ascension France, a French woman from the Province of USA came to see where the congregation can begin the first house in India. Kuttikad, an interior village in Thrissur, Kerala was the place chosen to be the mother house of Presentation in India. In 1971 Sr. Mary Patricia and Sr. Marie Claire Salois, both Americans came to begin the foundation. For these sisters who were used to having all the conveniences of

modern facilities, the beginning must have been quite hard to say the least. At first they lived in a small rented house in Kuttikad. There was no electricity, no running water, no attached bathrooms; these were only some of the inconveniences. And there were many more. There was no road, the transportation facilities were the minimum. They had to walk quite a bit to catch a bus. They had to construct a hospital building in the plot that was donated by the people of the area. The plot was even further inside, on a hill top. To reach the building material to the site surely was a herculean task. Overcoming all these difficulties and much more with sheer determination and will power that were theirs because of their deep desire to plant the seed of the Charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin in Indian soil, they managed to build first the quarters for the doctor. After a few months in the rented house Sisters moved into the quarters so that they could be close to the construction site for better supervision. That is when I joined the community. I was the first sister to return from USA after the Novitiate. When I joined the Community Sr. Marie Claire returned to USA. The two of us were alone in the community until Sr. Dorothy Ruggiero, another American sister (Sr. John of the Cross) joined the community

There were many a time we truly experienced the providential protection of the Lord. I remember one incident, it was soon after I joined the community in 1971. Sr. Marie Claire had already left for USA. So it was the life of two sisters, Sr. Patricia and me in the community. We had already moved to the newly built doctor's quarters. One night around 9 pm Sr. Patricia was taking bath. I was in my room. I could see flashes of light coming to the small hall which is in front of the chapel. I got scared. I went and called Sr. Patricia and told her that I am seeing some kind of flashes of light coming in front of the chapel. Sr. Patricia came out fast. We both walked towards the chapel. The chapel curtains were on fire. The corner of the tabernacle stand also was burning. Somehow we managed to put out the fire. We had put an oil lamp on the stand. The curtain was flying with the wind and caught fire from the oil lamp. God saved us from a big danger. The whole house could have been burnt

Sr. Jos Mary Mookan