

THE INSTITUTE

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVANTS OF THE POOR is the real name of the members of the institute. This was the name given by Magdalene of Canossa to the Institute in her writings. The combination daughter-servant indicates the dual relationship in living out the two precepts of Charity: as daughters - love for God, and as servants - love for our neighbour. This name reveals a programme of life that spurs us towards a witnessing without compromise. However, very few people address us by this name. We are generally identified as CANOSSIANS or Canossian Sisters, because we “originated” from Magdalene of Canossa. From the very beginning the first companions of the Marchioness of Canossa were ‘baptised’ as Canossians by the people who certainly would not have read the Rules of the Institute or other manuscripts of Magdalene. In this way popular tradition has been fused with our identity and in fact, on the reverse side of the medal, worn by every Sister, we read: “Canossian Daughter of Charity”.