

FOUNDER : BISHOP HENRY CAUMONT



Monsignor Fortunatus Henry Caumont was born in Tours, in France on December 10, 1871, to Monsieur Salvant Caumont and Madame Pauline Caumont. She had a great and lasting influence on her son. In school, he was the joy of his teachers. He was studious and hardworking, gifted with great intelligence, delicate artistic sense and personal charm.

How did he land in Rajasthan ?

In 1913, The See of Ajmer was erected and Msgr. Fortunatus Henry Caumont appointed its first Bishop. This great personality was a man of vision and he was able to read the sign of the times.

The women of Rajasthan with their peculiar customs were in dire need of help and only women of great courage could reach out to them. At that period unlike now, the women of Rajasthan were very much secluded and isolated from the main stream of life; and no man, much less a foreigner could approach them. He pleaded with the religious of St. Mary of the Angels to help him in coming to their rescue.

Mother Matilda barely 30 years of age, trained by her saintly mother, Mother Felicity, nurtured the Congregation. She never left her Congregation of St. Mary of the Angels but continued to be its member till death.

With the permission of the saintly Holy Father, Pius X, Msgr. Henry Caumont started the congregation of the Mission Sisters of Ajmer on 26th April, 1911 and placed it under the protection of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The constitution of this congregation is in keeping with the rules of St. Francis of Assisi.

The founder, Henry Caumont, genuinely loved the poor and though he expected the Sisters to work for the society, who needed them in urban areas, he gave very clear instructions to them concerning their apostolate to the poor. "They shall love the poor and lowly. They shall not particularly hunt after cultured people, not even those eager for knowledge; rather they shall seek the destitute, the sick and the little children, that is to say, the most forgotten, and the most forsaken."

On 4th April, 1930, this great follower of Jesus who was at the peak of his labour breathed his last at the age of 58.