CHAPTER IV

CONSOLIDATION AND GROWTH OF THE BETHANY CONGREGATION

4.1 The activities of Bethany in the absence of its Founder

The tiny seed sown in the town of Mangalore has sprouted, became mighty and spread its branches all over the mother land. In a small parish school Bethany Sisters began their ministry, today it is marvelous to see that they are rendering their services to the people in a huge network of schools and colleges, clinics, dispensaries, hospitals, orphanages, hostels, open schools, community colleges and social work centers in the remotest villages. From one small house recessed in the narrow lane behind the parish grounds, One hundred sixty seven Bethany branch houses have mushroomed in forty four dioceses in India and four dioceses in Europe and Africa. There are one thousand ninty four number of sisters in Bethany with one thousand eighty three finally professed, two hundred ten temporarily professed, eighty eight Novices and thirty nine Pre-novices serving in India and abroad.¹

These one thousand two hundred ninty four Bethany sisters are distributed in various provinces of the Bethany Congregation in different branch houses. There are two houses under the Central Administration and elven houses are spread in the delegation abroad in Europe and Africa. In our study we find thirty four houses are under the Mangalore Province, nineteen in Bangalore Province, twenty three in Western Province, twenty two in Southern Province, twenty two in North province and twenty seven in the North- East provinces ².
Indeed! It is a venture into unknown, on the unbeaten path and a challenge to step into the future. As we go through the History, we feel that, the present generation members are proud of early Bethany Sisters, especially of their courage, unwavering love and unflinching spirit of sacrifice. These are happy to walk on their path as the senior members have watched the painful growth process of Bethany Congregation in the early years. Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas when he discovered tremendous potentialities in the daughters of the soil, to become effective apostles, opened the door of Bethany for girls from various cultures and backgrounds. Today we find these Bethany Sisters are scattered in twenty three states of India and abroad.³ After the demise of founder, many branch houses were opened for which we, here below give the statistics of houses opened from (1961-2010) under the different provinces of the Bethany congregation.

Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas vision of building a society, marked by justice, equality, peace and brotherhood was recaptured by the members as the years went by. The XII General Chapter called upon the members “to work for the liberation of the marginalized women, dehumanized dalits, dispossessed tribals, degraded slum dwellers and refugees, bonded women and child labourers. They tried to work for the poor so that justice may be established.” ⁴

To respond to the signs of the times and urgency of the evangelical call, Bethany Congregation felt the need to have lay collaborators who could become partners in the proclamation of the Good News. The Decree of Vatican II on the apostolate of lay people (Apostlicum Actuosiatem) speaks of lay collaboration and pastoral ministry as complementary to each other. ⁵ In the spirit of the teachings of Vatican II and the vision of XIV General Chapter of 2004, Bethany Congregation has launched into sharing charism and spirituality, with all the brothers and Bethany sisters who are called to be the witnesses of the Gospel. The Birth of Bethany Lay Association as a new shoot to the tree of ‘Bethany’ heralds a new dawn in the History of the Bethany congregation of the Bethany sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. Bethany Congregation looks forward with the new hope and with an
eagerness for new partners to live with commitment, dedication and apostolic zeal, living in the world as leaven, salt and light, to come forward to join hands with Bethany Congregation in their missionary endeavours, “to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to give sight to the blind and to proclaim the year of God’s favour.” Bethany Congregation looks forward for partnership and affiliation, to the Bethany Sisters and brothers for a communion of service and collaboration to continue to the building up of the church.

To fulfill the mission according to this special charisma, the Bethany Sisters devote themselves to Christian education, the teaching of Christian doctrine in parish communities and schools and other pastoral, social and medical activities. All the activities are directed mainly to the service of the poor and the weaker sections of the society, specially the girls and the women. To form the Lay Association the following stages are followed: i.e. Registration, Enrolment, Initiation and Commitment. The way of life is given in the ‘Hand Book of guidelines for animators and members’. The mission of Lay Association are started in their own families and within one’s own status in life. Bethany Lay Associates are invited to collaborate with the Bethany Congregation as per their aptitudes. They strive to bring fullness of life for all and thus share God’s compassion with everyone, especially the poor and needy through their collaboration with the Bethany Congregation’s ministries such as Pastoral care of the families, Faith formation activities in the parish, Animation of youth and children, Counseling, visiting the sick and aged and Prison ministry.

Now we try to discuss and analyze the growth of Bethany Congregation after the demise of the founder. As the present study is limited only to Karnataka, we discuss here about the Bethany Convents in South Canada and Udupi districts and their contribution to society.

Being impressed by the Pastoral services of the pioneers. Fr. Santan Fernandes, to mark the remembrance of his Silver Jubilee, invited Bethany Sisters in the year 1963, May 31st to start Lourdes Convent at Kanajar in Udupi district.
M. Poma BS. was the first superior and the Headmistress of the school. Besides teaching in the school, importance was given towards building Stree Sangatan, youth animation and girls’ associations. The Bethany Sisters are engaged in social work. Sahodaya, the Bethany Social Service Trust, initiated an organization of women of Ninjoor village and called it as Ashirwad Mahila Mandal which is guided by the Bethany Sisters.  

Loretto Convent, Moodubelle is situated in Udupi district is another branch house of Bethany Congregation Rev. Fr. Abundis F. D’Souza wanted to avail the services of Bethany Sisters in the school and the parish, hence the Bethany Community was established on 31\textsuperscript{st} May 1964. Sr. M. Emiline BS. was installed as the first superior. Besides educational activities the Bethany Sisters are rendering pastoral services in the parish, upliftment of women through ‘Preethi Mahila Mandal’, conducting various seminars on agriculture, imparting family education, animal husbandry, self-help groups, animating associations, Christian youth movements, Catholic women association and faith formation camps.  

St. Xavier’s Convent, Ajekar, Udupi district is situated in a beautiful landscape. Rev. Fr. Ligori D’Souza, the parish priest, requested the presence of Bethany Sisters, who responded to open the convent on 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 1964 with Sr. M. Honoratha BS. as the first superior, and Sr. M. Edburge BS. as the first headmistress. The Bethany Sisters concentrate on the educational activities and help to eradicate illiteracy and poverty. In the year 1972, Jyothi school of Commerce was started. Tailoring and embroidery classes, fashion designing and advanced technical institutes began to flourish in Nitte in Karkal. Bethany Sisters are involved in the Pastoral services and visiting the houses, organizing women through Jyothi Mahila Mandal and self-help groups.  

Pompei Convent, Kinnikambla was established on 01.01.1965. Fr. John S. T. Rodrigues requested a few Bethany Sisters to teach in the school .Sr. M. Patricia BS. was appointed as the first headmistress. Sr. M. Gertrude BS. was made superior in-charge for three months until Sr. M. Susanna BS. was made the superior.
Bethany Sisters are involved in parish activities, and conduct girls and boys associations. St. Joseph’s Convent, Basrur in Udupi District was opened on 20th May 1967. The parish priest, Rev. Fr. Placid Pereira, invited the Bethany Sisters to meet the demands of Primary education to the rural poor. Sr. M. Berchmans BS. was the first superior and Sr. M. Nazreen BS. was the first headmistress. Bethany Sisters are involved in the teaching apostolate, pastoral work, Young Christian students, and helping the poor through various agencies.

Regina Caeli Convent, Ranipura was opened on 31st May 1967 with the invitation of Rev. Fr. Baptist G. Pinto. Sr. M. Dulcine BS. was the first superior and Sr. Crispine BS. was the first headmistress. Here teaching is the main activities besides pastoral work.

Mother of Mercy Convent, Kirem was opened on 29.06.1967. Rev. Fr. Basil A. D’Souza needed the help of Bethany Sisters to take charge of the Pompei Higher Primary School after the retirement of Mr. Joseph Pinto. Sr. M. Noreen BS. was both superior and headmistress. They taught in the Diocesan school with enthusiasm and love. Besides teaching, Bethany Sisters are involved in the pastoral work.

Sacred Heart Convent, Neerude in Mangalore District was opened on 13.07.1969. Sr. M. Helen Mary BS. was the first superior and headmistress. Fr. R.C. Morias invited the Bethany Sisters to educate the children of the poorer class and to engage in pastoral work, visiting the families, and conduct classes for slow learners. Needle work and dress making classes also were arranged.

Holy Family Convent, Nirkan in Mangalore District was opened on 28.06.1970 at the request of Fr. Norbert D’Souza the Parish Priest. Sr. M. Doreen BS. was appointed as the first superior. The Primary School was headed by Sr. M. Doreen BS. They assisted the parish in pastoral work. The Mahila Mandal helps the upliftment of women especially of Madwas and Vogga villages. Animating the
youth, motivating, Stree sangatan are the social and pastoral services carried on by Bethany Sisters.  

Visitation Convent, Casaba, Puttur in talk, was opened on 31st May 1972, welcomed by Fr. Lawrence Gomes, the Parish Priest, in order to take care of the orphanage and the school. Sr. M. Avina BS. was superior and Sr. M. Philomene BS. and Sr. M. Emiline BS. were the pioneers. They carried on the Educational Activities and pastoral work in this place.  

St. Antony’s Convent, Padukone was inaugurated on 01.06.1975. Sr. M. Helen Mary BS. was the first superior as well as the headmistress of the Primary School. Fr. Richard Saldanha invited the Bethany Sisters. The Bethany Sisters are engaged in the church activities, visiting the families and organizing women.  

Good Shepherd Convent, Ullal is situated in the shore of Arabian Sea in Mangalore district. In 1976 a community of three Bethany sisters was established. Sr. M. Zita BS. was the pioneer. Bethany Sisters participate in counseling the alcoholics and helped in the parish activities. 

St. Raymond’s Convent; Vamanjoor was canonically erected on 1st August 1976 with Sr. M. Louise BS. as the first superior in 1942. The Convent became the Regional House of Mangalore. In 1984 the high school was started to educate the rural children, with Sr. M. Mariebelle BS. as the first headmistress. Now it has Pre-University College. The Bethany Sisters assist in the pastoral work, take up education, social work, care of the elderly, Karnataka Open School and Vocational training centre. In 1986, it has become the Provincial House for Mangalore Province.  

Bethany Convent, Badyar was established on 12th May 1984 as Sr. M. Ena BS. was the first superior and Sr. M. Therese Sequeira BS. was the first headmistress. They were engaged in educational, medical, social and pastoral work, L. M. Pinto health centre, open school for drop outs, family visit and formation of Mahila Mandalas are the works carried on by the Bethany sisters;
Seva Ashram, Jalasangi is situated at Bidar district, was opened on 12th June 1990, with three Bethany sisters namely Sr. Loyaline the superior, Sr. M. Fidelis BS. and Sr. M. Meena BS. began their mission. ‘Daya Kiran’ the rehabilitation centres for lepers and ‘Maria Seva clinic’ cater to the needy people. They render service through ‘Balasandra’ a boarding house for children and empowerment of women. Women development programs are held from time to time. 78 self-help groups seek self-reliance and self-dependency. \(^2\)

Shanti Rani Convent, Siddakatte, in Belthangady taluka in Mangalore district was started on 14th April 1989. A health care centre named Shanti Seva Kendra was opened in 1984. A six month’s nursing aid course and tailoring courses are conducted.

Ozanam Home for the aged, Kallianpur in Udupi district was founded by Vincent de Paul society in the year 1983. They later transferred to Bethany Congregation. So on 16th January 1996 erected a new community with two Bethany Sisters. Sr. M. Lucian BS. served as the first superior. Here the elderly are taken care by the sisters. \(^23\)

Bethany Shanthi Nilaya, Humnabad in Bidar district was erected on 12th November 2001. The pioneers were Sr. M. Lucian, Florita and Fidelis. Sr. M. Lucian BS. was the superior. They reach out to the underprivileged people of the locality and help the people make a living, by teaching them tailoring and computer education. \(^24\)

St. Joseph’s Convent Shubadha, Kinnikambla was opened on 5th April 2005. Sr. M. Juliana BS. Monis was the first Superior. Shubadha Trust caters to various Activities like emancipation of women, counselling and sheltering the women in distress. \(^25\)
# Table No.13. The Table of Convents in Mangalore Province (KARNATAKA) 1961 – 2010

| Sr. No. | Date of Estb | Name of the Convent | Place | First Superior | Headmistress | Invited by | Apostle
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>31-5-1963</td>
<td>Lourdes convent</td>
<td>Kanajar Udupi Dt.</td>
<td>Sr. Poma BS.</td>
<td>Sr. Poma</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Educational Apostolate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31-5-1964</td>
<td>Loretto Convent</td>
<td>Moodubelle Udupi Dt.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initially dispensary &amp; teaching – school; Pastoral work Religious instruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22-6-1964</td>
<td>St. Xavier’s con.</td>
<td>Ajekar Udupi Dt.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sr. Edburge</td>
<td>Fr. Ligouri D’souza</td>
<td>Education up to High school, Tailoring &amp;Embroidery for drop outs/illiterate women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1-1-1965</td>
<td>Pompei Convent</td>
<td>Kawdoor, Kinnikambla</td>
<td>Sr. Gertrude for 3 months; Sr. Susanna BS.</td>
<td>Sr. Patricia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Teaching Parish school, Pastoral work, Catechism etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>31-5-1967</td>
<td>Regina Caeli convent</td>
<td>Ranipura</td>
<td>Sr. Dulcine</td>
<td>Sr. Crispine</td>
<td>Fr. G.B. Pinto</td>
<td>Teaching apostolate, catechism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>29-6-1967</td>
<td>Mother of Mercy convent</td>
<td>Kirem</td>
<td>Sr. Noreen BS.</td>
<td>Sr. Noreen</td>
<td>Fr. Basil A. D’souza</td>
<td>Teaching- Diocesan school, Pastoral work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>13-7-1969</td>
<td>Sacred Heart</td>
<td>Neerude</td>
<td>Sr. Helen Mary</td>
<td>Sr. Helen Mary</td>
<td>Fr. R.C. Moras</td>
<td>Teaching-Parish school, Needle work &amp; dress making class for girls &amp; Pastoral work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>28-7-1970</td>
<td>Holy Family convent</td>
<td>Nirkan</td>
<td>Sr. Doreen</td>
<td>Sr. Helen Mary</td>
<td>Fr. Norbert D’Souza</td>
<td>Parish activities, Pastoral work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Convent</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1-6-1975</td>
<td>St. Antony’s con</td>
<td>Padukone</td>
<td>Sr. Helen Mary</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Gifted land by Mr. Paul Fernandes, Parish school-teaching, Religious &amp; social work charitable work thro’ Vincent De Paul society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3-7-1976</td>
<td>Good Shepherd convent.</td>
<td>Ullal</td>
<td>Sr. Louise</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Teaching; &amp; Pastoral work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3-7-1976</td>
<td>St. Raymond’s Convent</td>
<td>Vamanjoor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>High school &amp; P.U.College Perpetual adoration, Pastoral work, &amp; Open school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4-6-1981</td>
<td>Nazareth con.</td>
<td>Bajpe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Health Centre, medical &amp; social &amp; Edu. Centre; Pastoral work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12-5-1984</td>
<td>Bethany con.</td>
<td>Badyar</td>
<td>Sr. Ena BS.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Centre for lepers: ‘Maria Seva clinic ‘Pastoral &amp; social work Boarding etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12-6-1990</td>
<td>Seva Ashram</td>
<td>Jalasangi, Bidar D.</td>
<td>Sr. Loyaline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Rubber estate, Pastoral &amp; social work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>25-5-1992</td>
<td>Shanti Rani convent</td>
<td>Siddakatte, Belthangady</td>
<td>Sr. Medela</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Home for the aged &amp; pastoral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>16-1-1996</td>
<td>Bethany con.</td>
<td>Kallianpur,</td>
<td>Sr. Lucian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Technical school; Youth ministry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>12-11-2001</td>
<td>Bethany Shanti Nilaya</td>
<td>Humnabad, Bidar</td>
<td>Sr. Lucian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Pastoral: catechism, Marian sodality, Youth, women organization; teaching in Parochial school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>5-4-2005</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s convent</td>
<td>Shubadha, Kinnikamba</td>
<td>Sr. Juliana Moniz</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fr. Maurice &amp; Maggu Pinto’s gifted home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History of the Convents established from the year 1961 to 2010 in Karnataka after the demise of founder.

When the Bethany Sisters came to Dandeli in 1962 Michael Rodrigues was the Bishop of Belgaum Diocese. There were a few Catholic families working in the Paper Mill, they were helped by Fr. A. Gracias, the Parish Priest of Haliyal. The authorities of Paper Mill requested Bishop to send some sisters to open the English Medium School to cater to the children of the workers. St. Michael’s Convent at Dandeli was opened on 6th June 1962. Sisters Sylvia, Lidwine and Placid were the pioneers. Sr. Sylvia was the first superior. The Government of Mysore permitted to start the English Medium School. Fr. Koimma then the Parish Priest supported the sisters in all the way. Bethany Sisters along with teaching activities engaged themselves in pastoral care, visiting the houses of the people regularly and encouraging the children and the adults. The services of Bethany sisters enhanced the socio economic life of the people. Bethany Sisters conduct meetings of Women’s League, Children Associations and various other associations.27

Mr. K.S. Chandrashekar, the Rotary Club President and Mr. C Rangaiah, the Thasildar of Arsikere, met Mother Macrina, the then Superior General and expressed the need of an English Medium School at their place. Three Bethany Sisters with Sr. Mida as their first superior arrived on 31st December 1963. On 1st January 1964 St. Mary’s Convent was blessed by Fr. Augustine the parish priest, with twenty students. Bethany Sisters started the kindergarten attached to their house. Later the school was shifted to the place one and half mile far away from the town, where the new school building was put up together with Bethany Sister’s residence. Bethany Sisters are involved in all the church activities, social activities, as well as teaching in the school. They also visit the houses in the nearby villages. They have adapted a Lambani village and they help them to improve the health condition of the people and the village.28
Rev. Fr. Edwin Pinto, parish priest, sensed the great need of a school for the children of illiterate labourers in the coffee plantations. He approached Rev. Alphonsus Mathias the Bishop of Chikmagalur to invite the Bethany Sisters. Sacred Heart Convent, at Basrikatte opened on 22\textsuperscript{nd} April 1965. Bethany Sisters were welcomed by the parish priest and the parishioners. Education in the parish was their main concern, the Bethany Sisters were happy to serve the villagers. The school was opened on 1\textsuperscript{st} June 1965. Sr. Colette was the superior and the headmistress. The Bethany Sisters here are actively involved in the parish life and activities, and they have brought much vitality and life to the people.\textsuperscript{29}

Another branch house of the Bethany Congregation was established at K. R. Nagar in Mysore Diocese at the request of the people of the town, with the Bethany Sisters who were already at Dornahally. St. Joseph’s Convent was opened on 22\textsuperscript{nd} May, 1967, Sr. Myrrha as the superior. A bullock cart was provided to transport the children coming from surrounding villages, for the poor and under-developed villagers. Bethany Sisters took care of the studies of poor children, by visiting the houses of poor people. This was the social activities ministry. Sr. Laeta was the first Headmistress of the tiny school. Now that tiny school had grown into a big school, with St. Joseph’s English and Kannada Pry. and High school. Now Bethany Sisters are involved in the various ministries, house visiting, pastoral work and prison ministry. People are grateful to all the loving and generous services of the Bethany sisters.\textsuperscript{30}

The Archdiocese of Bangalore received its second Bethany convent in Jyothi Nilaya Convent, Kacharkanahally, and Bangalore on June 26\textsuperscript{th} 1971. Three years later Fr. D’Sa laid the cornerstone for a new school to educate of this severely depressed neighborhood and the nearby villages who had no means of attending a city school in Bangalore. Life of Bethany Sisters was made up of all the harder by the hazardous living condition, in non-Christian area. In 1975, Bethany Sisters were attacked by the robbers. In 1978 a second burglary took place. Jeevan Jyothi was added for the elderly and the infirm. Bethany Sisters are
surrounded by destitute families whose children have no intrinsic incentive to learn. Bethany Sisters not only struggle with them in the regular school hours, but also tutor them after the school hours for the children of the surrounding villages and underdeveloped areas. Sr. M.Simplina BS. was the first Headmistress of the Kannada medium High School. Now there is an English Medium High School. P’U. College has been opened, to help these poor students to come up in their life.

The Bethany Sisters are involved in the pastoral activities and visiting the houses. Jyothi Social Work Centre has become the temple of learning for 213 school dropouts since the year 2003, preparing them to answer the Karnataka Open School (KOS) exams, Jeevanadhara skill training centre, tailoring classes are opened for the poor girls and the women to earn their daily bread. Income generating scheme, which provides the chance for the boys to take training in assembling the spare parts and prepare motor starters. It is a help for the youth and the dropouts of this area. Jyothi campus truly proved to be the lighthouse for the poor children of the locality and has empowered them to take their rightful place in the society.

Bellary mission was started by the Jesuits and in 1773 it was closed. 1928 Bellary District was separated from Hyderabad and Madras-Mylapore diocese. Bellary mission was handed over to the English Franciscan Order in 1949 on March 18th. Bellary Diocese was formed. John Forest Hogana was appointed the first Bishop of the Diocese. Rev. Ambrose Yedanapally was the second Bishop. He invited the Bethany Sisters to work in his diocese. Chittapur was a very dry area and often afflicted by famine, drought and want. People were deprived of good education and health care facilities. Fr. Antony Puthenkalam, a zealous missionary priest in Chittapur, was informed by the bishop that he has invited the Bethany Sisters to his diocese. When the Bethany Sisters arrived in Chittapur, they were welcomed by Father Antony the Parish Priest, parishioners, people and the heads of the locality. Sister Rosette was the first superior with other Sisters Liliola, Suguna and Santhosh were the pioneers.
Vidya Rani Convent was opened on May 25th 1972. Mr. Marakeni Bhat had started the English Medium school but he was unable to continue the school, so he requested Fr. Antony who was a good friend of Mr. Bhat, to ask the Bethany Sisters to take over the school. School was handed over to the Bethany Sisters by Mr. and Mrs. Bhat. Sr. Rosette was the Headmistress of ShishuVihar School. The name remains the same even today as a mark of gratitude to Mr. Bhat’s goodness.

In the same year the place was struck by a severe famine. Father Antony, Pastor Metra, Mr. and Mrs. Bhatt, Mr. C. Sonja Shetty, Mr. Manikappa, Mr.Suryakanth, Mr. Chandrashekhar Deshmukh, Bethany Sisters and a few others, and with the help of Carithas, opened 25 Gangi Kendra’s, to relieve the sufferings and fed the hungry of that area. The generous volunteers collected the ingredients and worked selflessly in many villages. The selfless, dedicated service of love had impressed the people and the officers. So much so that they called the sisters as “namma Tai.” (Our mother) The church authorities admired and appreciated the services of the Bethany Sisters in Chittapur. To increase the strength of the school, Bethany Sisters opened a boarding house for the nearby village children as well as for the children of neighboring parishes. The young energetic, enthusiastic talented Bethany Sisters worked to supplement the income by their handiwork, such as craft, embroidery, tailoring and knitting which was very much in demand.

It enhanced their economic situation. The rendearing service of the Bethany Sisters won the hearts of one and all, rich and the poor. In 1981 Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) adopted this boarding for all round development of the children and people of backward class. It supported the children and the families. Jyothi Seva Kendra was opened. 565 children were enrolled to provide holistic development, education, nutrition, and medical care, spiritual and psychological growth. Income generating programmers, women’s empowerment, tailoring, lather works are taught. Women’s emancipation and empowerment, immunization and medical checkup is conducted regularly. Pastoral work is given due importance. 9 girls have joined to the Religious Congregation and 5 boys to the priesthood from
this place. Bethany Sisters remain ever grateful to the Bethany Sisters of neighboring congregations and the entire priests who have five helped them.\textsuperscript{32}

The second convent was opened in Arsikere, in the Diocese of Chikmagalur, to facilitate better involvement in pastoral activities and to provide education to those attending the Kannada Primary school near the church. The St. Mary’s Tamil Medium School which already existed was changed into Kannada medium in 1930, A Catholic Catechist was the Headmaster. Holy Cross Convent was opened on 15\textsuperscript{th} September 1974. Sr. M Anita. BS was superior and Headmistress, and other four Bethany Sisters were the members. The school was given to them. It has now become a higher Primary school. Bethany Sisters are fully involved in the church activities besides teaching and visiting houses. Two sisters are fully involved in social work in nearby villages.\textsuperscript{33}

Assumption Convent was opened on July 29\textsuperscript{th} 1977 by Rev. William D’Mello the then Bishop of Karwar in 1977. He was more concerned of the spiritual growth of the people; due to lack of priest he wanted some sisters to take of this work. He requested Bethany Sisters to carry on this work. At his request Bethany Sisters sent four sisters with Sr. Bertha as their superior. Bishop engaged them with different works One to help in the office, two to teach in the English Medium School at Sunkeri which was one and half miles away. Bethany Sisters took care of the church. They had tailoring classes for the older girls and women, with sewing machines given by the diocese. Through the Mother and child health programme, they encouraged the people to live a better Christian and healthy life. Bethany Sisters visited houses and helped them by their advice. In 1978 the convent was shifted to Baad. The new convent building was opened in 1986. Bethany Sisters are running a Kinder Garten for the tiny tots. Bethany Sisters are involved in the church activities, teaching catechism, visiting the houses, and youth ministry. They continue the work that was taken by the pioneers.\textsuperscript{34}

At the request of Rev. Dr. Mathias Fernandes, the Bishop of Mysore, and under the guidance of Mother Gemma, then the Superior General, convent and the
school were opened, for the small town and the surrounding villages. St. Antony’s Convent and the school was opened on 1st June 1979 at Ponnampet, South Coorg, with Sr. Eliza as the superior and the Headmistress, and Bethany Sisters Clitus, Prabha and Jessy Leena as the pioneers, amidst the coffee plantations, to cater to the educational needs of the Coorgies. Other than teaching, the Bethany Sisters are involved in church activities, singing and house visiting, Youth ministry and Councilling. Land Lord’s and the labourer’s children attended the same school.

In Kutta, Coorg, people needed an English medium school. At the Bishop’s request Mother Gemma, then the Superior General of Bethany Congregation permitted to open St. Mary’s Convent and the school was opened on 2nd July 1979. Sisters Josia, Eprasia and Mathuthanna were the pioneers. With 40 students kindergarten class was started. Sr. Josia was the first Headmistress. Many owners and their workers, locality people’s children are given education, which has helped to break the banner of rich and the poor. Bethany Sisters are fully involved in the church activities, visiting houses and hostel ministry. Bethany Sister’s presence has been appreciated by the local people, parish priest, parishioners and the officers.

Ankola in North Canara needed the English Medium School to take care of educational need of the children, whose parents were working in the Government offices, industries and different departments. At the request of Bishop, Bethany Convent at Ankola was opened on 2nd July 1987. Sr. Lynette and two more Bethany Sisters were the pioneers. The Bethany sisters were warmly received by the villagers. The Bethany Sisters entered into this new project with energy and zeal. They are also engaged in mission work, visiting the houses, taking care of the church, etc.

Seva Sadan Community in Doddabelavangala in Bangalore was established on 8th September 1988. Bethany Congregation volunteered to do the task. Sisters Agnesia, Susheela, Praveen and two other teachers were sent for training at Ashivad’s Centre. Bethany Sisters began to survey the educational, social, political
and economic background of the people at Doddabelavangala in Bangalore. Bethany Sisters have started many Self-help groups, Mahila Mandals to work at the women’s issues, living and moving with the people, sisters are involved in the nearby church, informal classes for the children, adult education, Balwadis and Gram Sabha. Asha Educational Trust is providing education to the village children. A Health care centre takes care of the health of the villagers. The humanitarian work has been successfully carried on. The people, officers and the people are satisfied with the generous services of the Bethany Sisters.  

Bethany Convent Bogadi, Mysore was established, on July 9th 1989. Sister Laeta was the first superior. There are many opportunities for pastoral work. Some Bethany Sisters were visiting the houses and the far away villages, taking care of the village children. Now it has changed into a formation house. Novitiate for both the Bangalore and Western Province. Sr. Clarina is the first novice directress, with nineteen formees. Sisters do visit the houses of the near by villages.

Bethany Convent, Kable in Sagar was established on 4th August 1990. It was established as a response to the needs of the migrants, especially from Mangalore. Sisters also share the simple life of the villagers and work for their upliftment and pastoral work. Bethany Sisters are working at the St. Francis Xavier’s Higher Primary School, take care of the hostel and look after the health and studies of the children. Bethany Sisters coach the children to after the class hours, and take care of the Hostel children and their studies and health.

Bethany Convent Ambewadi, Dandeli was started in 1994. Bethany Sisters were teaching in the school. Sister Auxilium was the first superior, and Sr. Pierine was the Headmistress. Bethany Sisters join their hands with the parish priest and the people in various church activities, besides teaching in the school, and visiting the houses. The youth group was encouraged to take active part in all the related services. As a result of their generous services, many young boys and girls have joined the Religious life and priesthood.
In 1991 Bishop of Belgaum, Rev. Ignatius Lobo, invited Bethany Sisters to work in existing St. Antony’s Kannada Medium School in the parish which was earlier a Tamil medium school, to cater the poorest of the poor. At his request, Sr. Alicia was appointed as Headmistress. St. Antony’s Convent was opened on June 1st 1994. Sr. Agnes was the first superior. In addition to looking after the poor children of the school with great affection and dedication, the Bethany Sisters are engaged in various church activities. They visit the houses, families and coach the weak children.42

Kripalaya Dharwad was inaugurated on 25th March 1997. During the short period of seven years, Bethany Sisters made great contribution to the people of the locality. The Bethany Sisters have established good rapport with the local people. The Bethany Sisters take active part in the Parish work conducting choir, family visits, coaching class for the poor children, Bala Mela, women’s day celebration and inter-religious dialogue. Bethany Sisters visit the nearby charitable institutions such as hospital, orphanage, and home for the mentally retarded, slums and the prison. Socio - Pastoral ministries were undertaken by the sisters, it has enhanced the relationship of Bethany Sisters with the neighbors and the parishioners.43

When St. Joseph’s Convent was opened at Sagar in 1950, Bethany Sisters had added a boarding school and an orphanage, in ordered to help the children from the different villages, going to St Joseph’s Hr. Primary School. These Bethany Sisters started the Social Work Centre. Thus Jeevan Jyothi Ashram started on 5th July 2004. The institution was affiliated to the National Institute of Open School New Delhi in the 2006. The Community College was started. Through skill training programme. It enables to reduce the unemployment problem of the area and promote employment opportunity for women. They are taught life-coping skills for development of individual’s personality. Thus Bethany Sisters are working for the empowerment of the disadvantage urban, rural poor and women44.
A long felt desire of the Bethany Congregation to set a house in the birth place of the founder materialized finally. Bethany Convent at Tioga was opened on 30th May 2005. The Bethany Sisters joyfully commit themselves for the cause of education and socio-pastoral ministry, paying tribute to the charism given by the Founder. Bethany Sisters are working in the parish school, take care of the church, take part in all the church activities, visiting the houses of the people, and the children. 45

The new Diocese of Gulburga initiated the need to have a house and assist the diocese in the educational activity Accordingly, Bethany Convent at Gulburga was stated on 7th August 2005 and Bethany Sisters teach in the parish school, also take care of the church, and take part in all the church activities, visiting the houses, praying with the people etc. 46
Table No.14. The Convents in Bangalore & western province (Karnataka) 1961 – 2010

| S.N. | Date of Estb. | Name of the convent | Place | Superior | Invited | Apostle
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>Dandeli Uttar Kannada</td>
<td>Sr. Sylvia</td>
<td>Bishop Michael the then bishop of Belgaum and at the request of the authorities of the paper mill</td>
<td>Teaching, Youth ministry, Womens league &amp; Pastoral work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Convent</td>
<td>Arsikere Hassan</td>
<td>Sr. Mida</td>
<td>Invited by the Rotary club president/Thasildar, Arsikere</td>
<td>Education adopted in the Lambani village and Apostolic activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Convent</td>
<td>K.R. Nagar, Mysore</td>
<td>Sr. Myra</td>
<td>Request of the people</td>
<td>Teaching, Visiting the families, Pastoral work and Prison ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Jyothi Nilaya</td>
<td>Kacharkanahally, Bangalore</td>
<td>Sr. Louisa</td>
<td>Sister’s fore saw the need of the locality. Fr. Ullasappa invited</td>
<td>Education, Open school, Tailoring classes, Youth and drop outs classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Arsikere, Hassan</td>
<td>Sr. Anitha</td>
<td>Peoples request because of the sisters presence in St. Mary’s Convent, Arsikere</td>
<td>Schools, Visiting the houses, and Pastoral activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Assumption Convent</td>
<td>Karwar</td>
<td>Sr. Bertha</td>
<td>Bishop William D’Mello</td>
<td>Service to the poor, Pastoral, Tailoring, Mother and child health programme and Visiting the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Person</td>
<td>Bishop/Founder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----</td>
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<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>St. Antony’s,</td>
<td>Ponnampet</td>
<td>Sr. Eliza</td>
<td>Bishop of Mysore, Bishop Fernandes, Education, Youth ministry, Counseling, House visits, and Pastoral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>Kutta</td>
<td>Sr. Josia</td>
<td>Bishop of Mysore, Bishop Fernandes, Education, Pastoral activity, and visiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Bethany convent</td>
<td>Ankola</td>
<td>Sr. Linet</td>
<td>Bishop of Karwar, Teaching in diocesan schools visits and pastoral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Sevasadan</td>
<td>Doddabla</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Fr. Claude D’Souza helped the sisters to start this place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vangala,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Education, Cluster school movement, Self- help groups, Mahila Mandals and Health care centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Bethany Convent</td>
<td>Bogadi</td>
<td>Sr. Laeta</td>
<td>Bishop Michealappa, Formation house, Pastoral house and Novitiate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Bethany convent</td>
<td>Kable</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Because of the presence of sisters in Sagar, Pastoral work, Upliftment of villages, teaching in Diocesan school, Health care, Coaching the weaker one and Hostel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Bethany Convent</td>
<td>Ambewadi</td>
<td>Sr. Auxiliam</td>
<td>Because of the sisters presence in Dandeli, Education, Pastoral and, Youth activity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>St. Antony’s Convent</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>Sr. Agnes</td>
<td>Bishop Ignatius Lobo invited sisters, Pastoral and Visit to the houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Bethany convent</td>
<td>Shimoga</td>
<td>Sr. Maxim</td>
<td>Because of the presence of sisters in Sagar; sisters were invited, Teaching, Pastoral and Visit to the houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Bethany convent</td>
<td>Gulbarga</td>
<td>Sr. Linda</td>
<td>Diocese of Gulburga initiated the need, Teaching, Education, Pastoral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Till the demise of Founder the Bethany Congregation concentrated their activities mainly in Karnataka except two houses in Kerala which we have discussed briefly in the chapter III, under Phase I and Phase II. After the demise of the Founder the Bethany Congregation answered the needs of the other parts of Karnataka like Mysore, Shimoga, Coorg, Gulburga, North Canara, Hassan and Chikmangular. They also concentrated in Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Northern and North Eastern States of India. Besides, the Bethany Congregation answered the call of European and African countries. The table below gives us the spreading of Bethany Branches of total hundred and sixty seven houses between 1921 -2010 all over India and abroad.

Table No.15. The Number of Convents in Bethany Congregation 1921-2010 48

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Goa</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
<th>Gujrat</th>
<th>Tamilnad</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>Manipura</td>
<td>Megalaya</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bethany was the first one to start the school in vernacular for the poor, dalits and marginalized and the tribals of South Canara in Puttur, Uppinangady, Kokkada and later in other parts of North Karnataka specially in Guledgudd, Madanbhavi and Santibastwad in Belgaum diocese in the midst of Harijans and dalits followed by the opening of houses in Kerala; particularly Pallikunnu in the
midst of tribals and then in North Karnataka, in Orissa and North Eastern States, where as the then existing Bethany Congregations had their education in English for the upper and middle class in cities and towns. This adventurous task was challenging, successful and was appreciated by all. Other Congregations and the Government following the example of the Bethany Sisters gave priority to primary education especially the poor in the rural and remote villages. Bethany Congregation also opened the first house in Mauritania, West Africa in 1997 among the poor, illiterate fisher folk in Nouakchott Diocese.

Bethany Congregation took the initiative in parish and pastoral activities. Bethany Sisters are also pioneers among the other pioneering orders into starting technical, industrial and vocational training centers especially for dropouts, unemployed and economically backward girls. Like St. Martha’s Industrial School in 1922 to train girls in tailoring, needle work, lace making and preparing church vestments, this was the first step taken to empower women. Later in the areas of tribals, dalits, the poor and the marginalized women of other states in India, Bethany Sisters opened vocational training centres besides this, technical training institution. Bethany Sisters are taking the initiative in continuing education and adult literacy. The Bethany Congregation started open school centres, community colleges and made a way for the drop outs to finish their studies. Bethany Congregation also has the boarding’s and orphanages to help the girls of the remotest areas to make available the education required. Bethany Sisters in 1925 started working in the remotest villages of Puttur and they realized there is a greater need for health care and education. Realizing this, founder initiated the Bethany Sisters in elementary medical care. He had sent 6 Bethany Sisters to Fr. Muller’s hospital at Mangalore for 6 months training in 1935. Distribution of Ayurvedic medicine ‘De Chane’ along with health education was the first step taken. In Dharwad and Belgaum areas in Madanbhavi and Santibastwad healing ministry was more effective. Bethany Sisters also continued the healing ministry in the North-East missions to the tribal of Kohima and Nagaland. Bethany
Congregation became a pioneering women’s Congregation in the North-Eastern areas.\textsuperscript{49}

More Bethany Sisters were sent overseas to learn medicine and the days gone by more and more were trained to be nurses and few as doctors. Thus Bethany Congregation set up many dispensaries \textsuperscript{50} which is discussed in Chapter six. The Congregation encouraged two Bethany Sisters to be Lawyers in order to help out the poor people in need specially in the rural areas. Under their guidance the members join hands with the struggle for social justice, liberation of the exploited, and the discriminated people and to have world solidarity. The members who are in teaching field try to inculcate Gospel values in incorporating them in school curricula; and impart them in the value education and moral science classes. The General chapters XII and XIII of the Bethany Congregation emphasized women’s liberation and empowerment in Congregation’s activities. The traditional works were re-oriented to respond to this call. Empowerment of women through Mahila mandals, Self-help groups, Grahini schools, legal education, self-employment schemes, women’s credit unions and family education programmes became a special concern of the Bethany Congregation.

4.2. Bethany Sisters reaching out to the nation and abroad

In the system which was started earlier by the founder Bethany Sisters continue even today to work in the parish schools. As per the records,\textsuperscript{48} We find one hundred nineteen ninety. Bethany Sisters serve or manage in the other institutions of the diocese or religious. Seven Bethany Sisters work in nine Pre. University, Colleges/ Senior Secondary schools, thirty four Bethany Sisters work in twenty seven High schools, seventy seven sisters work in fifty one primary/higher primary schools, sixteen sisters work in thirty-four nursery schools, four sisters work in eight boarding’s, three sisters work in four vocational training centres, thirteen members work in two hospitals, seven members work in six health centres, twenty five sisters work in five homes for the senior citizens,
two sisters work in two pilgrim centres and eleven sisters work in other organizations.

Table No. 16. The Institutions managed/ served by the Bethany Sisters, other than Bethany Congregation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institutes</th>
<th>No. of institutes</th>
<th>No of sisters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.U. Colleges/ Senior Secondary</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High schools</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary/higher primary schools</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nursery/K.G.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boarding's</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocation training centers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hospitals</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homes for the senior citizens</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pilgrim centers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other organization</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As per the record in the letter on 14th January 1977 addressed to the then Mother Superior by Rev. Fr. Albert G. D’Souza the correspondent of Dubois School of Commerce, it says, “At the earlier stage in the development of the Dubois School of Commerce, when this management was faced with problem of finding a fully qualified instructor to serve on its staff, you were kind enough to lend the service of one of your sisters to the institution.” In another source we find in a letter addressed on 28th May 1968 to the then Mother General by the Archbishop of Bangalore, Rev. D.S Lourdswamy requesting, “not to withdraw your offer to be in charge of the catering” at the Catholic Centre Bangalore. As per the records Sr. Marie Celine being a nurse rendered her services in the Arogya Christa Seva Kendra Alahally, Bangalore. Our study further confirms that Bethany Sisters also worked at Sudeep Formation Training Institute, Bangalore in 1968. They have rendered their valuable services in the Palloti Nilaya, besides looking after the catering. They were involved in social work like helping the aged and ministering the dying in the surrounding villages, two Bethany Sisters were
invited to work in the Ashagad village, Dahanu Road in Thane District in 1980 to work in the Shantivan Shetkari Seva Mandal.  

Besides this, we learn that Sr. M. Bertha BS. served as the first principal of Agricultural school at Vamanjoor South Canara. Many Bethany Sisters were on staff of NBCLC (National, Biblical, Catechetical, Liturgical Centre) Bangalore, Anjali Ashram in Mysore, St. John’s hospital, Bangalore; Mater Dei Institute at Goa and Seva Kendra, Calcutta. Sr. M. Violette BS. who studied in U.S.A. taught in U.S.A. and Canada and did counseling and worked in the apostolic fields there. Through the participation of their work in and outside Bethany, sisters tried to eradicate illiteracy from the villages wherever they went. They also availed medical care facilities for the people especially through the Concetta Hospital at Kinnigoly in South Canara and L.M. Pinto Memorial Health Centre, Badyar in South Canara. In 1986 and 1993 both respectively were taken over by Bethany Management from the Diocese of Mangalore.

Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas in 1920’s and 1930’s realized the need of education for women to uplift the country oppressed by the British Colonialism. He also realized that formation and mission are to be continually updated and deepened. The efficacy of the apostolate not only counts in the academic excellence but by the apostolic commitment. Travel makes one wise. Bethany was not aware that they would one day will cross the boundaries in search of wisdom and knowledge, though there is no dearth for knowledge and expertise in India, still one cannot be a frog in the well. So, Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas wanted to tap the inner resources of the capable Bethany Sisters. Though Bethany Congregation was poor in those days but was rich with the human resources in their members.

Founder being a man of vision and far ahead of his time felt the need of Over Sea Education in spite of the financial constraints, and encouraged the then Mother General to take this daring step so that institute could reap the fruit of it’s in the future. So in 1950 for the first time Bethany Sisters were sent to U.S.A for
the studies. 60 “Overseas Education” was started by the religious Sisters of Mercy. Sr. Mary Josetta Butler, R.S.M. was in charge of this programme. Later on, this Bethany Congregation had started taking sisters from India as well as from the under-developed countries who will return to India to educate their own sisters. 61 In 1961 two of the Bethany Sisters were chosen for this religious formation training on scholarship. 62 Knowing the financial constraints Founder made use of this opportunity to train the Bethany Sisters in different fields, spiritual and academic and social as well.

In 1950 founder sent four sisters namely, Srs. Macrina, Mida, Violette and Laetitia to complete their studies and one among them went to U.S.A. to pursue her Doctoral study in Psychology. Mother Macrina who had a chance to complete her studies abroad realized the worth of studies and when she became the Mother General in 1959 sent eight more Bethany sisters to be trained in Psychology, History, Chemistry, English, Sociology, Theology and Philosophy. In order to incorporate within the Bethany Congregation the richness gained by the interaction with diverse cultures at the international level while appreciating their own culture that of India. 63

In 1970, four sisters studied Psychology under Gregorian University Rome in the school of Psychology pioneered by Luigi, Rulla S.J. and one was sent to United Kingdom for counseling. In 1978, in 1990, and in 2004 one sister each was sent for Theology and missionary Catechetics. Later, few Bethany Sisters were sent to Rome for formation of formators and a couple of them were sent to Canada to obtain a diploma in social development. 64 The training they received enabled them to train others in India especially in the Bethany congregation to open hospitals, dispensaries, social work centres, sister formation training institutes, schools and colleges. This knowledge of sisters made Bethany Congregation wiser. This has broadened their vision and helped them to take up responsibilities in India, Europe and Africa.
The Bethany Sisters feel that the congregation today is alive to the need, of working for the development of women, at the level of education, health care, social welfare and spiritual growth. The Bethany Sisters those who have undergone ‘Overseas Education’ are conscious of the realities of the needs of the country and the church. They are striving with apostolic zeal, to work for God. They not only do this in their individual apostolate but have a wide range of influence on the other Bethany sisters of the Bethany Congregation, since they have assigned leadership roles. They have also fostered and developed team spirit with the Bethany Sisters and with the lay collaborators with whom they have been working.65

4.3. Golden Jubilee of the Bethany Congregation

Bethany Congregation entered into its golden year on July 16, 1971. The infant Bethany Congregation that began with 4 members now had nine hundred thirty nine members in it. Seventy three had left the Bethany Organization for various reasons.66 from 1921 to 1971, seventy five members had expired among which from 1940 to 1949, forty five Bethany Sisters had died,67 some due to the old age, many due to the sickness during the II World war; in spite of all the medical help rendered by the Founder and the Bethany Sisters in authority.68 The entire Bethany Congregation was indigenous in personnel, built up with labours and sacrifices of the Bethany Sisters69 Having survived many crises, of the past years, the Bethany Sisters were confident but not presumptuous.

The Bethany Congregation had already spread far and wide, not only in South Canara but Karnataka, India and abroad. As per the prophesy made by Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas during his pilgrimage to Rome, Bethany Congregation became International” in 1969 when the first house of Bethany Congregation was opened in Rome70 By 1971 the Bethany Congregation was serving in the following field of work for the people.
Table No.17. The Services rendered by Bethany Sisters in the Different Fields (1921-1971).\textsuperscript{71}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Senior Cambridge school</th>
<th>Technical training institute</th>
<th>Higher Secondary</th>
<th>High school</th>
<th>Hr. Primary Technical</th>
<th>Commerce</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Dispensaries</th>
<th>Orphanage boarding</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In South Canara Bethany had 21 houses, outside South Canara in Karnataka had 18 houses, 3 houses in Kerala, 3 in Punjab - Haryana, one each in Maharashtra and Goa, 2 in Uttar Pradesh, one in Tamilnadu, 6 in North east and 1 house in Rome.

Table No.18. The Number of Houses of Bethany Congregation (1921-1971)\textsuperscript{72}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Canara</th>
<th>Other than South Canara in Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Punjab- Haryana</th>
<th>Maharashtra</th>
<th>Goa</th>
<th>Uttar Pradesh</th>
<th>Tamilnadu</th>
<th>North east</th>
<th>Rome</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Canara</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So we feel Bethany deserves to have this Golden Jubilee gift in 1971 from Rome – ‘The Pontifical Rite’ for the marvelous spreading of 57 Bethany branches all over in the native soil and abroad. As per the information available we find that, though Bethany Sisters wanted to celebrate this in a festive way, but they did not, because, about that time, as a result of the war between East and West Pakistan, approximately Fifteen million refugees entered India. Most Indians were sympathetic to the plight of the East Pakistanis who were fleeing their home land to escape repression if not torture. As the government was mobilizing its resources to aid them so Bethany Congregation too felt, this is the unfit time for celebration;
than to join its hand in helping the suffering brothers and Bethany Sisters who had become refugees. 

4.3.1. Recognition by the Pope – Pontifical Rite

Hardly after the eleven years of Founder’s death, had Bethany Congregation obtained “Pontifical Rite” on December 6th 1971 from ‘Rome’. When a religious Organization in the church reaches full development, it receives recognition from the Holy See (Pope). The Bethany Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany which was under the diocese has now obtained a “Decree of Praise” and along with it the status of “Pontifical Rite”. By this decree Bethany Congregation came directly under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Office of Pope.

4.4 The Platinum Jubilee of Bethany Congregation (1921-1996)

The Platinum Jubilee (1921-1996) of the Bethany Congregation was celebrated on 16th July 1996. From the nook and corner of the Bendur Church where the Founder had Founded the Bethany Congregation today after 75 years had filled to capacity not with 4 youthful maidens but almost 4000 of people, friends and well-wishers of the institute. Along with Cardinal Lourdswamy coupled with hundreds of priests celebrated the Mass to thank God for 75 years of Bethany Congregation. Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas’ Memorial was inaugurated on 16.07.1996 by Cardinal Lourdswamy “May this cottage become a pilgrimage centre” said by Sr. Sharon, the master of ceremony of the day. We look at Bethany Congregation in her 75th year with much wonder to see her membership grown from 4 members in 1921 to 1057 members in 1996, after 75 years. The total number of Bethany Sisters expired were 157. In the year 1996 the Bethany administrative unit consists of Superior General, Sr. Agnella, with her 4 General Councillors and a Procurator General in the head office, Bethany Generalate, Mangalore. The Central Region headed by Sr. Lillita, houses in Europe and common formation houses were directly under the Superior General. The Mangalore Province which was erected on 07.06.1986, with a head office at
Vamanjoor, South Canara headed by Sr. Christella, Bangalore Province erected on 08.06.1986, headed by Sr. Felicia having a head office at Kacharkanahally, Bangalore, Northern Province erected on 07.07.1986 head office at Karnal as Sr. Miriam as its head, Chevayur Calicut, Kerala headed by Sr. Georgita, the Southern Province erected on 30.05.1986 and the North East-Vice Province erected on 14.07.1986, headed by Sr. Canisia being the head office Silchar, Assam.

Table No.19. The number of Convents of the Bethany Congregation state wise (1921-1996)^

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>Assam</th>
<th>Bihar</th>
<th>Delhi</th>
<th>Goa</th>
<th>Haryana</th>
<th>Himachal</th>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>Kerala</th>
<th>Maharaashtra</th>
<th>Manipur</th>
<th>MIZoram</th>
<th>Nagaland</th>
<th>Orissa</th>
<th>Punjab</th>
<th>Tamilnadu</th>
<th>Tripura</th>
<th>Uttara Pradesh</th>
<th>West Bengal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921-1996</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bethany Congregation had spread its branches in 120 communities. In 19 states of India there were 116 branches and 4 branches in Europe.

Table No.20. The Statistics of the Institutions - Bethany Congregation manages / servers (1921-1996)^

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutes</th>
<th>Teacher’s training</th>
<th>Higher secondary</th>
<th>Junior college</th>
<th>High school</th>
<th>Primary/Pr. Primary</th>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>Vocational</th>
<th>Production centre</th>
<th>Balwadi (Non-formal)</th>
<th>Creche</th>
<th>Home for the aged</th>
<th>Pilgrim centres</th>
<th>Boarding/ orphanage/hostel</th>
<th>Hospital / clinics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undue Bethan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan/ Religious</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

221
5. 5 Decentralization of Administration

In response to the call of Second Vatican Council the Bethany Congregation convoked a special General Chapter to renew its original charism. The Chapter took place in two sessions from 24th December 1968 to January 5th 1969, the first session and the second session December 24th 1969 to December 31st 1969. The 30 observers and 81 delegates of the Chapter decided to share the administration of the Bethany Congregation into Regions for better administration. Accordingly, five regions were set up with 5 Regional Superiors i.e. Mangalore, Bangalore, Belgaum, Assam and Punjab. Srs. Agnella, Theresia, Lucina, Sylvine and Genevive who were appointed to the Regions respectively, for the effective functioning and the growth of its members. After the experimental period of eleven years the Bethany Congregation felt the need for the Amalgamations of 5 Regions into three.

In the year 1986 XI General chapter focused to reach out the remotest areas of the country and other continents like Europe and Africa. For better administration the Bethany Congregation was once again re-constituted into 3 provinces, two vice-provinces and the central administrative unit, namely central administrative unit, Mangalore province, Southern vice-province, Bangalore province, northern province and North-East vice-province. Seeing the growth of members and the vastness of area of each existing province, in the year 2006 the Bethany Congregation once again re-constituted into six provinces and delegation abroad under central administration. Thus, reorganized the territory of the provinces as follows. Under the central administration there is Bethany mother house, Bethany Generalate Central office and delegation abroad which has 11 convents in Europe and Africa. The whole central administration comprises of 13 convents. The Mangalore province, consists of 34 convents in South Canara and Udupi district including a house in Gujarat, Kasargod (in Kerala) and North Karnataka (Bidar Dist.) in Jalasangi and Humanabad talukas.
The Bangalore province\(^87\) has to its credit nineteen convents in Karnataka in Hassan, Mysore, Coorg, Shimoga and Bangalore districts. The Western province\(^88\) includes twenty three convents in Karnataka (Dharwad, Belgaum, Karwar, North Canara, Gulburga and Bijapur) four convents each in Goa and in Maharashtra. Southern province\(^89\) overs Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh with twenty two convents.

Northern province\(^90\) having 29 convents. It serves in Punjab, Haryana, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, New Delhi, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and a house in Mangalore. The North east province\(^91\) comprises of 27 convents one in Mangalore (as a transitory house) and the rest of the convents are in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Since our study is limited to Karnataka state, we take up only the provinces that come under Karnataka and their contribution to the society.

The Central Delegation was erected in 1986, the animator of this was known as the administrator and from 1997 she is called as the delegation superior who lives in the Mother House called Bethany, and the delegation community was formed in 2006. The Bethany Sisters of the community are engaged in education, pastoral work in the parish and social work. The younger members are studying in the neighboring colleges. There are a few elderly sisters who spend their time in prayer. The mother house has 4 schools under its administration. St. Sebastian Hr. Pry. School Bendur established in 1908, St. Joseph’s high School, Kankanady established in 1902 but Bethany Sisters took charge of it in 1928 with Sr. Josephine as the first headmistress. Later St. Joseph’s High School, Kankanady was established in 1987 and St. Theresa’s School ICSE Board established in 1996. It also has Sahodaya Social Service Centre, Bendur started in 1994, Sachetana Pastoral Care Centre, Karunalaya Social Service Centre, Attavar, the sister concern of Sahodaya started in 2002 and Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas Memorial Centre opened in 1996. It contains a part of the mortal remains and also the artifacts that
reveal the life and works of Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas the Founder of Bethany Congregation. Bethany Cultural and Spiritual centre was inaugurated on March nineteen, 2002. It also contains the historical artifacts, growth and spread of the Bethany Congregation and some of the souvenirs representing the countries or States where Bethany Sisters serve.

The pictorial illustrations on the life and mission of the Founder and the Bethany Congregation are displayed in the three rooms of the original house bought by the Founder, where the founding members started their life and the first novitiate formation was held. The chapel painted with Biblical themes is a part of the heritage of Bethany. The Mother House has been the place where the important events in the life of the Founder were celebrated. In 1950 it celebrated the Founder’s Twin Jubilee i.e., the Golden Jubilee of his Priesthood and his 75th Birthday. In 1960 it celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his Priesthood and witnessed in the same year his departure to eternal life.92

Table No.21. The Central Administration Units93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Convents</th>
<th>Social work centre</th>
<th>Msgr. Raymond memorial</th>
<th>Cultural centre</th>
<th>Schools/ BES Office</th>
<th>Generalate central office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04+1</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No .22. The Units under Generalate – Central Administration94

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral centre</th>
<th>BES office</th>
<th>Archival office</th>
<th>Research centre</th>
<th>Formation</th>
<th>Delegation House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

224
Table No.23. Table of Formation houses under Central Administration as on 01.06.2010.95

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-novices</th>
<th>Novices</th>
<th>Juniorate</th>
<th>Tertianship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Place       | Gurpur, Bogadi, Barasat | Mangalore | Mangalore |

Table No.24. The Delegation abroad houses under Central Administration96

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mangalore Province is called the Mother Province, because it continued to grow and function as one unit till the year 1970. Regions came into existence in June 1971 and Mangalore was the first region. It consisted the houses in the diocese of Mangalore alone. For the Mangalore unit of twenty three houses, nine more houses of Kerala and Tamilnadu were added making it as one Region under the title- Southern Region. Sr. Honoratha was the first Regional Superior of the newly constituted region for a period of three years. As the number of houses grew during the six years between 1980 to 1986, both in Mangalore and Kerala it necessitated that this region be, divided into two units when the provinces were erected in the year 1986.

The XI General chapter of the Bethany Congregation, held in the year 1986, took a decision to re-constitute the Regions into Provinces for better administration. Three Provinces, the Mangalore, the Bangalore and the Northern Province and two Vice-Provinces, namely, the Southern and the North-East were constituted. The Mangalore Province included the Bethany Communities within the diocese of Mangalore, in Bidar district two houses and one house in Gujarat,
and in Kerala boarder Kollangalana one house. Mangalore province has 35 houses. But here we study about 33 houses of South Canara, Udupi and Bidar districts.\textsuperscript{97}

### Table No.25. The Number of Institutions of Mangalore province (1921-2010)\textsuperscript{98}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convent</th>
<th>No. of sisters</th>
<th>Degree college</th>
<th>T.C.H.</th>
<th>P.U.C</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>K.G.</th>
<th>House for the aged</th>
<th>Boarding</th>
<th>Vocational</th>
<th>Community college</th>
<th>Health centres</th>
<th>Registral societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brief History of the Bethany Convents and their contribution is discussed in our study. We have already discussed Houses founded between (1921 -1934) in the Phase I of Chapter three. The houses which were started from (1935-1960) are discussed under the II Phase of Chapter three. The houses which are started from 1961-2010 and their contribution to the society are discussed above in this chapter. The educational contributions and the social service rendered in the province will be explained in the Chapter five and six in detail.

With the goal of educating the girls of rural areas, more convents were opened outside the Diocese of Mangalore. Bangalore and Belgaum regions were set up for better animation and administration. Sr. Theresia was the first regional superior of Bangalore region. In 1980 Bangalore and Belgaum regions were merged to form the East Karnataka Region with Sr. M. Agnella BS as the regional superior. In 1986 it was raised to the status of a province and named as Bangalore Province with Sr. M. Dymphna as the first provincial superior. Consequently, the houses in the Dioceses of Belgaum, Karwar, Gulburga, Vasai and the Archdiocese of Goa and Mumbai were carved out to form the Western province on 24.05.2006. Today the Bangalore province consists of nineteen houses in the Archdiocese of Bangalore, and the dioceses of Mysore, Chikmagalur, Hassan, Coorg and Shimoga. One hundred seventy seven Bethany Sisters continued their dedicated service, through the ministries of education, social and medical services and pastoral care.
Formation houses of this province are located in Jyothi Nilaya - Bangalore, Mother of Mercy Convent - Gadenahally, Hassan District, Bethany Convent, Madikeri - Coorg are the candidate houses and Bethany Convent, Bogadi, Mysore is the Novitiate for Bangalore and Western province. The Education, Pastoral, Socio-medical and Hostels are the various activities of Bangalore province. The community college in Mankale, Shimoga is started for school drop outs with the goal of developing life-skills, and training in job oriented skills, computer science, typing, secretarial practice, nursery teachers’ training, needle work, embroidery and fashion designing. Job security as well as entrepreneurship opportunities are ensured to the trainees.

In Children’s study house at Basrikatte and hostel, home away from home, for rural children, who do not have educational facility in their areas, and who face financial constraints, are given value based formation. The differently able persons are helped to be integrated in their community as useful and productive persons, through counselling, both to the concerned individuals and their communities by providing facilities for formal, non-formal and skill based education appropriate to their abilities like service to the differently able persons and counseling the handicapped.

St. Joseph’s Convent, Sagar, which was founded in the Diocese of Mysore, in 1950, is presently in the diocese of Shimoga. The Bethany Sisters cater to the educational and socio-cultural development of the people, through two Primary Schools and a High School run by them. They are also involved in pastoral activities in the parish and the neighboring mission stations. Bethany Convent, established in 1990 in Kable Village is the response to the needs of the migrants, especially from Mangalore. There is a highway that passes by the village. Bethany Sisters also share the simple life of the villagers and work for their upliftment through education, vocational training, and pastoral activities.

In Bangalore, we have four communities, including the Provincialate. Bethany Convent, Bangalore, established in 1960, runs a Primary School and a
High School for the children from the lower middle class and the nearby slums. The school has adopted the nearby slum school, and the Sisters encourage the children to extend some personal care to these students by the following principle “each one, teach one”. Jyothi Nilaya, Kacharkanahally started in 1971 on the outskirts of Bangalore city, runs a High School, in the vernacular, for the children from the surrounding villages and underdeveloped areas. “Jeevan Jyothi”, a house for the elderly Bethany Sisters, who continue their supportive mission of praying for the needs of the people, is on the same campus.

A special feature of Seva Sadan community, at Doddabelavangala, established in 1988, is the involvement of the Bethany Sisters in social action and Cluster School Movement in collaboration with Fr. Claude S.J. This community translates the dream of living in solidarity with the marginalized.

Table No.26The Number of Institutions of Bangalore Province (1921-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior College</th>
<th>H.S</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>Technical School</th>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Hostels</th>
<th>Balwadi Non-formal Education</th>
<th>Dispensary</th>
<th>Health centre</th>
<th>Social Service Centre</th>
<th>No. of Convents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bangalore Province of Bethany Congregation Geographical covers the districts of Bangalore, Chikamangalur, and Mysore, Hassan, Shimoga and Coorg districts. Province has one hundred seventy seven Bethany Sisters. There are 18 convents and one Provincial House. There are ten High schools, fifteen primaries, fourteen nurseries/K.G. schools. In three schools of the diocese, Bethany Sisters are serving. There are seventy seven Bethany Sisters working in the school, five sisters are working in the diocesan school and twelve sisters are serving in the
hostels. There is an old age house for the aged sisters of Bethany of the Bangalore Province. Bethany Sisters are serving in the 4 dioceses of Bangalore, Mysore, Chikmangul and Shimoga. One sister is working in the diocesan social work centre. There are three vocational training centres i.e. in Shimoga – Mankale, Kacharkanahally – Bangalore and Doddabelavangala in Bangalore. There are nine lay associations which collaborate with Bethany Congregation in fulfilling its mission. The mission work of the province is the education, social work and pastoral work; also in one place in Mysore, K.R. Nagar they carry on with the prison ministry. There is a mobile dispensary at Kacharkanahally and a community college. In the open school, tailoring and income generating courses are given. In Gadenahally in Hassan there is a dispensary and a holistic health centre. There are four co-education, P.U. Colleges in Gadenahally and Arsikere – Hassan, Mudigere in Chikmangalur district, in Bangalore – Kacharkanahally. There are 2 high schools exclusively for girls, in Sagar - Shimoga and Bangalore.

Bethany Congregation in the second decade of its existence, launched out into the Belgaum mission. The Founder, Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas responded to the invitation of the Bishop H. Doering of Pune. He went with a band of nine Bethany Sisters on 4th November 1939, and opened the Presentation Convent at Dharwad in North Karnataka and Christ King Convent at Guledgudd, Bijapur District to bring literacy in the village. In the late thirties the Belgaum mission spread steadily. For better animation and administration, regions were formed and regional superiors were appointed. With the spread of missionary activities and the opening of more houses, Bangalore Province was bifurcated and a Western Province was erected in 2006.

In Belgaum area the rural folk and the poor labour class had no one to attend to their spiritual, intellectual, cultural and socio-economic needs. In the arid and unproductive areas of the Deccan, Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas discovered the possibility of sharing God’s compassion. He took the road less traveled, blazing trails into the mission territories coming under the purview of the Western
Province. Western Province covers the areas coming under the few districts of Karnataka and the states of Goa and Maharashtra. There are twenty three Convents, established in the Archdioceses of Goa, Mumbai and the dioceses of Belgaum, Gulbarga, Karwar and Vasai.

Spiritual animation of Bethany Sisters towards personal holiness, Total Quality Management (TQM) in all our schools, Prison Ministry, Care and rehabilitation of HIV/ AIDS at Guledgudd, Dental and Ortho units at Chittapur, Tribal empowerment at Panvel, Maharastra and Bonga School for children of brick kiln workers at Panvel are the concerns of the province.

Table No.27. The Number of Institutions of Western province(1921-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convents</th>
<th>Sisters</th>
<th>P.U</th>
<th>H.S BES</th>
<th>other</th>
<th>Hr. Pry BES</th>
<th>other</th>
<th>K.G</th>
<th>Hostels</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Dental Ortho</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the twenty three houses four houses are in the state of Maharastra, four in Goa and rest are in the North of Karnataka

4.6 Demise of the Pioneers

Table No. 28. The deceased Members of the Bethany Congregation (1921-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>18</td>
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The members of the Bethany Congregation who have died from 1921-2010 are 301 in number. They have done noble task in the Bethany Congregation, as they were daring women of faith, who by their saintly lives have shaped the
History of the Bethany Congregation. Bethany of today is the fruit of the struggles and labour of these demised sisters as well as that of the Founder. They are the ones who have weathered the strongest storm of the early years in Bethany. Reflecting on the lives of the pioneers and the deceased Bethany Sisters and putting together the impressions they have left on the minds of their contemporaries and others who followed in their footsteps, has been recorded, in the Book authored by Sr. M. Violette BS. “The footprints on the sand of time”. This is done in order to pass on the memories of the Bethany Sisters who have fought a good fight and run the race of life to the future generation’s. Most of these sisters having been trained by the Founder himself, who have lived to life in fullness, the charism and spirituality of Bethany Congregation.

The main sources of information on each of the deceased Bethany Sisters were from the living sisters who were acquainted with them as their community companions or as their pupils while they taught in different schools or as colleagues in their ministry. For about 70% of the deceased sisters, the source of information was mainly the obituary letters sent to the different convents after their demise. This information was not available for the first seventy five sisters who had died before the practice of sending such obituary letters introduced in the Institute. Prior to the early 1970s death information of a Bethany Sister was sent by means of a printed post which hardly gave the receiver any personal information of the sister concerned.

Here we discuss about the pioneers, who were a great support to the Founder, for the Infant Bethany to grow, had left the void in the Bethany Congregation due to their demise one by one. When One of the first pioneers, Mother .Martha BS. who was the first member of the Bethany Congregation and the first Mother General expired on February 14th in 1951 was a shock to founder himself as she died before his demise. In spite of this, the Bethany Sisters could carry on the work of the Bethany Congregation seeking advice from the Founder as he was alive. Sr. M.Clare BS. was the second among the pioneers who died in
1962, when Bethany Sisters were still in the sorrow of their Founder’s death in 1960. Due to the demise of the Founder and the pioneers, the survival of the Bethany Congregation was a question mark to the society. Since two more pioneers were living and there were sisters who witnessed and lived were with them, the Bethany Sisters could carry on the activates of the Bethany Congregation with the original spirit and charisma handed over to them by Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas the Founder and the pioneers. The other two pioneers, Sr. M. Lourdes BS. expired on March 4, 1977 and Sr. M. Gertrude BS. expired on 4th September, 1995. After working many years for the Congregation and guiding their contemporaries,

4.7 Work of Bethany as reflected in the opinion of the people

“Bethany Congregation has grown, like the mustard seed of the Bible, and produced an abundance of Fruits in the shape of educational institutions, orphanages, training schools, hospitals, dispensaries, in addition to an engagement of the Bethany Sisters in a variety of other works.”¹⁰⁶ “Bethany Congregation carry on their valuable apostolate on behalf of the most humble and needy class of the people.”¹⁰⁷ “Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas had established that first brave little pioneer community at Mangalore in 1921, with its membership of four Bethany Sisters. Holy Father (Pope) has accorded the gracious accolade of the ‘Decree of Praise’. This implies the Holy See’s recognition not only of the Bethany Congregation extraordinary growth, but also, and even more important of the religious maturity which it has attained. You now enjoy the distinction of ‘Pontifical Rite’ that is you are from point on at the direct disposal of Christ’s Vicar for the greater benefit of the Governor of the Universal Church.”¹⁰⁸

“When this service of fifty years has been dedicated to the cause of the education and mental and spiritual uplift of the poor and lowly in the country and to ensure their future prosperity, it is something really commendable. The selfless work of the Bethany Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany will be remembered with gratitude by generations of people who have been helped by them.”¹⁰⁹ “They
have been entrusted with the education of boys and girls in the various districts of the diocese. Had it not been for their educational and Catechetical activities, the Church would have suffered considerably. The Bethany Sisters were pioneers in most of the areas. They have worked and lived under trying conditions. It is due to the sacrifices and labours of these Pioneers that today they are fairly well established.”

“Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas in 1921 had given an answer to an urgent problem by bringing into existence the Bethany Congregation of the Bethany Sisters. It was a time when a Catholic Mangalorean girl needed a certain standard of education to aspire for sisterhood. But many girls were lacking the very means to reach that level and had abandoned the very idea of embracing religious life. This also meant that a Bethany Organization was needed to provide education for the poorer girls of our community, particularly in the villages. Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas did not stop at seeing vision: but he brought together four lady teachers of his parish school at St. Sebastian’s Bendur, two of whom are happily still among to the mustard seed of a huge tree that is Bethany today. Appreciation to the Bethany Educational Society for their contribution in the field of formal and non-formal education. It is happy to note that fifty five thousand children and adults have been the beneficiaries in the country under the guidance of 2000 teachers. Beside engaging themselves in value based quality education the Bethany Sisters train them in skills through industrial and commerce schools, needle work, craft centres, technical and grahini schools.

“Bethany Congregation Founded with a nucleus of four earnest and enthusiastic Bethany Sisters in our Bendur Parish has grown into a mammoth army over a thousand loving, creative and dedicated Bethany Sisters spread in every nook and corner of our country and even in other countries. ‘‘I am delighted at the thought that my grandfather and my father were closely associated with your Founder as friends and collaborators. Your institutions and their dedicated services to the people in general and the youth in particular speak volumes about your
honesty of purpose and the acceptance of the cause of dalit women and children are but a few to mention.”¹¹³ “I came in contact with Msgr. Raymond Mascarenhas and Bethany Sisters in 1923. I did not think at that time this small Bethany Organization in 50 years will grow in 500 fold or more and do such humanitarian, valuable, fine and Godly work. Bethany Organization has made a name all over. We are proud of it.”¹¹⁴

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