



Mother Anna Dengel

Hello, from the Medical Mission Sisters and Associates! You're receiving this email from us simply because we appreciate you as a consistent supporter and partner in mission. Our intention is to regularly share news from the world of MMS that you will find inspiring and valuable. We hope that you, as a supporter of MMS, feel engaged and kept up to date with all that we are doing.

This month is particularly special, because on April 17th we recognize the anniversary of the passing of our founder, Mother Anna Dengel. In her honor, we wanted to share some of her story which led to the founding of the Medical Mission Sisters.

Anna Maria Dengel was born in Steeg, Austria on March 16, 1892. After graduating medical school at University School in Cork, Ireland, Anna began working in Rawalpindi, India providing care for Muslim women who could not receive medical attention from male physicians. The needs and challenges were tremendous and Anna soon realized that it was imperative to have professionally trained and spiritually dedicated women medical professionals to meet the demand for care. To accomplish her goal of finding religious women to assist her, she sought council from leadership in the Catholic Church. She encountered an obstacle: a church law which prohibited members of religious institutes from practicing medicine.

Feeling a clear call by God to establish effective medical care for Muslim women in India, Anna decided to start a new religious congregation. She presented the Constitution for the congregation, it was approved, and the Society of Catholic Medical Missions (MMS) was founded on September 30, 1925. Initially the Society maintained the status of a "pious society" because Sisters with public vows were not allowed to practice medicine. With persistent petition by Anna and others, in 1936 the Catholic Church approved Sisters practicing medicine and recognized MMS as a religious congregation. The women took their public vows and Anna was elected the Superior General of Medical Mission Sisters. Mother Dengel served as Superior General for over three decades. She transitioned to eternal life on April 17, 1980, and her legacy lives on to this day through the lives of the Medical Mission Sisters.

“Right from the beginning, it wasn’t easy, but the impossible of today is the work of tomorrow.” - Mother Anna Dengel



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