

PRESS KIT



Sisters
Hospitallers



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WHO WE ARE

Congregation

Sisters Hospitallers is a charitable Catholic welfare Institution that has been working for over 135 years taking in, assisting and caring for people with mental disorders, intellectual disability and other illnesses, granting priority to those most in need.

Since its foundation it has had as its mission to evangelise the world of health by promoting healthcare, social and educational works. The Institution's greatest priority is its commitment to society by focusing care on the sick and needy following criteria of excellence and the principles and values that justify and define it.

A Century of History

The Congregation of Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded in Ciempozuelos, Madrid (Spain) on 31 May 1881 by St. Benedict Menni, Priest of the Order of St John of God, together with María Josefa Recio and María Angustias Giménez, who were chosen by God to provide a solution for the lack of healthcare and the social exclusion of mentally ill women at that time, combining two fundamental aspects: charity and science.

St. Benedict Menni was born in Milan (Italy) on 11 March 1841 and died in Dinan (France) on 24 April 1914. He was noted for his profound faith in a merciful and healing Christ and his commitment to dealing with the realities of his time. He pioneered psychiatric care at the end of the 19th century.

The founding sisters represent the feminine face of Hospitality: "women committed as a result of their faith to the merciful liberation of other women."

GLOBAL PRESENCE

Hospitaller Community

People are at the centre of the focus of the hospitaller project: those who receive our services, those who provide them, and all those who in one way or another participate in the mission. Together we make up the Hospitaller Community, sharing the same project based on the same culture and the same values.

Sisters Hospitaller currently run over **119 centres spread across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe**, projecting a path of constant solidarity with those cared for all over the world. The Institution is present in **25 countries with** almost 2 million beneficiaries in the last year. This work is carried out thanks to the human and professional dedication of around **1,000 sisters**, more than **10,500 workers**, and numerous volunteers.

WHAT WE DO

Mission

Faithful to its origins, the hospitaller mission responds to current challenges through the various projects that the Congregation carries out on several continents. Its purpose is to serve those who are suffering and society offering the good news of health in its multiple forms.

The Institution defines and integrates those most dynamic and structural elements so as to create a model that provides a response to the current challenges of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, inspired in its foundational charisma.

Care of individuals is comprehensive, centred on reinsertion into society and protection of their dignity considered as a whole, constitute the essential premise and foundations of the hospitaller model.

The mission is carried out using the appropriate equipment, resources and elements for each instance at each place and moment.

One of the requirements to be able to provide care meeting the highest quality standards is an interdisciplinary approach. Professionals from various specialties contribute their knowledge to the joint effort.

▪ **Lines of Care**

– **Psychiatric and Mental Health Care**

Comprehensive care is provided for those with mental health disorders, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social integration, so that they can resume their life projects with dignity and maintain an adequate quality of life.

– **Psychogeriatric care**

This is a social healthcare service that provides integral care for elderly people suffering from multiple pathologies, functional or cognitive impairment and/or behavioural alterations on a residential, day care or home care basis.

- **Learning Disabilities**

To be able to provide personalised educational and rehabilitating care, the Sisters Hospitaller have developed centres and services designed to meet the needs and expectations of users and their families.

At our Institution we work with and for those with learning disabilities, as far as possible ensuring they are the protagonists and participants in their own development and social and personal growth. Sisters Hospitaller develop centres and services to meet the needs and expectations of users and their families.

- **Brain Damage**

Treatment of brain damage is provided by multidisciplinary units for neurorehabilitation through neuro-psychological and speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, as well as other related medical treatments. Our aim is to teach our patients "a new way of living" in physical, mental, social and family terms.

- **Palliative Care**

This is a service for patients in advanced-terminal phases of illness who require specialised care that includes both the control of physical symptoms and the psychological, social and spiritual support that is necessary in order to minimise the suffering of both patients and their families.

- **General Medicine**

Our general hospitals are centres for diagnosis and treatment by means of the offer of a wide range of medical-surgical specialties and other treatment units.

In order to champion the hospitaller mission in the poorest countries, the Congregation has set up a **Development Aid Service**, which fosters solidarity and social reform while seeking out human resources and securing funding.

- **Cross-service Lines**

The hospitaller model also calls for the promotion of teaching, research and innovation, the pastoral aspect of health care, as well as volunteering and ethics.

HOSPITALLER VALUES

Hospitaller values are a key element of our identity as an Institution. These values are a feature of our training and healthcare process, and form an essential point of reference for the decisions of those in charge. For this reason they represent our core values, on which we all agree, and to which we can all commit.

Hospitaller values can be summarised in just one: **HOSPITALITY**. Hospitality is a basic human value that is essential to society, welfare and healthcare. It involves offering space and time, attention and care, charity and resources to each of the beneficiaries of our mission. This core value is embodied in eight distinct values:

1. COMPASSION FOR THE EXCLUDED
2. SERVING THE SICK AND NEEDY
3. LIBERATING HOSPITALITY
4. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE
5. PROFESSIONAL QUALITY
6. HUMANISING CARE
7. ETHICS IN EVERYTHING WE DO
8. HISTORIC CONSCIOUSNESS

LINKS OF INTEREST

Sisters Hospitaller: www.hospitalarias.org

Canonical Province of Spain: www.hospitalarias.es

Canonical Province of Portugal: www.irmashospitaleiras.pt

Canonical Province of Italy: www.ospedaliere.it

Canonical Province of England: www.sistershospitallers.org

Canonical Province of France: www.hospitalieres.org

Canonical Province of Latin America: www.hospitalariasamerica.org

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