

Making History is Making Life: College Children's Refuge of Antímano, Venezuela – 1896-2010. Part I (1896-1998)

Abstract

In 1896 Julia Duplat, of French extraction, decides to succour the vulnerable girls in the slums of Caracas with the foundation of a shelter house. As she was ill at the beginning of the 20th century she left her charity in the caring hands of the French congregation of Saint Joseph of Tarbes. Among the disasters that befall the Venezuelan republic and the numerous civil wars that grip the incipient nation, the shelter, already a girls' school, grows and develops. Marked by the multiple education laws all along that century and by the favours or the attacks of the different heads of state, the daily life of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Tarbes is a constant struggle to keep afloat the "shelter home" that they built for their pupils.

Key words: History; Venezuela; private education; public education; society; 19th century; 20th century; congregation of San José de Tarbes; Childhood Shelter.