

NEWS LETTER



Volume 1.

St Joseph's Special Education Center.

No.: 10. Advocate Road. Batticaloa.

01 - 02 - 2016

Introduction.

Founding & General Evolution of the Brothers of Charity Congregation.

At the start of the 19th Century, great many Catholic Religious Organizations were founded in order to do works of Charity, assisting the poor, the sick and teaching the working class children.

Our founder is Fr. Peter Joseph Trist ear Ghent, Belgium. He was born in Brussels on 31 August 1760. He was the 9th child of a family of fourteen. He was ordained a priest on 10th of June 1786. The year 1797 was a very difficult year for the clergy I Belgium. In April 1802 a concordat was made between Pope Pius VII and Napoleon to practice the Religion openly. He established 2 Men and 2 Women Congregations to do the works of mercy. When the Dutch regime began to consider public education, Fr. Trist was quick to take advantage of the new opportunities and the first schools of the B.O.C were established in 1820. He passed away on 24th June 1836.

The Brothers of Charity Congregation started with few members increased and multiplied very rapidly and it has branches in 27 countries all over the world continuing the aspirations of the founder.

Our Service in Sri Lanka.

A need for a service to the special needy people was felt by the church authorities and an invitation was extended to the Brothers of Charity Congregation. Two Brothers from Ireland explored the possibilities and bought land in Ja-Ela, near Negambo and constructed buildings and established a center for Mentally Disabled children in 1990. Another take care center was established after a decade in Negambo. In the year 2008 a residential Rehabilitation Center for Psychiatric Patients was opened in Pandiruppu, Kalmunai.

The children of special need spend their child hood in their own houses or in take care centers learning to do their Day – to – Day living activities and some learning activities, but they remain dependent throughout their life under their parents or other people. A need for Technical Education for the Specially Talented youths of this country was felt by the Congregation to explore their talents and capabilities and train them in that line to be independent and courageously face the world for a happy and gainful living towards the future on their own.

Our Founder: Rev. Fr. Peter Joseph Trist.



His prophetic vision in establishing the “Brothers of Charity” Congregation spread its wing all over the world giving care, love and shelter to children and old people affected mentally and physically, infected by HIV and other contagious Diseases. In addition to Technical and Academic Education to the poor and the needy.

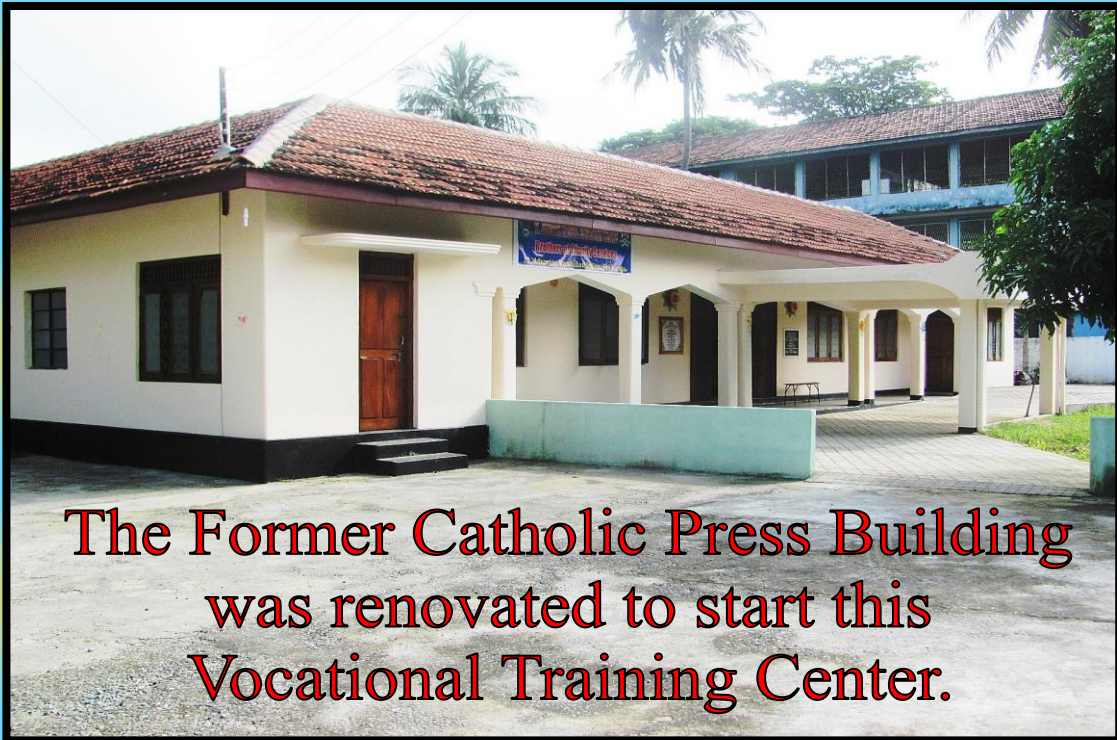
Our Present General Superior.:



Rev. Bro. Dr. Rene Stockman.

Under his guidance and support, this Technical Training Center for youths of Specially Talented is established in the Eastern Province of Batticaloa, Sri Lanka on 22nd August, 2015

Our Center in Batticaloa. Sri Lanka.



**The Former Catholic Press Building
was renovated to start this
Vocational Training Center.**

Our Vivion.

Forming youths with special needs to be independent, infusing confidence and courage for their betterment and gainful living.

Our Mission.

Imparting Technical Knowledge and Skill to the specially talented youths who are dependent on others for their day-to-day living throughout their life, who are considered to be a burden to the family and the society.

Area of Recruitment and Information.

- We recruit youth Trainees who are with special needs, in and around Batticaloa and in the whole of Eastern Province, regardless of ethnic and religious background. Also it is absolutely free of charge.
- The duration of this course is maximum 4 years, including 1 year of “On the Job Training”
- We are a new budding Institution, declared open on the 22nd of August 2015.
- The classes commenced for the first time with 3 Girls and 4 Boys on the 18th of November 2015.
- For the moment we are asked to recruit youths who are mentally disabled and not the physically affected ones.
- Now we have 10 Trainees participating regularly, 5 days a week from 8.30 Am to 2.30 Pm.
- There are three more deserving cases applied for admission. After the interview we will include them also in the training.

Most of these youths are illiterate and below standard. We categorized our teaching based on:

- 1. Alphabets, Numbers, Measurements, Arithmetic, Reading & Writing.**
- 2. Identification of money value, counting and cash dealings.**
- 3. Shopping (buying & selling), personal and social contacts.**
- 4. Travelling, Ticketing & behaviour in public.**
- 5. Impart Technical skill to once ability and market demand.**

The topics listed above and other qualities like etiquette and manners are also taught to improve their quality of life.

- 1. The morality of the beneficiary is improved radically.**
- 2. The Courage and self confidence is infused in them.**
- 3. Ability to earn an income by the beneficiary for the family, rather than a burden to them.**
- 4. When family support is denied, the skill learned should give a helping hand to live on their own.**

Our Activities.

Morning Prayer.

A common Prayer is said by the leader and the rest repeat invoking the blessing of God of their believe.



Morning Exercise.

A leader is selected to conduct the Exercise under the supervision of the teachers.

The teachers help them when they fail or could not cope up with the exercise.



General Cleaning.

The Trainees are grouped to take up cleaning and sweeping to keep the house and the surroundings clean.



The class room studies.

The boys occupy one side and the girls take the other side of the class room.

The learning materials are supplied by the center.



The Practical Learning.

We are in the process of assessing the ability of the Trainees giving them variety of handicraft works.

On finding their interest and capabilities, they will be given training in that trade, giving opportunity to master that skill.



In the Refectory.

At 10.30 they take a Tea Break for half an hour. They are served with some short eats and a cup of Tea.

At 12.00 Noon they come to the table with the food brought by them from home in the morning or brought by somebody at noon.



Future Plan.

We will be recruiting at least 10 Trainees every year. In the 4th year there will be 40 trainees undergoing training. The 4th year trainees will be in the final year doing the “On the Job Training” as trained skill persons.

We will include physically affected youths in the training; we think that they are the most suitable for this type of training. Children affected with Autistic behaviours are also our next target to include in our training.

LEISURE AND RECREATION.

We play music during the work hours and on Friday afternoons, we show them Cartoons, Educational stories and pastime entertainments to relieve their minds.

Our Benefactors.

When we opened the Center in September the whole building was almost empty. We got furniture necessary for the beginning from the Boys Home, Hatton.

The whole building was in dark and we bought some bulbs and two fans for the start. We repaired and fitted 4 Ceiling Fans from the discarded lot.

Mr. Jebarajah an accountant donated a Desk Top Computer for learning. He is our well wisher & adviser.

Dr. Judy Ramesh Jeyakumar (**Coordinator for IMHO in Sri Lanka**) was very helpful and he loaned us 2 Candle Moulds for learning and as a source of income. He was helpful in many ways, advising and encouraging and finding resources for improvements.

He was instrumental in getting some Electronic and other equipments very urgently needed for the training facilities through IMHO in USA.

We the Staff and the Trainees of the Special Education Center thank the “International Medical & Health Organization” from USA and Canada from the bottom our hearts for the immense help rendered to the Center.

It was a very happy moment for the Institute to receive the representative Mr. Murali Ramalingam. Cpa. (Treasurer) who came all the way from USA to handover the articles, spent a little time with us and encouraged us.

The Organization helped us with:

One LED Television, One Computer Configuration, 4 in 1 Radio, One Sewing Machine, One Gas Cooker with Cylinder, one Drinking Water Purifier and a big Electric Kettle. We are very grateful for the generous assistance and we will remember them in our daily prayers.

*Some Photographs of the Welcoming Ceremony
On the 16th January 2016.*



Once again the Staff and the Trainees of the Center express their sincere thanks to everybody concern for this donation of valuable items very much needed for daily use.

May God Bless you all and all your endeavors.