



**First Marist  
Community in  
Senegal  
16-10-1950**



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## *First Community in Senegal (1950)*

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At the request of the Marist Fathers, the first two Marist Sisters arrived in Africa, more precisely in Senegal, on the 16th of October 1950. They were Marie Françoise and St Philippe. They had travelled for 9 days from France to Senegal on a banana boat called Catiola. They were welcomed by Monsignor Guibert in the absence of Monsignor Lefèbre. They settled in the community of Hann in Dakar.

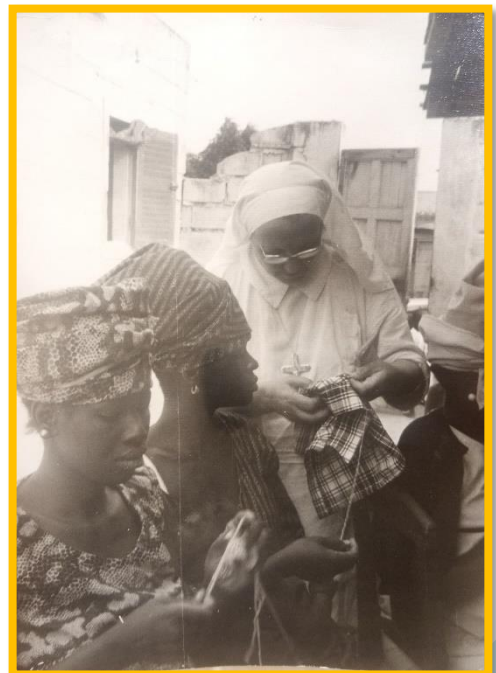
As part of their ministry, they taught in the primary and secondary schools of the Cours Sainte Marie de Hann, and were responsible for catechesis in the districts of Hann-Mariste and Bel Air. Some sisters were nurses and served the sick.

After classes, they also took care of the Délaténat seminary. They mended the torn clothes of the seminarians and also looked after them when they were ill.

### **At Keur Ngor**

Every Thursday, the sisters distributed flour, clothes and powdered milk and looked after the sick. A young man called El Hadj Diaw helped them with the translation. If they were unable to help immediately, the sisters would make an appointment with the people. They were accompanied by El Hadji for the translation.

They did social work for the poor. The sisters taught sewing to the women of the village of Keur Ngor.



**In Yarakh** - near the college



The sisters visited the families. A photo shows how close the sisters were to the people.

A sister helping a woman to put her child on her back. Thus the child participated in all the household chores.

milk, flour and clothes to the families.

As in Keur Ngor, the sisters distributed

They carried out their tasks diligently and the local language was not a barrier for them. The Marist Sisters enthusiastically described their diligence in the work they were doing and were clearly keen to show the work of Mary to the vulnerable.



Sister St Ives replaced Sister St Philip in the third year. Sister St Andre would later come to Senegal accompanied by two other sisters.