

Inclusive Initiative: Where Dignity Meets Hope with the Transgender Community



The initiation of our JPIC project “Inclusive Initiative” on 21st March 2026 at the Notre Dame Provincial House, Bangalore, India, marked a meaningful and transformative moment in the life and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Visitation Province, Bangalore. The program was launched by Sr. Mary Chetana, Provincial Superior, whose presence and words of encouragement added support and direction to this noble endeavor.

Rooted in the Chapter mandate on Justice and Peace, this initiative echoes Laudato Si’ Goal 2: Responding to the Cry of the Poor, inviting us to promote eco-justice, uphold the dignity of every human life, and protect all forms of life on Earth.

At the heart of this initiative lies a sincere effort to empower members of the transgender community through sustainable livelihood opportunities. As part of the project, pushcarts were distributed, enabling beneficiaries to start small vegetable, fruit, and flower-selling ventures. Utensils were also provided to support the establishment of small food businesses, helping them sustain their livelihoods and generate a stable source of income.

In addition, financial assistance was given to five individuals to obtain driving licenses, as they are being trained to drive auto-rickshaws, opening another path toward independence and stability.

The beneficiaries are Savitha, Shantha, Siva Priya, Shivanya, Rathi, Revathi, Rathiamma, Aishwarya, Payanka, Kalki, Raju, Kavitha A, and Kavitha, who spent time on campus in a warm, accepting atmosphere. They interacted freely with the Sisters, sharing their life journeys, struggles, and hopes. Their stories reflected both the pain of exclusion and the strength of resilience.

This compassionate outreach left the beneficiaries feeling honored, respected, and valued as they shared a meal together. At the same time, the Sisters themselves were inspired. This encounter deepened the awareness of the challenges faced by the transgender community and strengthened their commitment to walk with them with greater understanding, acceptance, and inclusion.

The “Inclusive Initiative” stands as a powerful witness to the Sisters of Notre Dame's mission to be instruments of God’s love, reaching out to the margins and restoring hope where it is most needed.

It was not just the launch of a project, but the beginning of a journey to transform lives, build dignity, and create a more inclusive and compassionate society for all.