

STELLA  
MARIS  
COLLEGE



1947 - 1997

# THE GOLDEN JUBILEE SOUVENIR

*August 15*  
*1947 – 1997*

**50** Years

**Stella Maris College (Autonomous)**

Chennai 600 086 India

20 August 1997





*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury... pardon.  
Where there is discord... unity.  
Where there is doubt... faith.  
Where there is error... truth.  
Where there is despair... hope.  
Where there is sadness... joy.  
Where there is darkness... light.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled... as to console.  
To be understood... as to understand.  
To be loved... as to love.  
For  
It is in giving... that we receive.  
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned.  
It is in dying... that we are born to eternal life.*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

*Mary of the Passion*  
*1839 - 1904*  
*Foundress of the*  
*Franciscan Missionaries of Mary*



*Happy is the simple soul, who lives in the  
transparency of truth and charity.*

*- Mary of the Passion*





**His Holiness John Paul II**  
imparts a special **Apostolic Blessing** on the  
**Franciscan Missionaries of**  
**Mary of Stella Maris Convent**  
**Madras - India**  
and to the **Staff and Students of**  
**Stella Maris College**  
on the occasion of its **Golden Jubilee**  
and invokes a fresh outpouring  
of divine grace

*Ex Aedibus Vaticanis 28. 10. 1996*

+ *Onor. Rissotto*

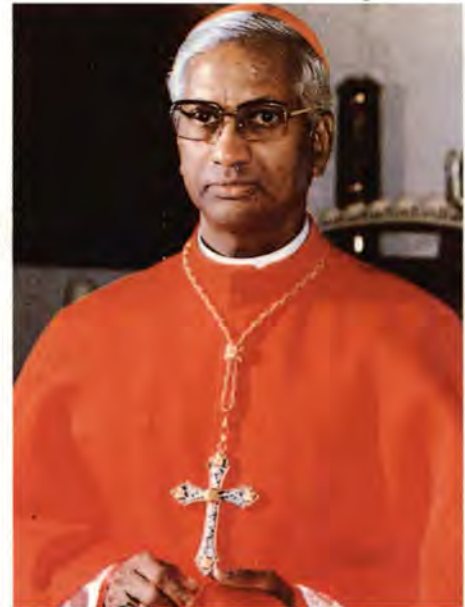
*Archiepiscopus  
Eleemosynarius Summi Pontificis*





**D. Simon Card. Lourdasamy**

64, Via dei Corridori, 00193 Roma  
Tel 6988.4796 / 69885338



October 28, 1996

My dear Dr Sr Annamma Philip,

With great delight I have come to know through your kind letter, dated August 28, that you are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Stella Maris College. It gives me great joy to share your legitimate happiness and sense of pride.

I am happy to hear that Stella Maris College, founded on August 15, 1947 by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, is today an autonomous Institution affiliated to the University of Madras, serving the needs of all sections of society, particularly the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore.

Stella Maris College of Education for Women has been the back bone of Catholic life in its milieu, for it has infused the Christian spirit into hundreds of hearts and minds. It has also rendered yeoman service to the nation through the moral training imparted to hundreds of women; for it is on the moral fibre of its womanhood that the strength of a nation depends.

Such a record calls for rejoicing. Let me, then, convey to you, and to all the Sisters who have spent themselves these fifty years in the field of education, to the Staff and the Students, my warmest congratulations and felicitations; and in order that the celebration may be even richer in spiritual good, I impart to you all a very special blessing.

Yours sincerely in 'O.L.,

(D. Simon Card. Lourdasamy)

## ***Most Rev Dr Arul Das James***

Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore  
Archbishop's House, Santhome Madras - 600 004.  
Tel : 044-4941102 / 044-4940833. Fax : 044-4941999



02 08 1997

Dear Dr Sr Annamma Philip,

I am happy to know that you are publishing a Souvenir on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your esteemed College.

The theme, *Seek Within Forge Ahead*, reminds me of the supreme example set by the Mother of Our Lord in the references to the Gospel of Luke. It says that *Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart*. The result in her was the wisdom of the heart which let her discern the presence and action of the Spirit in the ordinary events of her life and the way of her contributing to the life of the Church.



The way Our Lady forged ahead at Cana, Calvary, in the upper room at pentecost, all that her presence in those places has meant to the Church down the ages.

It is a very appropriate and beautiful theme for a premier educational institution imparting higher education to women to adopt at this point of history in the life of the college and the country, in the Golden Jubilee Year.

The wisdom of the heart can greatly help our young educated women realise their own self worth and their commitment in life. Nobody can awaken another to her freedom. But a person can be placed in a certain condition where she sees herself and the society to be transformed with a new perspective. Education should make the woman to think and act and make choices, forge ahead and assume responsibility for herself and the society.

There is no doubt that many women who passed out of the portals of Stella Maris College in the past fifty years have reached greater heights in various fields. It is the spirit of constant seeking that has brought the College a unique position, to face the challenges facing women's education in the third millennium. My felicitations to the Principal, management, staff and students of the college on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebrations. I pray that God may bless you to continue your mission.

With my most cordial blessings and assurance of prayers

Devotedly yours in Christ

(Arul Das James)





LDM

Jan. 14, 1997

Dear Friends (Retreatants Stella Maris Girls College)

I am happy to know that you are all participating in this Retreat, a sign of your great desire to know and love Jesus more.

My prayer for each one of you is that you grow in the awareness of Jesus' tender, unconditional love for you. Keep the joy of being loved ever burning in your heart as your strength and share it with all you meet- beginning in your own home, your neighbour.

God Bless you

-Sd-

**Teresa, MC**

Mother Teresa, Missionary of Charity

(Message received on the occasion of the Chennai Youth Convention)





RAJ BHAVAN  
CHENNAI - 600 022.



1.8.97

Stella Maris College, Chennai has earned, by virtue of its dedicated service to the cause of education, the distinction of being one of the finest educational institutions in the country. It is delightful to learn that the college is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year simultaneously with that of our Nation's Independence.

I heartily wish the Management, Staff and students continued success in all their endeavours for the betterment of women.

*(Justice M. Fathima Beevi)*



राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय  
राष्ट्रपति भवन  
नई दिल्ली - 110004

*President's Secretariat  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi-110004*

No. 2-M/97

20th August, 1997

Dear Dr (Sr) Philip,

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan is happy to know that the Stella Maris College, Chennai, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in August, 1997.

The President sends his greetings and best wishes on the occasion.

Yours sincerely

(S.N. Sahu)

Officer on Special Duty (R)

Dr (Sr) Annamma Philip, fmm.,  
Principal,  
Stella Maris College,  
17, Cathedral Road,  
Chennai - 600 086



## *Sr Christiane Megarbane*

Superior General, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Rome

It is with great joy that I express my gratitude to God for what has been achieved by Stella Maris College during the past fifty years. The tiny Institution has grown over the years and is able to give higher education to over 2300 young women. I want to remember with deep appreciation and gratitude the pioneers and all the past staff of the college who worked tirelessly since its foundation. You are now continuing the vision Mary of the Passion, our Foundress, had for the upliftment of women in India. We are filled with wonder and gratitude for the great things God has accomplished through Stella Maris. In the strength of the glorious past that is yours and with a sense of legitimate pride, you can look to the future with confidence as you forge ahead into the third millennium. May God give you a clear vision of your mission and all that it involves in preparing young women to step into the 21st century and may Stella Maris, the star of the sea, continually call your faith to new beginnings as she guides and steers your path. May you collaborate with all the people of good will in creating communion in view of God's Kingdom of JUSTICE, PEACE AND LOVE.



With deep gratitude I greet you, sisters, faculty, students, administrative and supportive staff of Stella Maris College, and extend to you my best wishes on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee. May God's blessing in abundance be on each one of you.

***Mary Rose Joseph Pulikottil, fmm***

Provincial,  
Madras Province

Greetings of Peace and Goodness.

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Stella Maris, I extend to you my greetings and congratulations. Fifty Golden years of commendable service has been rendered by Stella Maris College towards the higher education of young women.

It is indeed a beautiful coincidence that Stella Maris was born when India unfurled the national flag and marched into the historic event of her independence. I am sure that in the task undertaken by Stella Maris of giving higher education to young women, Stella Maris has indeed been a shining star, guiding the youth of India who have passed through her portals to find the beauty, meaning and value of life.

I feel happy and proud to have been associated with Stella Maris both as a student and a member of the faculty of Fine Arts. Together with all my sisters of Madras Province I wish to see Stella Maris College march into the third millennium with faith, dedication and greater spiritual dynamism. May Stella Maris continue to uphold her motto of Truth and Charity and be the Star that guides the students in the pursuit of truth.

Wishing you God's abundant blessings.





## *Dr Sr Annamma Philip, fmm*

Principal,  
Stella Maris College

Five decades in the life of Stella Maris: it unfolds as the vibrant story of real people, the great idealism and commitment of the foundresses, the dedication of the faculty and staff and the youthful exuberance of generations of students. On the threshold of the new millennium we are crossing a landmark!

As a student, as a faculty member, I continue to imbibe the noble values that this great Institution instilled in me. Life has unfolded itself in its multifaceted form with new patterns emerging and perspectives that compel us to give a new thrust to our mission and to envisage a vision to tread unknown paths.

The spirit of Stella Maris has always been a relentless search for Truth, an insatiable quest for Excellence and a steely Determination to form women of character who would help shape the destiny of the Nation. May Stella Maris bring to the field of higher education a surge of freshness and vitality, a spirit of creativity and innovation an attitude of openness and freedom so integral to the academic community.

If eternity could be your lifespan  
and Infinity the space you command,  
what is half a century but a flashing second  
that illuminates an aeon  
even as it flashes by.

May every Stella Marian be a beacon of light that illumines the firmament of learning as seekers of Truth. May the all-pervading Wisdom and Power of God lead Stella Maris on its onward march.



## ***Mother Lillian, fmm***

Principal 1948 - 1955

From afar, I unite in your joy on this significant date. To the Giver of all good gifts, a prayer of gratitude arises from the bottom of my heart.

Twenty-five years have gone by since those early days when the College was seeking its identity. In my mind there are loving memories of the seven happy years I passed in your midst at that time.

A day of jubilee also speaks future tense. Like the gleam of dawn, it sheds the light of hope on time to come. To the youth of tomorrow it offers the promise of great things; and I wish to one and all the blessings of success.

May the ideals of truth and love, which are the great values that Stella Maris stands for, be light, strength and comfort for each member of the Staff and Student body of dear Stella Maris.

(Reprinted from the Silver Jubilee Souvenir)



## ***Mother Proincias, fmm***

Principal 1955 - 1961  
West Dublin

I was principal of Stella Maris from 1955-1961. It was during my time that we moved over from the first premises in Mylapore to the lovely new buildings in Cathedral Road which were half the size of the present College buildings I believe.

I took over from the capable hands of Mother Lillian who with her first nucleus of lecturers had established the foundation of the College on the excellent educational principles which have been the hallmark of Stella Maris ever since.

I enjoyed every minute of my time in Stella Maris. There was such co-operation between the religious, lay staff and the students that we were just like one big family trying in every possible way to help one another.

We aimed at imparting to our students a sound and broad education. Academically, our goal was not only to achieve





creditable results, but also to foster a conscientious application to duty. Character training received not incidental but special treatment. We believed that correspondence to the ideals which Stella Maris placed before them would help them to develop into responsible and dependable citizens of India who would be a source of strength and consolation to her in her hour of need.

Truth and charity the motto of Stella Maris teaches and asks of students - honesty sincerity and humility in thought, word and action. Charity the most beautiful and powerful of all these virtues we especially desired to impart to our students. Every opportunity was taken to inspire in them the spirit of service, generosity, kindness and tolerance so that leaving the College they should not only be good themselves, but should be imbued with the desire and determination to do as much good as circumstances, talents and education allow them. Thus, they will contribute to the spread of happiness and charity around them and so help to give the world a little more peace and unity which are the crying needs of our day.

As Pope John XXIII said:

*Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light, a centre of love, a vivifying leaven amidst his fellowmen; and he will be this all the more perfectly, the more closely he lives in communion with God in the intimacy of his own soul.*

India, like other countries, also suffered from the prejudices which existed against education for women, much less, university education. At that time only about twenty three percent of the women of India were literate, so we found it an urgent need to remedy that situation as it is the educated women who will raise the standard of the family and so of the entire nation.

It is not given to many of us to see the reward of our labours, but personally I have met and received letters from many of our old students highly appreciative of all they received in Stella Maris. Many have succeeded in securing high positions in Government, Universities and important financial institutions and they are a credit to Stella Maris. An instance in point - I met a doctor in Lourdes recently, Dr Prema Sebastian, an old student of Stella Maris. She is working in Cardiff, Wales, and she invited me to her home for a holiday and I never had such a holiday. I was proud of her. She is so highly esteemed in Wales and when asked where she had received her education, her goodness and kindness, she attributed it all to Stella Maris.

May Stella continue to grow and develop and keep up the high ideals which were instilled from 1947 by Mother Lillian and her devoted band of lecturers.

## *Sr Sheila O'Neill, fmm*

Principal 1966 - 1968

Rome.

I praise God for Stella Maris College's fifty years of devoted service to the education of Indian women! I joined the Stella Maris Community in 1950, when the College was still very young and quite small and, having completed my own studies at Presidency College, Madras, and worked briefly elsewhere, I joined the staff in 1954. Having served on the staff for twenty years, I remained closely connected with the College during the next six years which I spent as superior of St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore, before leaving India in March 1981.

My memories of those 20 years of intimate connection with the College is of growth in every sense. The College grew in numbers till it passed 2,000 students and over 100 teaching staff members; new subjects of study were constantly being added, and the level progressed from B A / B Sc / B Com to M A / M Sc on to M Phil and eventually Ph D. Extra-curricular activities were always on the increase, as were the awards won by our students for both academic and extra-curricular competitions. The students grew not only in numbers and age but also in maturity, so that in time a Student Council could be formed to oversee many College affairs, under the guidance of one or more staff members.



The belief that those who educate a woman educate a whole family was strong in the pioneers who founded Stella Maris and in those who came to join them at a time when higher education for Indian girls and women was still rare. They were still very much under the control of the male members of their family, and we wanted to make them more aware of their own personal value, enable them to realise their own potential. No effort was spared to inculcate into our students the highest moral and social values, to give them leadership training, to prepare them in every way to influence their society for good. The focus of the new campus to which the College moved in 1960 was the chapel, to which all were welcome, and which many visited daily, whatever their religion; they went to find God there, to greet him and ask his blessings on their work and on their whole life.

Stella Maris was outstanding for introducing Fine Arts and Indian and Western Music as degree subjects in its early days, when the arts were still generally held to be more suitable subjects for women than the sciences. But both arts and sciences have always been encouraged, and many of our students went on into the so-called learned professions as teachers and professors, doctors, lawyers, civil servants; and later into various spheres of social work, with the introduction into the college curriculum of Sociology and M A in Social Work. It was and remains a joy for us to see our former students happy, fulfilled wives and mothers, as well as successful and influential career women in diverse fields.

I pray that God will bless Stella Maris and all those who teach and study there, that she may go from strength, continuing to be seedbed of leaders in every sphere of life, not least in the home and family. And may Mary, star of the sea, shine ever more brightly as beacon of truth and charity.



## *Sr Juliet Irene, fmm*

Principal 1968 - 78

In 1968 I was called to serve as the first Indian Principal of Stella Maris. Looking back on the years 1968-78, I realize it was an important period in my life. I was young and inexperienced. It was a period of growth, of learning through listening to the signs of the times, to what the students, staff and society were saying.

In the late sixties and early seventies, profound changes were taking place in society. It was a post colonial world with their newly won freedom, many countries had to face challenges in the areas of growth and development. Youth were at the crossroads and what touched youth in one part of the world- Europe and USA for example - had repercussions on youth elsewhere. In general there was a clamour for greater freedom and participation in decision making. Stella Maris too had to face new challenges while opening its windows to currents of change.



Students were given more responsibility in the organization of extra-curricular activities, inter-collegiate programmes, debates, seminars etc, and they enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Staging a play for the public became an annual feature. As days passed we realized the students union had to be given juridical status, outlining its objectives and responsibilities. Several hours of dialogue between staff advisors and student representatives resulted in a document called the Student Union Constitution. Over the years I saw the students grow in responsible participation.

In the early seventies the religious staff of Stella Maris College began to ask deep and searching questions. How relevant are we to the society in which we live? Is Stella Maris not living in an ivory tower oblivious of the massive poverty, oppression and injustice in which millions of our people live? To respond to these fundamental questions the college decided to undertake an introspective search a self evaluation. The AIACHE helped us. A team of experts served us with an *Instrument of Evaluation* as a basic tool, which consisted of questionnaires to be administered to the management, the Principal, Staff, Students, Parents, Public, Catholic students, Church authorities. It was a process in which the whole college was involved. It took us two years to complete it. A team of experts processed the answers. A three member team of educationists visited the college and interviewed members of staff, students etc. They brought out an evaluation report which went beyond our expectations. We realized we had underestimated ourselves. There were recommendations however - to improve library facilities and students services, to provide opportunities for the professional growth of faculty, to encourage inter-disciplinary projects. Another important outcome was the *Performance Evaluation* of staff by students at the end of the academic year.

The National Service Scheme in college sought to involve students in the needs and problems of the community through camps in rural and tribal areas, women's empowerment programmes,

literacy projects. It is most gratifying that our students learned from the underprivileged, they helped our students change their attitude. Some of our graduates, now working in Government and Civil Services and Social Work agencies have brought their work values learned at Stella Maris College, and have been agents of social change. But we need to redouble our efforts if we have to help realize the dream of Tagore:

*Into that heaven of freedom my father let my country awake.*

Since 1978, Stella Maris has made tremendous progress and I rejoice over it. As we continue our journey I would like to see Stella Maris keep alive its adventurous spirit, embarking into the unknown with faith in God and in its staff and students.

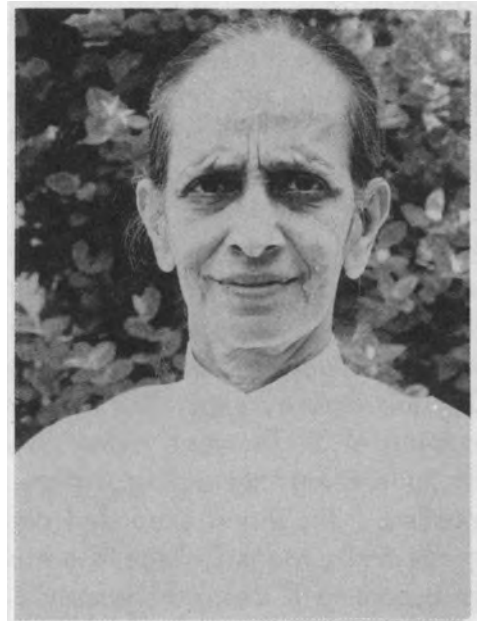
May Stella Maris continue to rediscover the God of history at work in the world, listen to the signs of the times and continue to respond in innovative ways to the social needs of our society. And as we complete fifty years, let us not forget that like the Banyan tree Stella Maris has a sacred history, which does not justify a nostalgia for the past, but does not also cease to point to the future. I pray for God's blessings on Stella Maris today and in the years to come.

### ***Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm***

Principal 1978 - 1990

I entered the portals of Stella Maris in June 1956 as a young member of the Stella Maris Religious Community, to study BA Economics. We were twenty sisters from twelve nationalities, including five Indian sisters who were students. It was the most enriching experience of growth and development, and the examples of hardwork, ascetic life and dedicated service of the sisters have left immortal traces on my life.

The rigid rules, the strict silence, the innumerable restrictions and the disciplined routine did not stifle our growth or dampen our spirits or kill our enthusiasm as people today would imagine. On the contrary we were a happy family, joyous and friendly, each one deeply sharing her love and concern for the other. The consequences of this were abundant showers of graces and blessings on the college- the endeavours of sisters amidst so many struggles. The seeds for the golden harvest were sown then, through prayer and dedication. Every brick on the walls of the elegant buildings of the campus speaks volumes about the simple life, prayerful service and dedicated sacrifices of those early sisters who built the main buildings with contribution from the public, which these sisters had collected from door to door along Mount Road and other industrial and commercial areas.



I was privileged to have grown up in the company of these esteemed sisters. Enjoying their fond love and care, I developed my potential and moulded my life of sacrifice and dedication



after their examples. I have spent thirty five years with a deep sense of belonging to the college community and have been a loyal Stella Marian irrespective of post or designation.

Education should not be the privilege of a few. I believe in human values that given equal opportunity any child will blossom since she is the resource of the country. Every rupee that a student pays toward education is supported by twenty from the Government. This is the taxpayer's money. Can we be irresponsible? Investment in human capital has become an obsession with me. I am convinced that the development of India will remain incomplete until such time as we educate our women. The golden pages of our success story should make every Stella Marian recognize her college as the supreme example of *through efforts even unto the star*. If every student can become conscious of this privilege, *the act itself becomes a shramdhan*.

May God bless the little sail which continues to sail in the deep waters of higher education under the protection of Mary our Mother, the star of the sea.

### ***Sr Angela Hurley, fmm***

Provincial 1972 - 1979

Stella Maris seems poised as she prepares for the challenges of Higher Education which are already beckoning as we move towards the Third Millennium. The achievements of the past fifty years are the fruit of the dedicated service and vision of the *pioneering mothers* (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary). These women of faith recognized the value and potential of the young students entrusted to their care at the first and second levels of education. The signs of the times were obvious in 1947... a Catholic College for young women would be a worthy souvenir to mark India's Independence! So Stella Maris (star of the sea) was the answer. The first lectures were often delivered under the trees in the campus of St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore, but as the number of students kept increasing a more spacious *dwelling* was needed... The vision expanded and continues to do so, and today Stella Maris College is not only autonomous, but aims at becoming a *Deemed university*... is it any wonder then that we say with the psalmist:



*What marvels The Lord worked for us, indeed we are glad.*

## *Dr Sr Edith Tömöry, fmm*

I recall the beginnings of Stella Maris College. I was in Rome with Mother Carla Rosa in 1947. Mother Margaret de Sacre Coeur, Superior General, selected both of us to go to India and to shape the College. We set out by steamer early in 1948 and arrived in Bombay, via the Suez Canal, on Good Friday, in March. We did not know English. Mother Lillian, the first Principal of Stella Maris College, taught us English. In spite of the difficulties, we remained firm and faithful to our mission.

Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, wanted us to introduce subjects specially suitable for girls. So we started a course in Drawing and Painting and Fine Arts. But I needed books to teach the subject. Suitable books on this subject were not available at the time. However we organised an exhibition. While I taught the theory, Sr. Sylvestra taught practicals. I enjoyed teaching. Many students chose Fine Arts. As I felt the need for a suitable text-book on art, I studied Indian Art on my own and wrote a book which could be used as a text book for Fine Arts. I also collected items of artistic value and set up a small museum in the Fine Arts Department.



I loved India, the people and Indian culture very much and I did not think of going back to Europe.

I would like to tell the lecturers that if they do their duty, everything will be well. I wish them to prepare their classes well, and to be duty conscious.

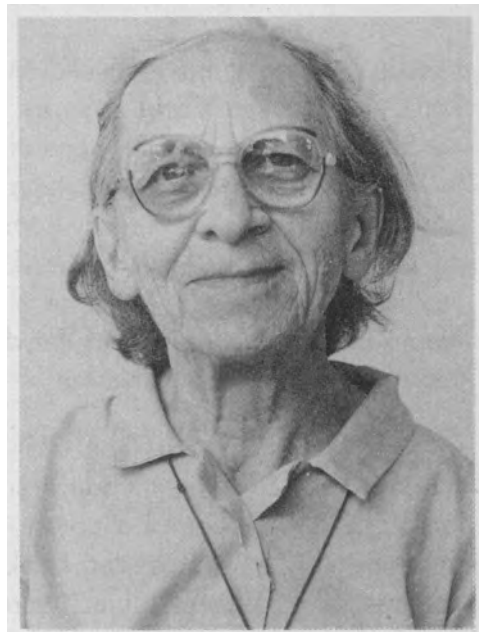
I want to tell the students to work hard and make the best use of the opportunities given to them.

God bless you all. I wish Stella Maris another fifty years, and longer, of growth and development.



## ***Sr Claude, fmm***

We planted, others watered  
but God gave the growth  
by His power at work within,  
and what a marvellous harvest it has been!  
All thanks and praise to Him!



## ***Sr Christine Antony, fmm***

Head, Department of Sociology (Retired)

I do take pleasure in offering my sincere Congratulations and best wishes to the Principal, Faculty, Administrative, Supportive staff and students on the occasion of the release of this Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Stella Maris College. For the past twenty-seven years I had been part of the faculty, fully involved, and enthusiastic with all its undertakings.

Stella Maris has never been a static institution. During the past fifty years it has shaped its curriculum programmes in response to the demands of the changing social and economic context in our country. The faculty have always kept in mind that the aim of higher education is not only to prepare young women for productive careers, but also to enable them to live lives of dignity and purpose, to generate new knowledge, not only for learning sake but to channel that learning to humane ends.



Great challenges await young women as we approach the third millennium. One has to look for the human signs existing in the world in order to be able to respond to these in a realistic manner. Today we are called an *enlightened* community

to live in justice as artisans of peace, to be partners with God, in shaping our history and in constructing a new humanity where there is love, justice, peace and joy. At this juncture in the history of our nation and coincidentally in that of Stella Maris, it is my prayer that this Institution continues to forge ahead in the field of higher education for the empowerment of women, towards a creative, enlightened and responsible exercise of their freedom.

***Sr Rose, fmm***

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of Stella Maris College I want to felicitate the Principal, the faculty and students, the administrative and supportive staff. Thousands of students have passed through the college in the past 50 years and many have collaborated in making Stella Maris not only a happy abode of learning but a training ground for facing the challenges of life. As we praise and thank God for His marvellous work, let us remember with love and gratitude all those who have contributed their mite. I am sure that every person who has spent some time here will have at least some happy memories to cherish for life. I consider it a privilege to have been part of this institution for more than 26 years.

I wish each one at Stella Maris God's abundant blessings. May Stella Maris continue to be a shining star guiding young women for many more years.

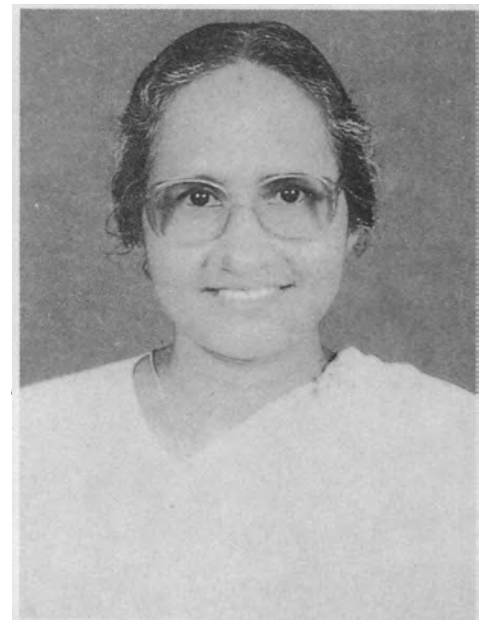


***Sr Celine Paul, fmm***

Chennai.

Congratulations and Felicitations!

Fifty Golden Years have passed with many opportunities and wonderful memories and I had the privilege of being in the midst of all these for twenty-nine challenging years. On this occasion, I want to congratulate you, the Faculty, the administrative and Supportive Staff for drawing out the best from each student who passed through this esteemed Institution. There is no doubt that today's students will be the architects of the 21st Century to build a new society. Let us join the whole universe, in glorifying the creator in uninterrupted praise and thanksgiving for His marvels. May God bless you bountifully and may Stella Maris march confidently on the road to the future as you celebrate this Golden Jubilee.





### *Sr Juliana Xavier, fmm*

I was privileged to enter the portals of Stella Maris, when it was five years old. It was 22nd August 1952. I happened to be a late admission for the Intermediate class. Mother Lillian, my Principal, asked me after a week, how I was getting on. I told her: *Mother, I am finding it very hard.* Her answer ever rings in my ears: *My child, anything worth doing will be hard in the beginning.* I thank God for the encouragement I received and the way He led me to serve Stella Maris as a member of the staff in the department of Mathematics from October 1963 onwards.

My message to the students who are now celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Stella Maris is that they live up to the ideals of *Our Alma Mater.* Stella Maris for me means the Morning Star that appeared, to show us the Rising Sun *Jesus Christ.*

Mary, the Virgin Mother, has been the Star of my life and I have ever cherished her words to the waiters at the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. She told them *Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you Jn. 2:5.*

May every Stella Marian like our Blessed Mother go to the help of her neighbours without waiting to be asked.



### *Sr Evelyn Delicata, fmm*

Rome.



Warm greetings of peace from Rome.

I feel privileged to be invited to share in your Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Be assured that on that day, though physically I cannot be present, my heart will be with you, as I thank God for the blessings He showered on Stella Maris College, but most especially on the French Department in which I have my roots.

I send my affectionate regards to all the members of the Department of French.

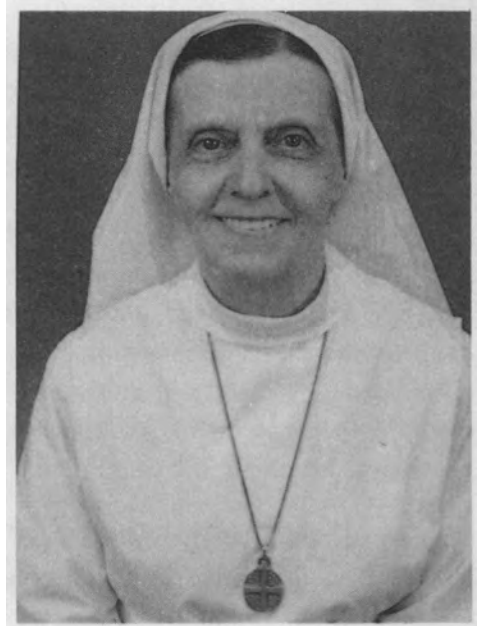
## ***Sr David, fmm***

Canada.

There was and still is a big evolution and growth in dear Stella Maris, and I praise and thank the Lord for all the marvels He has been working through each one who has worked and is working presently in this *unique* college.

In 1947, fifty years ago, we who came from European and American countries had a wonderful experience at Stella Maris. Immediately, Mother Klemens, Vicar Provincial in Madras, organised a series of conferences by the Jesuits of Loyola College to teach us the culture, mentality, customs of the dear people of South India, above all the great religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam. I am still grateful for those most interesting and practical conferences.

Since 1947, I have thanked the Lord everyday for the wonderful and splendid harvest of Stella Maris. May the Lord bless this college with young women who are strong and generous in character.



## ***Dr Sr Bernadette Ward, fmm***

Canada.

Congratulations Stella Maris!

To turn my thoughts to India is always an immense joy, one that is magnified many times over when I recall Stella Maris. While I was not present for the actual foundation, I did come shortly after, in 1949. My first years were spent as a student becoming acquainted with Indian History, Indian Economics and with Indian culture in general. From 1952, I first joined the staff to teach English and French, returning again from 1969 to 1974 to teach French.

The first Stella was in San Thome, Mylapore, where the spacious building now housing Rosary Matric soon began to show signs of being insufficient for the growing number of students. I remember shouting out gems of English Literature in the open tiffin halls made into classrooms, with my students claiming, *we can't hear you!* while my colleagues in the opposite wing could hear me so well they could hardly teach above my clamour. But those were minor discomforts. What I remember with even greater clarity were the numerous eager (yes, eager!) students, talented individuals that really impressed me, not only in my own classes but throughout the college: among them the Maths students who seemed to do Math all day, with no time out even to take tiffin, of Biology students who braved even a snake farm in the pursuit of knowledge! I remember the vitality of the AICUF group and especially their hands on service of the underprivileged both on campus and in village projects. I remember all the programmes Stella

was the first to introduce, Fine Arts, Western Music, Social Work, the Nava Nirmana project, as well as many innovative methods of teaching by both our array of international staff and our local pundits in several fields. One clear memory is of really excellent dramas produced and acted by Stella Marians and annual variety concerts that included wonderful music, singing and dance by our students. I recall too the wonderful relationships the college had with our different vice-chancellors: Dr A.L. Mudaliar, Dr Malcom Adisheshaiah were the two earliest, men who stood for the highest ideals in education and of service to society.

As I look back over these happy days I spent in Stella Maris, many faces and names rise up to my inner vision. Although I cannot begin to name them all, I do want to say how much my colleagues, my students, my Franciscan Sisters have meant to me and how indebted I feel towards them for some of the happiest years of my already long life. The Stella Maris I knew is the one you, too, still know: an institution dedicated to the formation of all-round students, aspiring to personal excellence but prepared to serve their society and especially the least privileged among their people, all this lived in the light of faith and trust in God.

So I say *AD MULTOS ANNOS, STELLA MARIS*: many, many more years of fruitful endeavour in the field of innovative and valuable forms of higher education!

*Sr Aloysia Oeser, fmm*

Ottawa.

One of my most memorable souvenirs of Stella Maris is the morning I arrived at the College to discover a stunning sign outside the former library: DON'T READ GOOD BOOKS. While I tried to bite into this thought, wondering where the College was headed, I saw another sign at the corner towards the office: TIME IS TOO SHORT. While I chewed on that, another sign close to the office almost made me hit the ceiling: READ ONLY THE BEST.

Only the best... that is what Stella Maris is all about, I thought to myself, its *raison d'etre*. And I know at least one student who, by following the star pointing to love of the truth, found the way that brings true freedom and joy.

Don't read good books- because evil often disguises itself as good. We can find true and pure goodness and love only in their infinite source. Read only the best namely those that help us to discover ever more clearly the true reason or meaning of our present life on earth's stage and how we should act to achieve that purpose. *Time is too short* even the longest sojourn on earth is next to nothing compared to endless infinite life. The time we have on earth is our opportunity to choose our endless destiny, and we have no guarantee how long that chance will last or whether we shall have another.



### ***Sr Pauline Grutzner, fmm***

I arrived in India in early 1965 and joined the Stella Maris Community in June. I was immediately struck by the large but close-knit community. This, I think, was because all the sisters, staff and students, were involved in the College and in the vision and commitment which shaped it. This was a vision of excellence in education for women, the presentation of Christian values in every activity and sheer hard work on the part of everyone. By the time I arrived at Stella Maris, there were many colleges for women in Madras, but we were one of the first. It was not just any education that was offered to these girls, but the best particularly in Mathematics and the sciences. Many disciplines were pioneered at Stella Maris: Western and Indian Art, Western and Indian Music, and Social Work.

One of the priorities that was taken by the community and reflected in the College, was that of social justice. Even after many years in Asia, the poverty in India at that time came as a surprise to me. Through the Social Service League the often wealthy and exquisite girls were given an opportunity to work with the very poor. This undoubtedly marked them for life. Sr Thecla (Eranjwida) commenced many programmes for the poor who lived close to Stella Maris and involved many students in them. Long before the pursuit of social justice became a catchword in society, it was lived in Stella Maris College.

The students were lively, but very well-disciplined and very hard-working. The lay staff seemed to share the same values as the sisters, and worked together with them as a team. There was a wide variety of activities available to the students, sports, the college play, field trips, art and music. Many of the students were talented in classical Indian dance. They were very well-brought up young ladies, but their gentleness did not smother an innate sense of fun.

I count my short time at Stella Maris College as one of the greatest blessings of my life.

### ***Sr Jeyam Subramaniam, fmm***

I had seen the humble beginnings of Stella Maris College on the 15th of August 1947 at the St Thomas Convent campus. By 1951 I became a student of this esteemed college, and after graduation, from June 1958 to 1970, I was a member of the staff. So I was involved in the ground work of the college and this enabled me to take up the responsibility as Principal of Maris Stella College, Vijayawada for more than ten years.

Though good results were aimed at always, personality and all round development of the students was always our prime concern and main aim, and all our planning and priorities were centred around these. God amply blessed our humble endeavours and the Superior Generals and Council in Rome gave their unstinting support by sending the best personnel they could. The community worked as one body and spirit, not minding any of the early difficulties, and the present is reaping the harvest of the past endeavours.

## University of Madras

Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.

### *P.K. Ponnuswamy*

Vice-Chancellor



August 8, 1997

I am very glad to know that the Stella Maris College, Chennai is celebrating its Golden Jubilee during 1997-98.

I am indeed very happy to note that the Stella Maris College has steadily expanded the activities during the last 50 years. Now under the autonomous status, granted in recognition of its impressive infrastructural facilities, policies and programmes the College is providing need-based courses to women-folk.

The College is a bridge between the students and the Society. I am particularly happy to note that the programmes and policies of the Stella Maris College help the women to attain a status on par with the men.

The staff of this premier institution deserve appreciation for their dedicated services.

I wish the celebrations all success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.K. Ponnuswamy'.

(P.K. Ponnuswamy)



***K. Ramalingam, I.A.S.,***

Director of Collegiate Education,  
Chennai

29 July 1997

I am extremely happy to know that Stella Maris College (Autonomous) Chennai founded on August 15, 1947 is celebrating its Golden Jubilee and a Souvenir is being brought out to commemorate this event on August 15, 1997. It is heartwarming to note that the institution is celebrating its Golden Jubilee on August 15, 1997 on which date our nation is celebrating its Golden Jubilee of Independence. Stella Maris College, Chennai has now grown into an institution of Higher Education instilling a value based education for over 2300 women students. During the years, the institution has rendered yeoman service to women's education and for the uplift of women in society. It is highly befitting that a souvenir is being brought out to commemorate this memorable occasion. I wish the institution all success in its future endeavours and extend my best wishes for the successful release of the souvenir.

-Sd-

***K. Ramalingam***



## Tamilnadu State Council for Higher Education

Lady Willingdon College Campus, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600 005.



### *Dr. Ananda Krishnan*

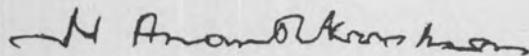
Vice-Chairman



28 July 1997

That Stella Maris is celebrating her Golden Jubilee along with the nation is a matter of great national pride. Stella Maris College is an educational asset of the country. Excellence in educational performance and ethics in social norms have marked the high reputation of this institution.

We all look forward to its continuous growth and service to Higher Education in the next century with the same zeal and credibility under able leadership.



*Dr. M. Ananda Krishnan*

**S.P. Elangovan, I.A.S.**

Higher Education Department Secretary,  
Chennai.



50 years of existence is a significant milestone in the annals of a College and this college which was born on the day when Independence dawned on our Country has carved out a niche for itself in the field of Higher Education in Tamil Nadu through its dedicated team of teachers known for their discipline and commitment.

I am sure this College will make greater strides in times to come and continue its tradition of excellence and service to the cause of women's education.

### ***Xavier Board of Higher Education In India***

31, Primrose Road, Bangalore - 560 025.

***Dr Alfred Mascarenhas***

President

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to Stella Maris College, Chennai, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the College. Being a true beacon of enlightenment, this great institution stands as a forceful witness to the dedication of the FMM sisters and the teaching staff in the past 50 years. Admitting over 2300 young girls full of aspiration and hope, Stella Maris College is successful in turning them into educated and bold young women leaders of today and tomorrow's India who, in their turn, imbued with a great sense of human values received at the College, will reach out to the neglected of India.

It has been the privilege of the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India to be closely associated with Stella Maris College right since its inception. More recently, as the General Secretary of the Xavier Board, the former Principal of Stella Maris gave a dynamic direction, initiating many programmes for upliftment of women. Through its project on non-formal education of women, the Xavier Board is happy to assist Stella Maris College. The present Principal of Stella Maris College is a close associate and friend of the Xavier Board.

This Jubilee Year is a time of introspection and gratitude for all past achievements and a time of resolve for the future. May Stella Maris College, through its value based education, bring true freedom to the many women who need empowerment to change.

Long live Stella Maris College!



## ***Xavier Board of Higher Education in India***

31, Primrose Road, Bangalore - 560 025.

### ***Sr Ezechiel CMC***

Secretary

Greetings of Peace

In this era of Globalisation when consumerist values are overtaking the youth of India, the role of Christian Higher Education becomes all the more crucial in offering an education which is strongly value-based, and deeply spiritual. In the past fifty years of her service, Stella Maris College has been in the forefront of higher education in India, pioneering numerous creative efforts to mould the personality of her students to withstand the onslaught of negative modernism and to build up in them the inner-strength required to face the challenges of a society which is crumbling in its moral fabric.

In this context the Xavier Board is immensely happy to recognise and appreciate the steps taken by the college in missioning her staff and students to the upliftment of the poor in the neighbourhood, to uphold the dignity of women, and in giving leadership to the development of the concept of the community college. Through these services the college has also become a bastion of strength to the church in Madras.

While felicitating the college on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee for her significant achievements and contributions I pray that the Lord may continue to shower His abundant blessings on the college and its future endeavours.



## ***United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia***

475, Rivers De drive, New York, N.Y. 10115.

6 August, 1997

To Sr Annamma and all our esteemed colleagues at Stella Maris,

It is with much joy and exultation that we greet you on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee on August 15, 1997. Stella Maris has demonstrated outstanding leadership in Christian higher education in India, and justly deserves to be among the top ten of the country's best colleges. We at the United Board are proud to be a partner in your fulfilling journey towards the achievement of excellence.

We wish you further success in the years to come. May God's grace be with you as you labor to educate exceptional young women who can be instruments of positive change at this



crucial time in history. We are certain that with your dynamism and dedication, Stella Maris will reach even greater heights. Warmest congratulations and best wishes!

*-Sd-*

***Dr Rita M Pulliam***

Vice President

***United Board for Christian Higher Education in India***

India Programme, Anbagam Extension, DIB Colony, Madurai - 625 007.

3 March 1996

Dear Sr Annamma,

On this happy occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your noble College, I offer you and your distinguished colleagues my heartiest congratulations and felicitations. You, your faculty and your students must be really proud of the pioneering service your College has rendered to the nation in the field of higher education for women during the past half a century. It is particularly commendable that in recent years, utilising the opportunity and freedom that autonomy had conferred on you, you and your colleagues have carried out several innovative academic and socio-economic projects that have raised your standards of performance and the relevance of higher education in a significant manner.

I pray that the Almighty will shower his choicest blessings on you and your colleagues and enable your college to continue her noble service to the nation for many centuries to come!

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely

*-Sd-*

***M.A. Thangaraj***

Chairman, India Advisory Committee of the Board

***Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and  
Higher Education for Women Deemed University***

Coimbatore.

3 March 1997

Rev Sister,

Founded in the year 1947, we have always watched with deep interest the growth and development of Stella Maris College. Due to hard work, and dedicated services of all concerned determinations and the goal oriented approach, the college could be raised to a higher level with autonomous status. The scholastic, disciplined environment in the campus speaks volumes. It is a matter of pride to everyone connected with the institution that it could so far produce capable women who occupy important positions in the country.

When you celebrate the college day in the 50th year of the institution, we offer our felicitations and best wishes for its continued excellent service. May the faculty and students derive great satisfaction in the work they are engaged. May the institution grow from strength to strength and be a model for all the educational institutions in the country. May Almighty bless the students with ability and wisdom to become leading women of the country. May the teachers be blessed in abundance to carry on their mission with continued enthusiasm and vigour.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

-Sd-

***Rajammal P. Devadas***

Chancellor

## ***Dr Nalli Kuppusamy***

Chennai.

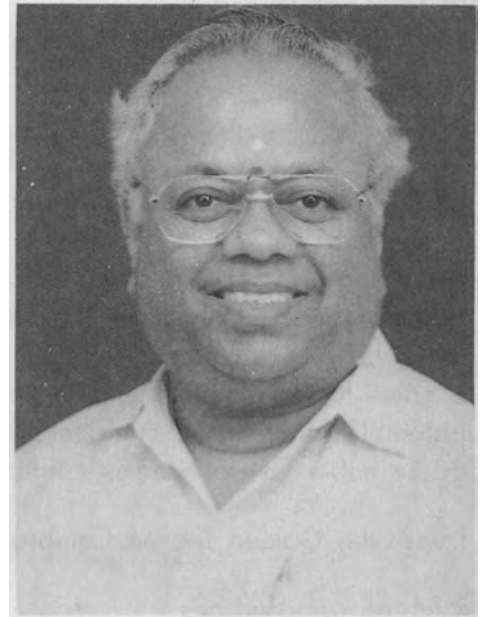
A galaxy of colleges is the pride of Chennai, duly acknowledged by a recent media survey. The prestigious magazine *India Today* selected, based on an opinion survey, ten best arts and science colleges in the country. Chennai bagged three of them. One of them is the Stella Maris College, rendering everyone associated with the institution feel proud. The credit, no doubt, goes to the missionary management, the dedicated Principal and her staff, and the abiding band of students, besides the alumni who are shining stars in our social firmament.

It is a pleasant coincidence that Stella Maris celebrated her golden years along with the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Independence. The comparison, I think, should stop with the year count. In the annals of the Independent India, we have had mixed fortunes. With Stella Maris, it is a star-studded track record all through. The events of the past and the present augur a brighter future. I wish the next decade bring in many more laurels to this celebrity institution.

As Swamy Chidbhananda has said, a country is nothing less and nothing more than the teacher who is her builder. The credit of Stella Maris College should be attributed in large measures to the teachers under the able leadership of Sr Annamma Philip, Principal, who keeps a low profile herself, while her institution has become high-profiled.

My best wishes always go with all those associated with this prestigious institution which serves the cause of social uplift through the right path educating women, and educating them in a deserving and committed manner.

May you have many more luminous decades ahead leading on to your centenary and far beyond.



**Spic Centre**

No. 97, Mount Road, Chennai - 600 032.

**A.C. Muthiah**

August 7, 1997

Dear Sister,

I am very happy to know that the Stella Maris College is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. It is indeed a happy coincidence that this renowned educational institution celebrates its golden jubilee at the same time that the country is celebrating its 50 years of Independence. Stella Maris has earned a name for educational excellence and can look back with justifiable pride at the contribution it has made to the society in the noble task of women's education.

I wish the Golden Jubilee Celebrations all success.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*-Sd-*

**A.C. Muthiah**



**THE NEW LEADER**

**Catholic Centre**

Armenian Street,  
Chennai - 600 001

Dear Sr Annamma,

I write to express my appreciation for the marvellous work done by this great institution and to offer my congratulations to you and to all the sisters who help you and the FMM congregation.

May God help Stella Maris reach greater heights.

With warm regards  
sincerely,

*-Sd-*

**.A. Joe Antony, S.J.**

Editor



***Prof. T.Md. Zackriah Badsha***

Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Chennai Region, Chennai.

Dear Sr Annamma Philip,

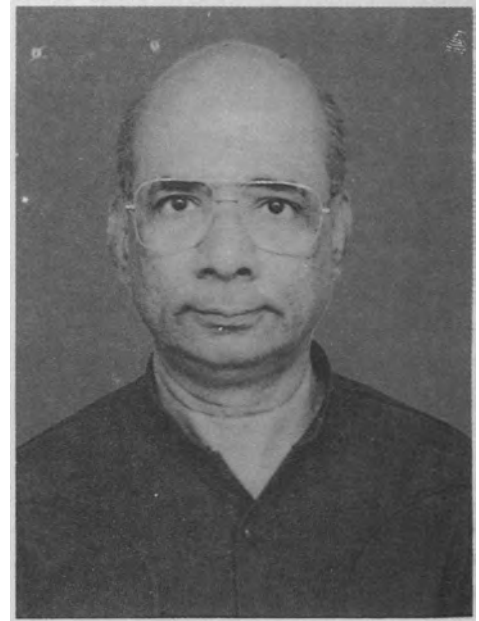
Stella Maris College, Chennai, has played a stellar role in women's education in South India. It is a happy co-incidence that the college is celebrating its Golden Jubilee along with Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Stella Maris has stood not only for academic excellence but also for certain essential human values which we have always cherished. Stella Maris also has inculcated a sense of freedom and courage among its students to stand up in favour of justice and fair play.

I wish the College all success as it is poised to march into the 21st Century. I am sure it will continue to play a very vital role in women's education in our country.

Yours sincerely,



*(T. Md. Zackriah Badsha)*



## பொன் விழா காணும் ஸ்டெல்லா

அன்னை பாரதம் விடுதலை கண்டது  
 ஆரூயிர்ச் சிலிர்ப்பின் சிரிப்பே அந்நாள்!  
 அடிமை விலங்கு அகன்றது அந்நாள்!  
 அறியாமைத் தளையைத் தகர்த்தது நின்நாள்!  
 விடுதலை வேள்வி இயற்றிடு உயிர்போல்  
 அயலக அன்னையர் கரத்து மலர்ந்தாய்!  
 மூர்த்தி சிறிது கீர்த்தி பொரிதாய்ச்  
 சேர்ந்தாய் சென்னை சாந்தோம்! வாழ்க!  
 பொன்னேடு புரங்கிறது புரங்கிறது புரங்கிறது!  
 தன்னலம் கருதாத் தியாக ஏடோ?  
 அறிவுக் கொடைதரு ஏடோ? அருள்  
 அனுபவக் கொடையாம் யோசனை ஏடோ?  
 நேசக் கரத்துப் பாசமிகு ஏடோ?  
 வாசம் வீசிடப் பேசுமே என்றாம்!  
 பொன் விழா நினைவுப் பெட்டகம் திறக்கவே  
 பொன்னென மணியென வைரவை டிரியம்  
 கண்ணிமை ஓட்டாப் பச்சையோ பவளமோ?!  
 ஏதெனக் காட்டுவேன் ஏதெனப் பூட்டுவேன்?  
 சேர்த்த நவமணிக் குவியல் ஒளிர்  
 நினைவுப் பொன்நாண் இணைப்பில் இணைத்தேன்!  
 நினைவும் தமிழும் பொன்னும் சுடருமாய்  
 நெஞ்சம் விம்மும்; செல்வமே ஸ்டெல்லா!  
 நின்விரிவு காட்டவே முன்றிற்கும் வானமே  
 நின் ஆழம் கூட்டவே கண்படரும் அலைகடல்!  
 நின்னுறுதி தீட்டவே எண்ணும் பூமியே!  
 நிற்பெருமை பகரவே நின்றிடும் உயர்மலை!  
 அனுபவம் அறிவு கலைபயில் தெளிவு  
 பனுவல் பகராப் பல்லறிவு புகட்டினை!  
 கன்றென வளர்த்திட்ட கருணை வியப்பேனோ?  
 தாயென வளர்ந்திட்ட அருளை வியப்பேனோ?  
 இன்றென் இதயத்து இன்பமே நிறைந்து  
 உணர்ச்சிப் பிழம்பாய் உன்புகழ் பாடிடல்  
 விரிவான் மீனதைப் பறிக்கும் பான்மையோ?  
 தந்ததான் தன்னை கொண்டது எந்தன்னை  
 ஆனந்தம் பெற்றேன் நிற்பால் தாயே!  
 யாது நீ பெற்றது என்பால்! என்பால்?  
 உள்வம் விம்முறும் உயிர்க்குரல் நடுங்கும்!  
 வினாவகை அடங்கா நின்திறன் அருள்திறம்  
 ஆல மரமாய் நின்னிழல் விரிதிறம்  
 தங்கிடு மனங்கள் வாழ்த்த வாழ்வாய்!  
 தாங்கிடு இனங்கள் வணங்க வாழ்த்துவாய்!  
 அரைநூ றாண்டதனில் எண்ணில் வேர்கள்  
 வண்ணத்தில் விரியும் பணிகள் எத்தனை?  
 நூறாண் டதனில் பன்னூறு பாவவே  
 வேருக்குள் நீராக நெஞ்சம் பாய்ச்சுமே!  
 பனிக்கும் நெஞ்ச நெகிழ்வுக் காணிக்கை  
 இனிக்கும் இதயம் வாழ்த்தும் வாழ்த்துரை  
 இனிதாய் ஏற்றருள்வாய்! நேர்வழி காட்டுக!  
 மனித நேயம் தழைக்க வழி நடத்துக!  
 பல்லாண்டு பல்லாண்டு வாழிய வாழியவே!



**பா. ஜயலக்ஷ்மி,**

முன்னாள் தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர்,  
 ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ்.



*Stella Maris College on Palace Road, Santhome, 1948.*

*Stella Maris Hostel on Palace Road,  
Santhome.*



*Sr Peter Damien and Sr Celine Francoise  
Administrators : 1952*



*Batch of 1956, B.A.*



*Faculty, 1959-60*



*Batch of 1956, B.Sc.*

*Graduates Reception, 1955*





*The Vice-President of India,  
Dr S Radhakrishnan on the occasion of the  
inauguration of the main building  
in the present campus  
on Cathedral Road, July 1960.*

*Two special dignitaries at a public  
function: Dr. A.L. Mudaliar,  
Vice Chancellor, University of Madras  
and Shri C.N. Annadurai,  
Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu.*



*A distinguished gathering at a college  
function.*



*Mother Agnes, The Superior General, with Mother Klemens, Mother Carla Rosa, Sr Peter Damien and Sr Celine Francoise.*



*The Governor Shri K.K. Shah with Mother Klemens at the Silver Jubilee Celebration*



*Sr Greta being honoured on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee*



*Sr Thecla, foundress of the Department of Social Work.*



*Mrs. Mangaladurai, Physical Directress,  
at the Jubilee awards.*



*Dr. Malcolm Adisheshaiah  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of  
Madras on a visit to college.*





*Dr Sr Edith Tömöry, foundress of the  
Department of Fine Arts.*

*Sr Magdalene, foundress of the  
Department of Mathematics.*



*Dr Eileen Riordan, foundress of the  
Department of Zoology*



*Graduates Reception, 1956*

## *College Day March 8, 1997 : The Principal's Report*

*Dr Sr Annamma Philip, fmm*

Our esteemed Chief Guest this evening, Her Excellency, Ms. Fathima Beevi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sr Mary Rose, Provincial Superior and Chairperson, Governing Body of the College, Sr Christine and Sr Leony, Superiors of Stella Maris, Sr Mary Ann, Secretary of the College, former Provincial Superiors, our former Principals and retired faculty, respected members of the Governing Body, Academic Council, Boards of Studies and Building Committee, dear parents, valued friends and benefactors of the college, Alumnae, dedicated members of the faculty, Administrative and Supportive staff and dear students:

Individuals have sailed the Ship of Stella Maris and each one has left an indelible impression on the sands of time- it may be faint, clear, deep, or even abstract. Preparing for this 50th college day has been a privilege, a grace and a blessing. The noble task of educating the young women of India has been possible because of the dedication, love and commitment of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Faculty, Administrative and Supportive staff. We have transcended time and communicated with persons who have shaped this great institution.

Khalil Gibran said :

*The timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness,*

*And know that yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream*

Volumes can be written on the achievements of Stella Maris in the annals of History, but I would like to dedicate this moment to the innumerable persons who have been and are the reason for today's celebrations.

The fascinating history of our institution and the tracing of its progress over the last fifty years would be a privilege to recount. The multimedia cultural programme *The Stella Marian Saga- On the Road to the Future* which will follow shortly will present it in an artistic and aesthetic manner. I will therefore content myself with drawing a bare outline of our growth and giving you a glimpse of the development of Stella Maris.

August 15, 1947 was scheduled for the opening of this institution and that joy was doubled with India attaining Independence the same day. This was a providential coincidence.

At the request of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, Mother Klemens, with the approval of the then Superior General, Rev. Mother Margaret of the Sacred Heart, courageously accepted the intimidating task of beginning this institution. The college with an initial strength of 32 students began in a simple one-storey building in Mylapore. Mother Klemens remained Principal-in-charge until the arrival of Mother Lillian from USA in Jan. 1948. Under her able guidance the college grew in stature with the addition of new courses and also moved into a new 3 storey building on Palace Road by July 1949. At this juncture we gratefully acknowledge the tremendous support extended by the Jesuit fathers from Loyola College especially Fr Jerome D'Souza.

Stella Maris was granted permanent recognition in 1951 and several new courses were introduced including Bachelors degree in Music, the only college in South India to offer such a course. The college also has to its credit the distinction of being the first to introduce M.A. course in Indian Music

and the first women's college to offer M.A. in English, Economics, Social Work and Fine Arts. Mother Proincias replaced Mother Lillian as Principal in 1955 and it was under her direction that the college shifted from Mylapore to its present premises, thanks to His Grace the then Archbishop Rt Rev Louis Mathias, SDB, who put at the disposal of the management the grounds of The Cloisters on Cathedral Road.

The foundation stone for the new building on Cathedral Road was laid on June 5, 1959 by the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr A L Mudaliar. The college had the singular privilege of having Dr S Radhakrishnan, the then Vice-President of India who flew to Madras especially for the inauguration of the new building.

On this spacious, evergreen campus, Stella Maris continued to draw large number of students from far and near. Having ensured that the college was on firm ground with an environment conducive for further growth and expansion, Mother Proincias was called upon to found yet another women's institution Maris Stella College at Vijayawada. Mother Carla Rosa took over the reins and shouldered the responsibility as Principal from 1961. She combined in her the sternness of the disciplinarian, the kindness of a mother and the farsighted perception of a visionary.

Motivation is the key for the growth and development of any institution. Reaching out to the needy and the less privileged has always been an integral part of life at Stella Maris. Involvement in Social Service programmes gave us an impetus to begin the Diploma Course in Social Service as early 1952 and a Post Graduate degree course in Social Work in 1962 under the leadership of Mother Eanswida.

This thrust towards social service gained further momentum with Stella Maris being chosen as one of the colleges by the University of Madras to implement the pilot project of National Service Scheme.

When Mother Carla Rosa was chosen to be the Vicar General of the Institute, Sr Sheila O'Neill was appointed Principal.

The College celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1972 all the while making giant strides and keeping abreast with changing trends. It was Sr Irene Mathias who provided dynamic leadership at this time. Writing on the occasion Mother Lillian said: A day of jubilee speaks of future tense. Like the gleam of dawn it sheds its light on time to come. To the youth of tomorrow it offers the promise of great things.

The three day celebrations in August 1972 was marked with a spirit of fervent thanksgiving and profound gaiety. The spacious and well stocked library erected on the occasion of the silver jubilee occupies pride of place on campus.

There was a gradual shift from social service to working towards social justice. The NSS volunteers of our college have rendered versatile and effective service to the community through various programmes organised in collaboration with other agencies. The project among the tribals of Javadi Hills and camps in rural areas need special mention. The Department of Social Work as part of its field study has also organised projects in and around Chennai and the faculty have collaborated with the government in various research ventures. Recently a national study on Working Women's Hostels was completed with the support of the ministry of HRD.

To make the teaching-learning process more relevant several input sessions were conducted for faculty and several of them were deputed to complete their doctoral programmes. This geared the faculty to prepare themselves towards the implementation of autonomy. When Sr Irene Mathias was elected Assistant General of the FMM in 1978, Dr Sr Helen Vincent assumed charge as Principal. To her



goes the credit of introducing B.Sc. Botany, Physics, B.Com., and two Postgraduate Diploma Courses in Computer Science and Medical Laboratory Technology. Under her able guidance the St. Francis Hall building was constructed providing better facilities for the department of Fine Arts and two multipurpose halls. Focusing on academic freedom the college launched into autonomy in 1987 after meticulous planning and preparation introducing new and innovative courses with an interdisciplinary approach.

The autonomy review commission which visited the college at the end of three years had this to say of Stella Maris: *Here is an institution which has thought seriously of autonomy, planned for it carefully over a period of time, with full participation of the faculty and is functioning smoothly and well as an autonomous college.*

Striving for academic excellence under autonomy did not hamper the introduction of programmes which enhanced the all round development of the student.

Sports and games inculcate in students a spirit of sportsmanship and competitiveness contributing to their physical well being. The college has frequently over the years bagged the coveted Dr A.L. Mudaliar Trophy in Athletics and several other trophies in Basket Ball, Hockey, Cricket and Kho-Kho. Our students have represented the University on innumerable occasions at national and state level championships and won prestigious laurels. Mention must be made of the Asiad 1990, held at Beijing, the Indian rowing team consisted of 4 participants in the Coxless fours event, 3 of whom were Stella Marians.

The college can be justifiably proud of its NCC unit which has trained several of its students to be outstanding cadets with a daring, indomitable and fearless spirit. Our cadets have represented the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andamans Directorate at the Republic Day Camps in New Delhi and commanded parades. The All India Best Cadet Award has been secured by Stella Marians over the years and we are proud to say that even this year five of our cadets attended the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi and Cadet Meghana Apparao was adjudged the All India Best Cadet. Participation in the International Youth Exchange Programme has been an impressive feature of our unit with several cadets having trotted the globe from Canada to the United Kingdom to Bangladesh and Singapore.

Value Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Stella Maris. In order to foster faith formation among the students, retreats, Bible study and prayer meetings are held regularly. A special feature of our campus ministry this year was a three day retreat conducted by a team from Potta in January.

Social Awareness Programmes such as Rural Realities, Welfare of the Aged and Care of the Handicapped has served as an eye opener to the students. Functional Literacy in the villages of Kuthambakkam and Nemam are making steady progress with the women becoming self-reliant through skill development programmes.

Faced with the stark reality of an ecological imbalance, we at Stella Maris have incorporated Environmental Awareness Programmes in the undergraduate curriculum. Women's studies and empowerment of women through programmes which highlight gender justice has been made possible through the Women's Studies Cell - Ujjwala.

During the last five decades the college has organised innumerable student programmes on leadership training, ISTD and EDP and support services such as counselling, career guidance, the Writing Centre and the foundation course on General Knowledge and current affairs.

Vocationalisation of courses at the undergraduate level has helped us establish a link with hospitals, industry, and several public and private undertakings through which our students receive on the job training.

We are immensely grateful to The All India Association for Christian Higher Education, Xavier Board for Christian Higher Education, the United Board for Christian Higher Education, and The International Federation of Catholic Universities for the support rendered to a few of our extension and research projects. Our current project on Culture and Drug Use and Abuse in Asian Settings has created an awareness among the target groups of fisherfolk and drug addicts in the neighbourhood of Royapuram and Vepery.

10 years of autonomy has been an experiential learning process prodding us to open up new avenues in our endeavour to improve academic standards and present an optimal environment for our students. Restructuring our present system of education and making radical changes is undoubtedly a challenge. In the coming academic year we intend introducing the credit based system, the objective of which is to offer a broad based education, thus permitting students the flexibility of choosing their own courses of study and earning credits well within their capacities.

Mooted by the UGC, the concept of Community Colleges, an alternative to the present system of higher education is fast gaining acceptance. The Archdiocese of Madras- Mylapore seized upon this new concept and opened the Madras Community College at Santhome in August 1996. Stella Maris has contributed towards the beginning of this institution and we are happy to share our infrastructural facilities with the first batch of students.

The College has also opened its doors to Fulbright Scholars and students from various universities abroad. Our faculty have participated in several programmes in India and abroad such as the visiting scholars programme, scholar in residence, international visitors programme and as guest faculty. Besides, several faculty members have been actively involved in authoring and publishing books, journals and articles. Another new venture has been our link with the Sinclair Community College through which five of our faculty have been deputed on a mutual exchange programme under the auspices of the USIA College and University Affiliation Programme.

The Academic Year 1996-97 commenced with the faculty participating in the Golden Jubilee Teachers' Conference for Concept Clarification. This conference apart from permitting us to pause awhile and take an objective look at ourselves facilitated interaction and feedback among the faculty and reviewed the vision and goals of the college. The administrative staff also participated in a two day workshop organised as part of the Golden Jubilee activities.

The official opening of the year long Golden Jubilee Celebrations began on a prayerful note with the Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore, Rt Rev Dr Arul Das James celebrating the Eucharist on August 15, 1996. This was followed by a short cultural programme and the release of "Sampreshan", a Hindi video cassette, a copy of which was later presented to the President of India, His Excellency, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

The unflagging vitality of our students is demonstrated in their whole-hearted participation in the various inter-collegiate and inter-year programmes. Their enthusiasm and creativity this year witnessed in *Ode to Life*, a multimedia presentation which unfolded the wonders of creation in its diverse forms, a combination of stunning visuals, music and semi-classical dance, choreographed by the students themselves.

The inter-faith dialogue programme held in January 1997 as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations struck a positive note in this multipluralistic world of ours. This programme appreciated the tenets embodied in other religions and stressed the need for religious harmony.

Higher Education in India- Relevance and Challenges, a 2 day National Seminar organised by the Departments of Arts and Commerce inextricably linked higher education with the needs of today's consumeristic society. Dr G.D. Sharma, Secretary, UGC, in his keynote address emphasized that if the quality of higher education needs to be improved, institutions need to evaluate and reform the present outmoded affiliating system. While several of the speakers emphasized the quest for quality education they also noted that higher education has not yet broken the shackles of tradition and requires to cater to a wider range of students.

The Geet Ghazal of the Hindi department, the Cultural Evening by the departments of French and Sanskrit and the one day seminar by the Tamil department added vivacity to the Golden Jubilee activities.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris provided a musical extravaganza by Padmashree Dr K.J. Yesudas in February this year which brought together many of our retired faculty, alumnae, well wishers and friends.

Institution of 50 scholarships which will no doubt help several economically weak students in years to come is another project envisaged during this Golden Jubilee year and we are happy to say that 12 have already been instituted.

The new four storey building which is nearing completion is a response to the growing demand for greater and better infrastructural facilities.

We are immensely grateful to you parents, benefactors, faculty and students, past and present, for your generous contribution towards the building fund. We rely on your continued support to enable us to inaugurate the building in August this year.

Sailing the high seas has not always been easy, it has been a relentless search for truth, an insatiable quest for excellence, a pioneering spirit and a steely determination to form young women of character and integrity. The challenge before us today is the new technologies which will drive us to alter our practices, to integrate the world of simulation and interactive technology with our own unique role as mentors, facilitators and teachers of student learning. Are we ready to deliver the right goods, the promises the morrow holds for our enthusiastic young women? Do we have the conviction and the courage to snap the umbilical cord with the affiliating system? The answer is a resounding YES! I am sure with your unstinting support and unwavering optimism we can move into the third millennium allowing ourselves to be carried by the propitious winds of change.

On an occasion such as this it is but fitting to express the deep debt of gratitude we owe to those around us, but time unfortunately does not permit it. I will, however, take a few minutes to express our profound gratitude to:

The authorities of the University of Madras, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Director of Collegiate Education and the University Grants Commission for their co-operation, advice and help extended so willingly and generously at all times.

The Stella Maris College Extension Counter of the Indian Overseas Bank, the Indian Bank and other public and private sector organisations and agencies who have generously funded our student welfare programmes and projects and those who have instituted scholarships for deserving and needy students,

The Transport Departments: the PTC and DATC, the Police Department, the Madras Electricity Board, the P & T department, the Madras Telephones, the Corporation of Madras, AIR and Doordarshan Kendra, The Hindu and Indian Express and other public utility departments for the timely service rendered by them and

- To each and every member of the Stella Marian family, both immediate and extended, who have contributed more than their share to the growth and progress of this institution.

May the power and wisdom of the Almighty spur us onward as we forge ahead to welcome the dawn of a new era led on by the Star of the Sea!

Thank you one and all, God Bless.



## ***JUBILEE...***

Jubilee is a very ancient Jewish Institution whose spirit is to be found in the origin of the world. On the very first page of the Bible, we read about God creating the world. Then, God is said to have created man in His own image and likeness, and entrusted to him the whole universe, to have dominion over it, to use and develop it. Hence, the whole universe belongs to the Lord and God is the sole and supreme owner and human beings are His stewards. Besides, He entrusted to them the whole Creation to be shared by all, so that all would find their life-maintenance and sufficiency in real fraternal equity. Then, God entered into His infinite Rest.

### 1st Step towards the Jubilee: The Sabbath Day

When the people of Israel moved out of Egypt leaving slavery behind them, they entered into the Sinai Covenant, a most sacred pact between them and God. One of their first laws was the Sabbath Day, the 7th day of the week. *You shall keep it holy*, a day of thanks, praise and worship of the Lord. They were also to rest on that day, men and women, servants and cattle, out of compassion for all beings.

Equality and sufficiency for all. When they settled in the land of Israel, God saw to it that property and subsistence would be ensured to each and all and this for ever. On His inspiration, Joshua, their leader, ordered a general census and divided the whole land between the 12 tribes with their clans and families, according to their number and the fertility of the land. Hence each family was given a piece of land for its maintenance, and inequalities and poverty were wiped out.

It was forbidden to sell one's land. Because it belonged to God and they had no right over it; they would only live upon it... They were stewards. This was also to ensure individual property, social stability and sufficiency for all throughout the ages.

### 2nd Step towards the Jubilee : The Sabbatical Year

a) Every 7th year was to be a year of worship and rest. No work was to be done. They had to leave the land fallow to ensure its rest and future fertility. No cultivation, no planting, no pruning, nothing. Rest for all: servants, animals, land, because the land belonged to God. Respect it and give it rest.

b) Besides, all debts were to be remitted, no one was to be in need.

c) A year of deliverance from servitude. If due to some great distress a man had to sell or bind himself to another, he was to be treated respectfully as a wage-earner and to be liberated in the Sabbatical Year.

The Jubilee Year was the 7th Sabbatical year on the fiftieth year. A year of worship and rest. It was especially to reestablish social equity, order and freedom according to God's plan. The YOBEL, which means the ram's horn, was sounded all through the land for its inauguration, hence *JUBILEE*. It was to be a Great Year of Emancipation.

Release of all debts

Freedom to all

Return of land property to original owner, if due to some great misfortune, he had been obliged to sell it. The sale price was determined according to the number of crops to be gathered before the next Jubilee year.

Thus the Jubilee Year was founded on the deep religious concept of God's sole dominion and supreme ownership over the people, the whole universe, of respect for the dignity of each human being, of his right to property and maintenance and freedom, of social justice and equity, of mutual and fraternal help and support.

Stella Maris Jubilee 1997 is not for us a year of rest, or of emancipation, but a year of renewal according to the beautiful spirit which inspired it. First it is to be a year of deep worship and thanksgiving to the Lord whose blessing has made Stella Maris flourish beautifully. It is also to strengthen our resolution to work ever more for the uplift of women, giving our students a higher education that will open new prospects, training them as efficient leaders at every level. Very specially, we want to help them to be aware of the inhuman, unjust, evil situation of so many around us and train them to work for social justice and equity, conscious that the predicament of the landless, homeless, jobless, starving people, is not according to God's will. We want to train them to give fraternal help and support to all, irrespective of caste, class, religion, party and language, spreading, wherever they are, a spirit of reconciliation and loving brotherhood.

May the Lord bless us and help us students and lecturers and non teaching staff realise God's plan for social equity and freedom in our beloved country.

*Sr Claude, fmm*



*Stella Maris College*

On 15 August 1947 Stella Maris College began in a small way, in a one-storey building in Mylapore, with thirty two students. Great women pioneered the early history of this institution: Mother Klemens, Mother Lillian, Mother Sylvestra, Mother John Houghton, Mother Proincias, Mother Carla Rosa. Within a decade, from a first grade college Stella Maris began branching into Graduate and Post Graduate studies. In 1960 Stella Maris moved to the more spacious campus, *The Cloisters* on Cathedral Road. In 1972 the college celebrated its silver jubilee and witnessed with pride and joy, the setting up of an expansive library. 1997 we celebrate our golden jubilee. Today we stand 2300 strong, enjoying autonomy, and moving into the credit system, with eleven graduate programmes, five post graduate programmes, research leading to M.Phil and Ph.D programmes, vocational training and post graduate diplomas in fields such as laboratory technology and computer science. The college is a member of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, the All India Association of Christian Higher Education and the Xavier Board for Christian Higher Education.

Stella Maris College, a Catholic Institution founded and run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary explores its meaning in the service of the community. The college seeks to foster a spirit of community life so that the goal of liberation may be achieved. Since knowledge must be directed toward building a world of justice and peace, the attempt is toward a more humanized approach to education in which spiritual, moral and social values will be built in. The emphasis falls on developmental education rather than academic performance alone. Even as both academic pursuit of imparting knowledge and skills, and all round personality development of students are identified as specific goals, the need to sensitize the college community to the social reality of the country and to train them to be of service to the society in which they live, is given high premium. As a Catholic college Stella Maris places her belief in the *Declaration of Education* formulated by Vatican Council II, 1962, in which a fresh perspective based on the understanding of the human person, the universe and other religions is sought.

Every successful institution faces a death threat: that it may outlive its usefulness and become irrelevant. The anxiety and concern of Stella Maris, therefore, lies always in the challenge: How does an institution meet the requirements of the times? Like any living system, Stella Maris too, adopts the methodology of feedback, change and adaptation. The college has always been alert to National Commissions: Radhakrishnan Commission Report 1948; Kothari Commission Report 1966; New Policy on Education 1986. Based on the reports and findings of these commissions, and guided by its own feedback system, the college has sought to strengthen infrastructure in Value Education, Service Oriented Programmes, Vocational Guidance, and in-Service training. Since 1977 the college has taken a deliberate decision to consider favourably Catholic applicants. The college also gives priority in admission to the underprivileged and first generation learners irrespective of religion. This stand has necessitated shift in admission policy. The college has geared itself to offer programmes that will take care of specific needs that arise as a consequence of its special policy on admissions.

Tied inextricably to the country, we are also midnight's children, sharing a common future and destiny. May our dream of nurturing young souls and creating women who will live by truth and charity usher in a just millennium.

Stella Maris has embarked on a series of projects and outreach programmes enjoying both support and funding from the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu, the International Federation of Catholic Universities, the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia and local organisations.

One of our ambitious programmes was the seven year project (1977-84) in the Javadhi Hills in North Arcot District, in collaboration with the Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme. Moving through planned phases in motivation, training and implementation, we aimed at creating awareness regarding schemes and facilities earmarked for tribals.

The college has also, under the National Service Scheme, taken up Village Adoption Programmes and special ten day camping programmes in rural areas, become involved in the implementation of local schemes such as the Coconut Development Scheme, and taken out street plays on issues such as literacy, environment and Aids. We have also tried to help, wherever possible, in a crisis, be it in a war refugee camp or relief work in stricken areas.

Today several departments are actively engaged in projects that will help students apply knowledge to social reality; to name a few The Leather Industry, Police Roles and Functions in Communities, The Literacy Programme, The Writing Centre.

The Department of Social Work has always had their ongoing programmes, reaching out to both urban and rural communities. Their association with the Narikurava community at Saidapet and the Ottery slum at Vepery goes back to 1990. While organising Mahila Manrams and awareness programmes, the department has also been closely working with communities, the Social Welfare Board and the Rural Welfare Ministry, facilitating loans for fishing nets, poultry, animal husbandry, while ensuring follow up know-how programmes.

*Sangamam*- The Drug Abuse and Aids Prevention Centre funded by the International Federation of Catholic Universities is one of the major extension programmes of Stella Maris. It is a pioneering and successful effort in the area of drug abuse in the city of Chennai as a *Community Based Rehabilitation Model*. It comprised a two year scientific research study of the problem of drug abuse in 1992 followed by a three year community intervention phase to contain the problem. The magnitude of the problem of addiction along with the rising threat of HIV infection determined the thrust for an Action Phase- prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts in Kasimedu, North Chennai.

A comprehensive approach facilitating community development and community participation was adopted. The various target groups were:-

1. The corporation schools - children, teachers, parents.
2. Substance abusers and their families.
3. Community - women, children, youth.
4. Rickshaw pullers.
5. NGOs & local panchayats.

The recognition, credibility and utility of the services rendered over three years has been established through the outcomes of the various programmes. In the schools, a perceptible improvement in regularity,



active participation in class, extra-curricular activities and awareness about the consequences of drug and alcohol addiction was observed. The teachers' training provided ample scope for enhancing teaching techniques and insight into the problems of the children. A manual on student development for teachers has been evolved based on the intervention.

Of the challenging group of about 400 poly drug addicts, 256 have been motivated, 60 have been referred for treatment and 10 are currently abstinent. This consistent involvement and regular mass awareness programmes have been effective in mobilizing community and family support for the addicts. There is increasing pressure on the addicts to seek treatment and hope for recovery has replaced feelings of despair and derision.

The women and youth groups formed have been involved in developmental activities and they address local community issues and resolve them independently. They have awakened to the problem of addiction and determined their role in the control of drug abuse in the community. The rickshaw pullers are organising themselves into a union for improving their quality of life.

Building community acceptance and support for the various programmes has been achieved through networking with the local fishermen panchayats working in the same areas. The centre has also served as a valuable field training placement for students of M A Social Work and the NSS of Stella Maris and other city colleges. Overall, the various target groups have felt the need for unified social action to curb drug supply. This was witnessed in the mass response to the Unity March against Drug Abuse during which a memorandum was submitted to the Government for further action. The commitment to the cause and the impact of the existing programmes have given us the impetus to continue the work and consolidate our efforts by organizing training and other developmental programmes. The aim is to further conscientize the community towards altering their lives and striving towards the reduction of the problems of substance abuse, thus building a better tomorrow for themselves and handing over a healthier legacy to the future generations.

## Events During the Golden Jubilee Year

Stella Maris College inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations with enthusiasm on Independence Day 1996. Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial Superior of the Chennai Province hoisted the tri colour flag. Following the flag salute by ten NCC cadets, the campus reverberated with the strains of the national anthem. The birthday celebrations then commenced with the celebration of the Eucharist led by the Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James.

The chief guest for the day was Ms. Jayanthi. S. Ravi, I.A.S, Director, IREP, Deputy Secretary, Energy and Petroleum, and former student of the college. She spoke about commitment and conviction, values she had imbibed from her alma mater, and impressed on the students the need to stand by their belief and responsibility.

A delightful programme of Bharatanatyam recital, choral songs and modern dance about the empowerment of women, followed. Soon the jubilant crowd in keeping with tradition, was singing *Happy Birthday* as Dr Sr Annamma Philip cut the Stella Maris birthday cake, to the irrepressible burst of firecrackers. The year long celebrations had begun.

Earlier in July in connection with the Golden Jubilee year, the Department of Hindi had conducted a two day workshop on technical translation for students under the Vocational Programme- the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu. They also produced a classroom - aid video cassette, *Sampreshan*, which was released on Independence Day, and later presented by the Principal to His Excellency Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, the President of India. The Department concluded the celebrations with Geet Ghazal.

Ceremonializing the Jubilee, the students presented a dance titled *Ode to Life* in November 1996 at the Music Academy. Choreographed by Sangeetha Reddy (III BA Fine Arts) the Ode was a celebration of life. It represented the elements earth, wind, water, air and fire through visuals, music and dance. The Ode, even as it conveyed the primeval experience of creation, was in itself a magnificent tribute to the beauty, energy and conviction of its young creators.

சென்னை ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரியில் அன்று ஒரு திருநாள். வளமனைத்தும் வாரித்தந்த நன்னாள். மரியாயின் பிரான்ஸிஸ்கன் மிஷினெரிக் கன்னியர் நடத்தும் தன்னாட்சிக் கல்லூரியில் கன்னித் தமிழுக்கு முதலிடம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுப் பொன் விழாக் கருத்தரங்கம் நடத்த முன்னுரிமையும் முதன்மை இடமும் அளிக்கப்பட்ட பொன்னாள்.

கொட்டு மழை. கல்லூரிகளும், பள்ளிகளும் மூடப்பட்ட அவ்வேளையிலும் அலைகடல் ஒளிர்மீன் தன் உதய தாரகைகளை உலா வரச் செய்திருந்தது. பட்டுப் புடவை சரசர வென்று இதய நாதத்தில் இணைந்து தாளமிட, புன்னகைக்கும் பட்டாம் பூச்சி வண்ணங்களாய்ப் பூந் தென்றலாய், அவையிலே எமது அருமை மாணாக்கியர் பாங்குடன் அமர்ந்திருந்தனர்.

அக இருள் நீக்கி, அறிவொளி தரும் ஆசிரியப் பெருமக்கள் முன் வரிசைகளில் அழகுடன் அறிவு பூர்வமான சிந்தனையுடன் உள்ளத்தில் நிறைந்திருந்தனர்.

முத்தான முக்கனியின் சாரமெனக் கல்லூரித் துணை முதல்வர் அருட் சகோதரி முனைவர் ஃபிளேவியா மற்றும் துணை முதல்வர் முனைவர் திருமதி மீனா சுவாமி அவர்கள் ஒளிமிகு விண்மீன்களாய் வீற்றிருந்தது அவைக்கு அழகுக்கு அழகினைத் தந்தது.

சென்னைப் பல்கலைக் கழகத் தமிழ்த் துறைத் தலைவர் முனைவர் திரு. பொன் கோதண்டராமன் அவைக்குத் தலைமை தாங்கி, படிப்பும் முன்னேற்றமும் என்ற நிலையில் உரை வழங்கி வாழ்த்து நல்கினார்.

சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக வந்திருந்த முனைவர் திரு. ஒளவை நடராஜன், மொழியாம் தமிழுக்கும், தமிழாம் பெண்ணுக்கும் வாழ்த்து வழங்கி உரையாற்றினார்.

முனைவர் திரு. ஞானசுந்தரம்- “தமிழ் வளர்ச்சிக்குத் தடையாக இருப்பது பிற மொழிக் கலப்பே”

முனைவர் திரு. காயாரோகணம்- “இருபதாம் நூற்றாண்டு இலக்கியம் இருபத்தோராம் நூற்றாண்டு இளைஞர்களுக்குச் சொல்வதென்ன?

முனைவர் திருமதி. உலகநாயகி- “கிறிஸ்தவ இலக்கியத்தில் மகளிரின் பங்கு”

கலைஞர் திரு. இந்திரன்- “கலையும் தமிழும்”

இவற்றின் அடிப்படையில் ஆய்வுக் கட்டுரைகள் வழங்கினார். தமிழன்னை அன்று அணிகலன்களாலும், மலர் மாலைகளாலும் நிறைவாகக் காட்சி தந்தாள்.

நிறைவாக முதல்வராலும், துணை முதல்வராலும் தமிழால் தமிழுக்கு வாழ்த்துரைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டன. தமிழுக்குத் தங்கத் தமிழால் தமிழ்த் துறைப் பேராசிரியர்களால் ஆரத்தி எடுக்கப்பட்டது.

அன்று தமிழை வாழ்த்து-

குளிர்ந்த மழையால்

மண்ணும் விண்ணும் கலந்து கொண்டன

உள்ளமும் சிந்தையும் உவந்து விட்டன

*எங்கள் வாழ்வும் எங்கள் வளமும் மங்காத தமிழென்று சங்கே முழங்கு!*

The Department of French organised a memorable evening of song and dance: LIANE - Soiree Francaise. The Consul General of France at Pondicherry did us the rare and signal honour of coming into the city specially to attend the evening. Various dignitaries who attended included the French Attache Linguistique, the director of the Alliance Francaise, the Heads of the Departments of French of the University of Madras and Madurai Kamaraj, members of the faculty of other city colleges and other French nationals.

The students of the Departments of French and Sanskrit presented a marvellous show with French songs, dances and plays interspersed with Indian classical songs and dances and Sanskrit slokas. Encouraging messages of congratulations received from across the globe (former Principals and Heads of The Department of French, The French Embassy and Consulate) were read out in the course of the evening.

The French embassy gifted the college library with over fifty books on the occasion and Alliance Francaise of Madras gifted us nineteen hard bound books. The evening came to a close with a sumptuous tea during which an animated interaction took place.

A meeting on Inter-Faith Harmony was organised on the evening of 11-1-97 by Inter-Faith Dialogue group in the college. Inter-Faith dialogue is close to the heart of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and it was only fitting that such a programme should be part of the celebrations - a small step towards restoring dialogue and harmony in a country that has forgotten the meaning of the word *secular*. The programme which was open to the public, included talks by representatives of the three major

religions of the country- Hinduism, Christianity and Islam, as well as participation from the Parsi, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist communities. The meeting which was held in St. Francis Hall, was presided over by Dr Lalitha Kameshwaran, Vice Chancellor, Dr Ramachandra Medical University, and member of the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission.

The invocation from the Canticle of St. Francis, underlined universal harmony and brotherhood, which Dr Sr Annamma Philip elaborated on in her welcome address. She spoke strongly of the need to appreciate the richness of diversity, and to make a feeling of Indianness an integral part of our lives. She also dwelt on the fact that since mankind shares a faith in a Supreme God, these faiths should converge to create unity and harmony. The members of the Sikh community gave a rendering of the *Shabad*. This well-known hymn enumerates the various names given to God only to point out that though different religious faiths address Him differently, He remains the One and the same God.

The three main speakers, in their messages on the essence of their own religions, sought to show that all faiths are one in their emphasis on the basic values of truth, love and honesty. Prof. Swaminathan, who spoke on the essence of Hinduism, preferred to refer to it as Sanatana Dharma. He stressed its four basic values which are common to all religions - tolerance, order, longing for peace, and spiritual bliss. Placing the Sanskrit sloka *Sarve Sanaha Bhavantu* (May everyone be happy) in the Indian social context, he spoke movingly and eloquently of our country, where millions of people live in poverty.

Mr. Faizur Rehman Sayeed, Advocate, Madras High Court clearly set forth the salient features of Islam. Basing his talk on verses from the Quran, he showed that Islam not only encourages inter-faith harmony, but also draws attention to the gravity of religious intolerance. Concerned about the growing misrepresentation of the Muslim community, he quoted from the Quran to show that far from encouraging religious intolerance, Islam in fact, states that no religion has a monopoly of truth.

Dr Sr Helen Vincent, former Principal of Stella Maris College, spoke on the essence of Christianity with special reference to the virtue of love. Christ's all encompassing love for humanity leaves no room for trivial and divisive difference. Drawing on her own spiritual experience she spoke of the concept of sacrifice which benefits the entire community.

Mr. Kailash Dugar, in offering felicitations to the college on behalf of the Jain community, recalled the fundamental Jain principles of right belief, right knowledge and right conduct. Mr. Anban, representing the Buddhist community, played a recording of the *Bhavatu Sarva Mangalam*, and presented the college with a beautifully bound and illustrated copy of the *Dhammapada*.

The Presidential Address, by Dr Lalitha Kameshwaran, was a strong plea for inter religious dialogue and unity. She defined religion as *a formula for disciplining people*, and quoted similar verses from the Bhagvad Gita, the Quran and the Bible which showed that prayer, in whatever form, is *an inward journey, a spiritual quest*. She stressed the importance of the soul, pointing out that this is central to all faiths. The spirit of the evening's programme reached a climax with the bhajan singing led by Sr Esther Rani, which was a prayer to a Universal God for peace and harmony.

*Higher Education in India - Relevance and Challenges* was the theme of the two-day national seminar held on January 31 and February 1, 1997. The seminar was unusual in that it brought together the seven departments of Economics, History, Commerce, Literature, Sociology, Fine Arts and Social Work, in an inter disciplinary response to the challenges of higher education. An audience of students

and staff both from the host institution and from other colleges in the city listened to distinguished academics from all over the country. The experts spoke with clarity and conviction, allowing students who have little access to disciplines not their own, an entry into another world.

Dr G D Sharma, Secretary, University Grants Commission, who delivered the keynote address went to the heart of the matter in emphasizing how much a change in the present outmoded affiliating structure was needed to achieve quality in higher education. He spoke on the importance of devolving initiative to teachers and students. Everywhere else in the world *it is teachers who determine what is to be taught*, said Dr Sharma who took the liberal view that academicians should consider the use and not the possible misuse of greater freedom.

Dr A M Nallagoundan, Professor and former head of Department of Econometrics, University of Madras talked on *The Relevance and Estimation of Returns to Higher Education in India*. He startled the audience with the revelation that though in common perception, higher education brings higher monetary rewards, economists have been unable to substantiate this hypothesis. Degrees help the potential employer to sift unsuitable candidates and they merely signal the potential for employment in the better educated. Unemployment, he felt, could be reduced, but never ended.

Dr T K John, Professor, Vidya Jyothi, New Delhi, challenged the audience in the session that followed, with questions rather than answers in his account of *Challenges of the Historian in Higher Education in the Twenty First Century*. Pointing to evidence from contemporary history, he held that education has not succeeded in breaking the shackles of tradition, leading to a more just society.

In the post-lunch session Professor S. Swaminathan of The Hindu, advocated a complete overhaul of the B Com syllabus, orienting it towards industry rather than conventional accountancy. He advocated sweeping changes in conventional evaluation methods. Responding to a question on finance, he expressed the view that those who benefited from a course should bear the costs. Quality education, for which a society had to pay more, was certainly preferable to cheap and shoddy courses.

The second day of the seminar began with the presentation *The Challenges of Sociology in the Context of Globalisation* by Dr T K Oommen, Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Work Systems, JNU, Delhi. In his short conceptual history of Sociology, Dr Oommen dwelt upon the development of the concept of globalisation out of previously held positions that were trichotomous and dichotomous. Dr Oommen, through examples, demonstrated the suspicion with which these terms and categories ought to be treated, as they were not ideologically innocent, but products of colonialism, society brought about by technology and advanced communications. The teaching of Sociology therefore, he said, should not ignore plurality and hybridity, nor should it succumb to *the end of history thesis* with its simplistic and progressist ideology; the teaching of Sociology, must address reality that is multifaceted.

Dr Meenakshi Mukherjee, Head of the Department of English, JNU, speaking on *English Studies in the Era of Globalisation* traced the change in the position English studies have occupied in the academy, since the Macaulay Minute on Education in 1831. From an Arnoldian position of literature as *high culture* today with globalisation, literature has become a product of the very forces of the market place it once feared, with the literary hardsell. Syllabi today are shaped by market places that create the author, even as considerations of gender, class and ethnicity continue to interrogate the canon. She called for the re-examining of syllabi that would include translation and culture studies.

Dr Shobita Punja, in a plea for art education in higher education declared, *we need art critics, conservationists and creative artists. We also need to rescue art history from western historians and to formulate*



*Indian Aesthetics.* In her response to questions about evaluation of art, Dr Punja declared that *competitive* approaches to art should be transcended, the student artist being her own most demanding critic. Art and our heritage should not succumb to defacement and neglect due to faulty notions of development.

Dr Joe Arimpoor, Director of Birdy, Hyderabad, the speaker at the final session, explored the way in which schools and colleges today deny creativity, and propagate anti-social values among the young. Higher Education, he pointed out, was deficient in its support of democracy, secularism and social justice. Integration of mastery and mystery were important for higher education.

The College Day Celebrations are an annual much awaited tradition in Stella Maris. This year it was particularly significant as this was the Golden Jubilee College Day. March 8, 1997 a day that was remarkably appropriate for an occasion such as this, as it is celebrated the world over as International Women's Day, dawned bright and clear. A sunny morning saw the last of the festoons being put into place, a final inspection for anything that might have been inadvertently overlooked and the college was set for an evening that was both solemn and festive. Her Excellency Ms Fathima Beevi, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, presided over the function that began at 5.30 p.m. in the presence of a host of dignitaries including Sr Mary Rose, Provincial Superior.

The invocation and prayer were followed by felicitations by Sr Mary Rose who read out a Special congratulatory message from Rev Sr Christiane, Superior General of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Rome.

Dr Sr Annamma Philip then presented the Principal's Report. Her Excellency, delivered an eloquent address enumerating the strides achieved in women's empowerment since independence. She congratulated the college for its dedication to the cause of women's education and gave a stirring message of hope to the youth of today.

The Honour Roll was then called and the best and the brightest received the laurels garnered in the course of the academic year from Her Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Sr Christine Antony and Dr Yesodha Doraiswamy, the retiring faculty, received their mementos to loud applause. Her Excellency then gave mementos to the four Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who contributed to and dedicated their lives to the service of the college, Sr Jeanne de France, Sr Claude, Sr Edith Tomory and Dr Eileen Riordan.

The cultural programme that followed was a multi media presentation of the Golden years of Stella Maris. Through visual presentation, live narration, dance and song the history of Stella Maris was brought to life and unfolded before the enthralled audience of over 4000 who were rooted to their chairs until the end of the hour long programme. To the strains of the national anthem and a final burst of colourful, starry crackers the evening drew to a close.

## *Stella Maris College Golden Jubilee Scholarships*

During the Golden Jubilee year the following Scholarships have been instituted each with a principal of Rs. 30,000/- The interest on these will be awarded to deserving students every year on a merit cum means basis. The College management is immensely grateful to the donors of these scholarships for their generous support in the cause of education.

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scholarship</i>	<i>Instituted by</i>
1.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri. V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship	Mr. V.T. Somasundaram (In memory of Founder Chairman & Managing Director, Trichy Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd)
2.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship	- do -
3.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sri V.S. Tyagaraja Mudaliar Scholarship	- do -
4.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Malavika Scholarship	Mr. M. Lankalingam
5.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan Scholarship	Dr. S. Pratibha
6.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Lankall S. Murugesu Scholarship	Mr. S. Murugesu
7.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore Scholarship	Archbishop Dr. Arul Das James Archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore
8.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Pushpam Anthony Motha Scholarship	Mr. & Dr. Mrs. Alexander
9.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shreedhar Rajan Scholarship	Mr. Shreedhar Rajan
10.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shalini Scholarship	Mr. Joseph Sundaraj
11.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Smt. Nalli Kannammal Scholarship	Dr. Nalli Kuppaswamy Chetty
12.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Dr. Padmanabhan Scholarship	Mrs. Soundara Ramaswamy

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scholarship</i>	<i>Instituted by</i>
13.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Thiru G.K. Moopnar Scholarship	Thiru G.K. Moopnar President, Tamil Manila Congress
14.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mrs. Saroja Srinivasan Scholarship	Ms. P. Hema Kilpauk, Chennai.
15.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Hydraulics Limited Scholarship	Hydraulics Ltd., Alandur, Chennai.
16.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mayor Radhakrishnan Scholarship	Mr. M. Gopalakrishnan Former Chairman, Indian Bank.
17.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Kailath George Scholarship	Mr. K.C.D. George Chetpet, Chennai.
18.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr Celine Paul Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary - Madras Province
19.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Sr. Rose Abraham Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary - Madras Province
20.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Students Union 1995-96 & 1996-97 Scholarship	Students of 1995-96 & 1996-97, Stella Maris College
21.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. Sunny K. Peter Scholarship	Mr. Sunny Peter The International Hotel, Kochi - Kerala.
22.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cherian Scholarship	Mr. Thomas Cherian (In memory of Biny M. Cherian)
23.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mother Klemens Scholarship	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary - Stella Maris Convent.
24.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Shri P. Chandrasekara Kurup and Smt. Suraja C. Kurup Scholarship	Ms. Radhika Madhavan & Ms. Chitra Krishnan, Chennai.
25.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Alumnae Association Scholarship	Alumnae Association - Stella Maris College.
26.	The SMC Golden Jubilee Mr. & Mrs. Bhavanarayana Scholarship	Virgo Carbon Ceramics Chennai.

## *Principals of Stella Maris College*

It was under the direction of Mother Klemens, Superior of St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore, and Vicar Provincial in Madras that Stella Maris was founded in 1947. An able administrator, she guided the College as Principal in charge until January 1948.

Mother Lillian, fmm	Jan 1948 - 1955
Mother Prionsias, fmm	1955 - 1961
Mother Carla Rosa, fmm (Sr Luigia Vittoria Alini)	1961 - Aug. 1966
Sr Joseph Michael, fmm (Sr Sheila O'Neill)	Sept. 1966 - 1968
Sr Juliet Irene, fmm (Sr Irene Mathias)	1968 - 1978
Sr Helen Vincent, fmm	1978 - 1990
Sr Annamma Philip, fmm	1990 -

## *Superior & Correspondent*

Mother Klemens, fmm	1947 - 1948
Mother Lillian, fmm	1948 - 1949
Mother Raymond, fmm	1949 - 1954
Mother Ransom, fmm	1954 - 1955
Mother Oliveria, fmm	1955 - 1961
Mother Carla Rosa, fmm (Sr Luigia Vittoria Alini)	1961 - 1966
Mother Basil, fmm (Sr Elizabeth Ann)	1966 - 1968
Sr Angela Hurley, fmm	1968 - 1972
Sr Juliet Irene, fmm (Sr Irene Mathias)	1972 - 1978

(During 1976 - 1986 there were 3 Superiors and 3 communities and from 1986 onwards there are 2 Superiors and 2 communities at Stella Maris Convent)

### *Superiors*

Sr Susan Kuriakose, fmm	1976 - 1982
Sr Christine Antony, fmm	1976 - 1982
Sr Celine Paul, fmm	1979 - 1982
Sr Merlyn D'Sa, fmm	1982 - 1986
Sr Colleen North, fmm	1982 - 1986
Sr Flavia, M., fmm	1982 - 1988
Sr Lily D'Souza, fmm	1986 - 1992
Sr Zena Perapadan, fmm	1988 - 1989
Sr Mary Ann, fmm	1990 - 1996
Sr Rita Marneni, fmm	1992 - 1995
Sr Christine Antony, fmm	1995 - 1997
Sr Leony Dhanaswamy, fmm	1996 -
Sr Helen Vincent, fmm	1997 -

### *Correspondent / Secretary*

Sr Susan Kuriakose, fmm	1978 - 1982
Sr Helen Vincent, fmm	1982 - 1990
Sr Mary Ann, fmm	1990 -

### *Vice-Principals of Stella Maris College*

Mother Sylvester, fmm	1947 - 1948
Mother Edith, fmm	1948 - 1955
Mother Carla Rosa, fmm	1955 - 1961
Mother Ria of Jesus, fmm	1961 - 1963
Sr Joseph Michael, fmm (Sr Sheila O'Neill)	1963 - 1966 1968 - 1974
Sr Juliet Irene, fmm	1966 - 1968
Sr Helen Vincent, fmm	1974 - 1978
Sr Susan Kuriakose, fmm	1978 - 1979
Sr Merlyn D'Sa, fmm	1979 - 1985
Sr Annamma Philip, fmm	1985 - 1990

(From 1989 onwards there are two Vice-Principals)

Sr Mary John, fmm	1989 - 1994
Dr Mrs Meera Paul	1990 - 1993
Mrs Gigie Varghese	1993 - 1995
Sr Flavia M, fmm	1994 -
Dr Mrs Meena N. Swamy	1995 -

### *Controller of Examinations*

Mrs B. Jayalakshmi	1987 - 1992
Mrs Sushila Felix	1992 - 1995
Dr Geetha Swaminathan	1995 -



*The Chapel*



*Bonaventure Block*  
over 200 years old.

*Main Block*





*St. Francis Hall*

*The new administrative block to be inaugurated*



*The Open Air Theatre*



*Apparently secluded but this remains  
God Sees Block*



*The Library*

*St. Joseph's Hostel*





*Superior General Sr Maura with Sr Juliet Irene, Dr Sr Merlyn D'Sa and Dr Sr Helen Vincent.*

1989

*Most Rev Dr Arul Das James, Archbishop, on the occasion of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.*

1994



*Visiting dignitary to the college, Dr Gnanam, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras.*

1989



*Shri T.N. Seshan,  
Chief Election Commissioner,  
in College to deliver the  
Indira Gandhi Endowment lecture  
1994*



*Mrs. Margaret Alva, Minister for Human  
Resources, Chief Guest, College Day  
March 1993*

*Shri K.J. Yesudas receiving the first copy  
of the audio cassette Sanjivani,  
produced by the students.  
1994*







*Shri R Venkataraman, former President of India, chief guest,  
college day.  
March 1995*



*The President of India Dr S D Sharma, receiving a copy of  
Sampreshan, a video cassette produced by the  
Department of Hindi*

1996



*The inauguration of the National Seminar to celebrate 50 years.*



*For a better community, the march against drug abuse*

*Interfaith Dialogue*







*The NCC*



*Street Theatre, NSS*



*Cricket Team : 1978*



*Alumnae Association :  
At Home Day*



*Alumnae Association :  
Executive Committee*

*Literacy Project :  
Sinclair Community College, U S A and  
Stella Maris College, India.*





*Faculty : Departments of Sciences and Languages*

1997



*Faculty: Departments of Arts and Commerce*

1997





*Administrative Staff*

1997



*Supportive Staff*

1997





*Staff Council 1997, Stella Maris College*



*Faculty*

*Computer Centre*



*Students' Union (1996-97)  
Stella Maris College,  
With Deans.*

## ***N E Rajalakshmi***

Head, Department of Botany (Retired)

It was my privilege to have worked and associated with this reputed institution for over thirty years. I congratulate Stella Maris on completing fifty years. I wish you many more years of service and academic excellence.

## ***Mrs. Helen Dasan***

Head, Department of English (Retired)

*Values in a valueless world* is the thought that keeps recurring in my mind ceaselessly. What is the use of teaching values, the cynic may say. But I feel firmly that if Stella Maris can send out ten girls who have imbibed a value system into the chaotic world, which I believe we do, then we have done a great job. Those ten girls will be the leaven that will transform the whole of India. It is not just getting a degree that makes you a Stella Marian, but it is also the beautiful campus, the lectures, the teachers and the subjects that the students learn and the extra curricular activities that they participate in – all these together make a Stella Marian.

A couple of months ago I met a highly placed man who lived in an ivory tower. He was totally insensitive to the needs of the economically poor, the outcasts, the deprived and the illiterate who were only a part of the scenario. He was a good man and he had to be told about the economically poor students whom we were trying to help. Finally, he admitted that he saw a great change in the attitude of his daughter to life and to people after she had been to Stella. It is better to evolve or mould ten educated persons, in the real sense than hundreds of students who acquire a degree merely to make a living.

The corridors of Stella Maris used to smell of the fragrance of jasmine. Let the purity, the fragrance and the delicacy of the flower linger and abide in our students always. We the lecturers of Stella Maris are privileged to share in the quality of eternal youth present in this beautiful college.

My prayer for Stella Maris is in tune with Mathew, 5:16 *Even so let your light shine before man that they may see your good work and glorify your Father.*





## ***Dr Meera R Paul***

Head, Department of Zoology (Retired)

I am filled with joy and gratitude to the Almighty for His abundant blessings on Stella Maris College.

Fifty years back, God had put it in the hearts of a few visionary sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to found a college in Madras to impart higher education for Indian women in a Christian environment. The fruit of their faith and obedience to their call is what we have today- Stella Maris College - one of the finest and much sought after institutions of higher education - respected in India and abroad.

I had been associated with the college for 41 years - 2 years (1952-1954) as a student of the intermediate class and 39 years (1957-96) as a faculty member. This makes me all the more proud and privileged to have been part of this great institution. I express my heartfelt gratitude to God and others who made this possible for me.

The college has consistently sent out of its portals a stream of responsible and useful women whose sense of dedication and integrity have enriched the lives of others in different walks of life.

On this joyous and memorable occasion, I send my warm greetings and sincere good wishes to the Management, Principal and all others - past and present - who have made this service to Indian women possible.

I pray that the Lord enlarge the college spiritually and academically, that it may be a greater blessing to India in the years to come.

May God bless you all.





## ***Dr Yesodha Doraiswamy***

Head of the Department of Chemistry (Retired)

I have been a part of Stella Maris for thirty one years. My preoccupation was the college - thinking and serving Stella.

I was indeed happy to see that our college was listed among India's top ten, in *India Today*. I wish Stella Maris a diamond jubilee and an excellent centenary even as she celebrates her golden jubilee.



## ***Dr Susheila Rhenius***

Chennai.

In my recollections of the days following my appointment as lecturer in Economics at Stella Maris, June 1948, the person I remember most is Mother Lillian. On one occasion she gently, but firmly reprimanded me for using the word luck. She said, *Susheila dear, there is no such thing as luck. Whatever happens is only by God's Divine Will.* To date I have many occasions to be reminded of this eternal truth. Mother Lillian also had a fine sense of humour. She called her first batch of economics students *The Venerable Five*. Believe me, they were only five in number!



## ***Dr Shobita Punja***

Delhi.

Q - What did Stella Maris College give you 25 years ago?

A - What greater gifts than these?

- a college free of fear in which to learn
- a classroom where love for a discipline and a vocation was born
- a meeting place to make life-long friends
- a stage on which to discover talents and play in innocence

## ***Malavika Vinod Kumar***

Chennai

Lovely nostalgic memories come back to me when I think of my student days in Stella Maris and when I remember my teachers. Stella Maris taught me many things. I owe what am today to my Alma Mater. *Hard work never goes waste; sincerity pays; do your work to the best of your ability and leave the rest to God* - these were not just sayings in books, but what I learnt practically during my stay at Stella Maris. I have tried to apply this in my life and I owe my life's success to my teachers, especially Dr Vijaya Parthasarathy.

When my sister who is thirteen years my junior had to decide on a college, we had no second thoughts. There may be many colleges which impart education- but only Stella Maris gives equal importance to character building too. Long live Stella Maris, the guiding star in the lives of thousands of teenagers.



## *Rasheeda Bhagat*

Business Line

Taking a nostalgic trip down memory lane is always a pleasurable experience... and this becomes multiplied manifold when that trip is the five years (1970-1975) that you spent in an institution which did so much for you... literally and figuratively.

I entered the B A Literature department of Stella Maris College as a shy, gawky youngster and left the institution after completing my post graduate course in 1975. Writing about such things, which are immensely dear and personal to one is a little difficult, and putting them down on paper sometimes makes them sound like cliches.

But believe me when I say that it is no exaggeration to state that whatever I have achieved in life today- 19 event-filled years in journalism; 18 at the Indian Express and the last one year at The Hindu Business Line- have been made possible because of the moulding my personality, character, and most of all, communication skills, received during my years at Stella.

During the last few years I have addressed small groups of students at various city colleges and the one question which is invariably asked by women students is why is it so difficult for women to enter the profession of journalism, compared to men. Specially when it comes to a place like Madras, or Chennai, if you wish to be politically correct.

It sounds strange even to myself when I say that in 1978 when I became an apprentice reporter with the Indian Express, I was the only woman reporter in Madras. Once I had overcome the awkwardness of standing out, in terms of mere gender, at a press conference or media briefing, I thoroughly began enjoying the extra attention I started getting at these events, much to the irritation, and sometimes even chagrin, of my male colleagues!

Yes, there were disadvantages and problems, as we are talking of a Madras city two decades ago. The city was still conservative and reporters have to keep irregular hours. One of the major problems I faced was one of transport as after a late evening assignment, and missing that last bus, I had no other option but to call my husband and ask him to pick me up from office!

I still vividly remember the cyclonic night when there was knee deep water in George Town (where I lived then) and my husband came to pick me up at the Parrys bus terminus with an umbrella just before midnight, as there was no way in which his two wheeler could have negotiated the road to Arts College junction.

Anyway, one has come a long way, literally and figuratively, from those days. Returning to the issue of women and journalism, it is really heartening to know that the media, in this conservative metropolis, had finally opened its doors to women, and you will today find many young women journalists in the field. In fact at Business Line our male colleagues complain that they are the endangered species!

But this is a real exception and women continue to face a lot of problems at the entry level as well as later on. Most of these gender related problems are of course common to all

professions as women have to strike a fine balance between managing the home and the work place. But the main problem faced by women in the communications, including advertisements- is the erratic working hours that this profession requires.

But once you overcome that hurdle, it is a fascinating profession for any youngster- gender no bar - to take. For one thing, there is hardly any monotony, because whether you're on the desk or in the field, the variety of topics that you will be handling is phenomenal and amazing in its wide range.

And if you are a reporter, the thrill is even more intense, because this profession offers you, as no other does, the opportunity to rub shoulders with the mightiest in the land. And that is perhaps one of the reasons why we journalists sometimes get so arrogant. I suppose the experience of rubbing shoulders with the rich and mighty in the land sometimes rubs off on us and we begin to forget the problems, dreams and aspirations of small people living in their small worlds.

But when I look back upon my 19 years in the profession, what I am proudest of today is not covering the press conference of a prime minister or interviewing a Jayalalitha or a Karunanidhi, but of those stories which made a difference to the lives of ordinary people. Like the Indian Express forming a special Educational Trust to help eight year old Malathi, the daughter of a leprosy patient from rural Tamil Nadu, realise her dream of becoming a district collector one day. Or a blind Ph.D. scholar getting her one year's arrears of the UGC grant following the publication of an article in the Express. Or the readers pouring in their solidarity, and along with it their humanity, through donations, however big or small, to help seven year old Payal Sarkar get not one, but two kidney transplants done. She is no more today, but her gutsy father Uttam Sarkar at least has the satisfaction of knowing that a journalist and a media organisation extended their helping hands to aid his marathon battle to save the life of his only child. And he managed to keep the battle- and along with it her life- going for over three years.

An issue which causes serious concern today is that newspapers and journalists are fast losing their credibility with the general populace. Gone are the days when people used to look at the printed word as the gospel truth. Shoddily investigated stories, hastily written reports without adequate verification, using your clout as a mediaperson to get favours - be it from politicians, bureaucrats or industrialists - among a host of other shortcomings, are serious issues which the profession needs to tackle today.

But the heartening thing is that we are at least aware that the so-called watchdogs of the nation need some cleansing from within. And for such a task what can be better than the entry of youngsters, who have passed from institutions which place such a high premium on ethics, principles and moral values, such as Stella Maris.

I might have passed out of Stella Maris in 1975 and I must confess that I haven't really played any role or given any time for the alumni association, but even today, wherever I go, if I meet a Stella Marian, there is such a glow within, and the very introduction takes me back to one of the most memorable periods of my life. It was a great institution then, and it remains a great institution now, and I salute the teachers who made this possible by their dedication and relentless work.



## Meera Kumar

Student Union President 1975-76

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1972-73, the college was celebrating its Silver Jubilee. There we were, the class of PU-7, like the amorphous clouds of a young galaxy, our personalities yet to take shape and mould themselves; but there were the exceptions - there was Bhanu, conversant with Dostoevsky and Tolstoy while Vasudha was already a composite individual. It gladdened the spirits of lesser mortals to see Alarmel Valli glide into the room in her dreamy pastels and Jayshree Rao so cheerfully out of depth in class because she was busy most of the time winning medals in athletics.

*The Beatnik and the Bard* the play that we presented at the inter-year play competition was the high point of the year. The PUs' of yore were a motley lot - maths, natural science and arts students. Anonymous, lacking a sense of strategy, we however cheerfully believed in democratic participation. The search was on for a special play. Ramila found one short enough to entertain, witty enough to raise a laugh and with enough roles to accommodate as many of us as possible. Lines like *my soul is like an empty milk bottle* and *her voice was ever soft, gentle and low; an excellent thing in a woman* were all thrown together in a plot thick with mistaken identities. The play took such a long time to be found that there was precious little left for rehearsals. Prompters were as numerous as the star studded cast. The audience in room O-8 thought this was all a ruse to raise more laughs and cheered us lustily.

Stella Maris had always boasted fine talent in drama. MCC was usually at an advantage with their mixed cast and adult themes. Padmini, who with her short hair cut and confident air could play the male role with consummate ease and Yani, with her not inconsiderable prowess were our trumps. The seniors convinced us that we were a dream team and promptly dispatched us (a la *The Charge of the Light Brigade*) to perform at the OAT in IIT Madras for the inter-collegiate competition. In our innocence we really believed that we had everything-good lines, a good cast and great morale. Never mind the mikes that were too high or the audience that was too far and not quite as sympathetic as the one in O-8.

A true Stella Marian is unfazed by criticism. On a different occasion at IITM, a girl had to drive a donkey (another girl) around the stage. The not so brilliant dialogue *Patience donkey, patience* got an unedifying response. Turning icily to the audience, the girl continued *Patience, DONKEYS, patience* as she retreated from the stage.

Funds in the best of circumstances are never adequate and our situation was almost farcical with a student union subscription of Rs. 2 that took its own sweet time reaching the kitty.

So much so, the ritual of entertaining the chief guests and judges of the various social and cultural events of the college union was literally a Chinese tea party - long on ceremony and short on substance. Only Rita D could have carried it off with such courage and aplomb.

Entering the English department involved close encounters of the third kind with Sister Sheila. With the eye of a basilisk she would scrutinize the credentials of each of us. A love of P G Wodehouse or Leslie Charteris counted for nothing. It betrayed a lack of *high seriousness* in taste. Nevertheless, after some anxious moments, she would let us through.

When Valli later told me that she was urged to put her dalliance with dance on hold, we understood that it was a ploy to impart a sense of urgency to the main business of studies - a case of being cruel only to be kind.

Those were the early years of inter-collegiate youth festivals - music and debate. Sudha Ragunathan, Sashi Menon and Jayanthi Natarajan were among those active on the scene. Memories of Valli in her bright yellow costume with red jari lace, as she danced with the lightness of a gazelle, remain vivid. A generation later, she now inspires my daughters, who are keen students of Bharatanatyam.

The Star of the Sea shines on.

Good old Jean continues with the department and Chitra Krishnan radiates a rare joie de vivre in the French department. Sivagami is busy teaching and researching in Maryland near Washington. Geetha Ramanathan, after her doctorate, is a tenured professor at West Chester University. She has written a book on the portrayal of women in ten contemporary plays from George Buechner's *Woyzeck* to David Hare's *Plenty*. The ten plays that she studies have traditionally been seen as extraordinarily innovative and progressive. She explores the hypothesis that even progressive male playwrights are unable to ignore the cultural norms while portraying their female characters. Sandhya, after a fairly long innings as a journalist, is now helping Indu publish books for children. Padu Ram is in Venezuela. She is a prized member of an English language Institute there. Her location has enabled her to trek through the rain forests and view the Angel Falls. Unstable currency and volatile political climate notwithstanding, Nature continues to operate in a sublime manner. When in Chennai, her husband tells us hilarious stories of how in Venezuela it is the bosses that run early to the office and compete to be the last to leave.

Saturday, the 9th of August, 1997: Sandy and I tottered over to the college for an old students' meet. The gray hair was in place but we thought that we would skip the glasses and the walking sticks! But two sprightly young ladies from the batch of 1947 beat us to it.

### ***Jayanti S Ravi, I.A.S.***

Himatnagar.

It has indeed been a great privilege for me to be associated with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our Alma Mater. Invited to participate in the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Stella Maris last year, I remember looking back fondly at the lovely years spent here in this green campus which has grown even more majestic over the years. I clearly recall how this great institution inculcated a sense of dignity, patience and perseverance in whatever one did and it was here in this stimulating, competitive yet inspiring environment that one developed a deep strength of conviction and commitment to service.

As a district officer implementing various programs, I have found that the social, educational, economic and political status of women is very poor and quite far from what it ought to be except in very rare cases. During various crisis, natural or man made, women and children have been the most vulnerable section of the population. While their condition has distressed

me, I have also felt that many of us are in a position to alleviate their suffering. Since we have drawn greatly from society to reach where we are, should we not attempt to repay this debt to society? I appeal to all of us to ponder over this.

Today, one finds Stella Marians excelling in almost all walks of life.

I convey my best wishes to the college and hope and pray that it continues to shape and sensitize thousands of young women *grooming* them, as it were, to take on the challenges of life with dignity, grace and faith in Him.

### ***Jessica Gnanadickan***

Sydney

Special Greetings from Sydney, Australia, to my Alma Mater, Stella Maris College on the legendary 50 years.

Stella Maris has always been, for me, my second home. Having spent the best part of my life at Stella both as student and teacher I look back fondly at the wonderful years, the learning, the teaching, the friendships, the strong bonds and the special memories.

Here's wishing the College many more years in the fulfilment of the mission of higher education.

### ***Margaret Christopher James nee Chelliah***

### ***Rosabelle Thangiah nee Azariah***

Batch of 1947

As the pioneer students of Stella Maris we remember and cherish the pleasant memories of our college in the late 1940s. Those precious memories still bring fragrance and inspiration into our lives. We used to travel by tram from Luz to Santhome and paid five paise as fare. We received excellent, individualised instruction. We were pampered. We loved each moment of our college days.



## ***Sakuntala Abhiraman***

Batch of 1953

In mathematics we say infinity minus infinity is infinity. This is true of Stella Maris. The more and more resources you take out from this college, the more and more she seems to possess. How many batches of students would have come out in flying colours, occupying high positions in various fields! How proud this college should feel! The Golden Jubilee is an event of great joy. This joy can only be experienced and not explained. May God shower His grace and make this institution grow from strength to strength.

## ***Kousalya Murali***

Chennai

It gives me immense pleasure to recapitulate the wonderful days I had in Stella for six eventful years. Going down memory lane, I remember entering the college when it was celebrating its Silver Jubilee in 1972. As an eager and enthusiastic teenager, I entered college with great anticipation and greater dreams. The Lecturers and Professors were strict but nevertheless very maternal. The college prepared me to face challenges in life with a very strong foundation.

It gave confidence, poise and above all excellent values which have stood me in good stead through various good and not-so-good phases in life. I made some of my best friends here and found the meaning of true friendship in the portals of this college.

Those wonderful days would never come back but fond memories of the carefree laughter-filled days interspersed with days spent in worrying over tests and assignments, over the future and above all over various new relationships linger forever in every student's memory.

The message that I would like to pass on to the present and future students is that the golden student days should be spent usefully and meaningfully without missing out on the fun and frolic. There should always be a judicious mix of work and play.

I wish all past, present and future Stella Marians a very joyful and happy Golden Jubilee and wish the college many more such events.



## ***Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar***

Chennai

As an alumni of Stella Maris College, I am proud of my Alma Mater and it is even more appropriate that the Golden Jubilee of my great institution coincides with the golden jubilee of independent India. This is indeed a great moment of joy and triumph, for my tryst with a successful musical career started when I was a student of Stella Maris. The encouragement given to my cultural aspiration to become a performing flautist at Stella Maris will always be cherished by me.

I cannot help feeling, if only our nation had shown the same honesty, integrity of character, religious fervour and courage of conviction as Stella Maris has shown, how different we would have been.



## ***Chandra Vijayaraghavan***

Chief Chemist,  
King Institute, Chennai.

Stella Maris is the star of the sea, guiding anyone who comes in contact. Stella Marians all over the world belong to one family. Here is a college that has always taught each one of us unity in diversity, kindled in us a spirit of enquiry, prepared us to face the world positively, with her golden touch. The Principals with their able teams have made college life a process of growth for each one of us. It is with a sense of utmost happiness and justifiable pride that I have watched the growth of Stella Maris.





## ***Sharan Apparao***

Director, Le Gallery, Chennai.

I am proud to be an alumni of Stella Maris.

I had my best years of fun while studying there.

Today I face the world in an absolutely unconventional business. Whatever I learnt in my experiences there, comes back to me.

My message to all the young girls is *never say die* and go after what you want, be it in college or later.

Whatever seems impossible becomes a reality only if you try.

Good luck for the future.

## ***Vidya Nagarajan***

Chennai.

Studying in Stella Maris (1991-94 B.Com) was a great feeling. I am very proud to have been part of this institution. The foundation received from my alma mater has helped me secure the All India 19th rank in the final exam of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Every Stella Marian should really consider herself gifted to be in *The Cloisters* in this Golden Jubilee Year.



## ***Tessy Vas***

Holbrook, England

While I was visiting Madras briefly in May, I met Agnes Fernando who gave me all the information about my old college. I was a student there in the 70's and graduated in 1973 B.A. Lit. I later did my teacher's training in Stella Matutina. I married and left India in 1976. Since then I have travelled all over Europe with my husband who was in the British Military. We went to visit Mother Klemens in Austria shortly before she died. We have kept in touch with several FMM sisters in London, Dublin and Canada.

I have fond memories of the years I spent at Stella Maris and wish my old college all the very best in the future.

## ***Sunanda S Rao***

Basavangudi, Bangalore

On the eve of GOLDEN JUBILEE celebrations of my Alma Mater, I humbly salute my past preceptors for having moulded me into a good being, inculcating the noble principles of virtue, truth and honesty. The knowledge imparted by my professors, coupled with my hard and sincere work made me earn not only a master's degree (Maths) but also progress further to become a successful Chartered Accountant. I am sure there are many more compatriots who share these thoughts dwelling in my mind. I wish the college many more years of success and pray Almighty that it plays a stellar role in bringing out brilliant scholars of sterling character and noble principles that are enshrined in the constitution of the college.

## *Dr Rathi Jaffer*

English Studies Officer, British Council, Chennai,

Presidential Address at the old students reunion in August 1997.

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Reverend Sr Provincial Superior, Sr Mary Rose, Rev Sr Irene and Rev Sr Helen Vincent, former Principals, Dr Sr Annamma Philip, Principal Stella Maris College and President of the Alumni Association, Dr Sr Flavia, Vice Principal Stella Maris and Vice President of the Alumni Association, Department Heads and their respective faculty members, respected members of the alumni and my dear Stella Marians, what a pleasure to be here this morning! At the outset let me say thank you for inviting me to speak about a topic that is so close to my heart, at a place that is so etched in my memory. I am almost tempted, like the famous Arundhati Roy to say that this talk just happened. But then moments like this never just happen. There is the undeniable past leading onto the unknown future and somewhere in between there is a burning present, a happening like this one. Time frames collapse as I stand here before you to take that proverbial journey down memory lane.

I never simply happened to be a Stella Marian, I grew into one. Even as a child studying at Doveton Corrie, I used to look in awe at the lucky few who walked through the gates on Cathedral Road. What was it like on the other side of the wall? That was a question that was answered over the years. As aunts and older friends savoured the Stella experience I watched expectantly, eagerly gathering up the morsels that fell off a conversational piece. As I waited at the tail end of discussions, I became familiar with a rich tradition of truth and charity, responsibility and zeal. These lessons of yore could have easily fossilised into empty platitudes. Only they didn't. For in the July of 1981, I was given the opportunity to actually live by those convictions. Truth and Charity, simple yet profound, simply profound, profoundly simple - the combinations and permutations are endless. What mattered then, as it does now, is the directional goal that these words gave to my life. Suddenly, I was a Stella Marian. I was within these haloed walls; I was indeed initiated.

What followed were fun-filled, activity-spilled days, days that rolled along at an unrelenting pace. From the firmness of academic discipline to the freedom of discovery; from the thrill of competitions to the greater glory of learning; from debates, seminars or simple student-teacher tussles, to mastering the art of silent self access study, to be young and to be a Stella Marian was very heaven! I have always found the spirit of inquiry in this college, tending over classrooms and corridors, in the quaint chapel and the busy canteen in the playing fields and in the mental landscape. I do not mean to sentimentalise these issues simply by virtue of the fact that I proclaim, often from rooftops, that I am a Stella Marian. It was not the fabulous track record of this institution alone that drew me through its portals. I saw here an openness of mind, an encouragement of the senses, an opportunity for all round development that enraptured me. As I sat through my interview on that warm July afternoon I felt myself drawn as a moth to a flame. As I gleaned the College handbook, I found myself identifying effortlessly with its goals, and I quote

*To develop in students an intellectual curiosity, an eagerness for life-time learning and the ability to put their knowledge to creative use; to help students to discover their potential and channelize them to form an integrated personality; to form women of*

*character, convinced of moral principles and courageous in action; to sensitise students to a deeper awareness of the social reality of the country, training them to act responsibly in relation to themselves and to others.*

Lifetime learning, channelizing potential, character formation and sensitising responses - values that I internalised thanks to this, my Alma Mater. Yes Stella did get me in touch with myself. The act of learning was always a proactive experience, never a dull hand-me-down. I found within me an ocean of potential that I never knew even existed. And every day in the college was an opportunity to shape character. From the morning prayer to the vigour of classroom interaction, from giggly lunch hours to the quiet of the library, from the tumble of the sporting arena to the pitch of competitions, for five years, everyday, day after day, I learnt. And as I learnt I grew; grew to appreciate this unique blessing that was bestowed on me to be a member of this vibrant educational institution.

This brings me on to what is perhaps the most striking objective of the College - to sensitise and bring about a deeper awareness of the self in relation to society. Fifty years on seems an appropriate distance from which we can take stock of this phenomenon called independence. We feel we have crossed or are crossing a landmark. My question is *to what avail?* Five decades on and are we really free? Free from want; from hunger; from prejudice; from avarice; from preconceptions? Have we really brought down the narrow domestic walls that hem in our thoughts and colour our vision? Was this the land that beckoned a new dawn when from the ramparts of Parliament house, Pandit Nehru proclaimed, *as the world sleeps, India awakens to freedom and to life.* Why have the clear streams of reason dwindled to polluted droplets, redtaped and bound? Is this Tagore country where knowledge is free?

The answer dear friends revolves around the issue of sensitivity. We seem to have become accustomed to drinking in violence with our morning cups of tea. From newspapers to the media show, we have somehow immunised ourselves to the onslaught of daily casualties, calamities and cruelties. Between people, between countries, between continents. We saw the Gulf War and heard of Bofors, we were temporarily horrified by the grand Scam, we were partially awake to the atrocities of ethnic cleansing, we sighed a little over terrible natural calamities. But were we really all there or did we, ostrich-like, bury our head in the sand and wish that our troubles would blow away? And even if none of us can never concretely ease away the pain, just being alert to the problem, simply being proactive in our thoughts and actions, sometimes simply being aware, makes all the difference. That is the spirit of inquiry that this college nurtures. To open the mind's eye and thence to be free.

Through the flux of events, it is heartening to find a still centre that has endured the passage of time. As the country was ushered into a new dawn, Stella Maris was born, another midnight's child but one that lived by its promises. There have been many other changes. From class timings to semester patterns, from affiliation to autonomy, from isolated courses to credit hours, the academic and administrative changes have been significant pointers of a democratic outlook of this college and its ability and foresight to adapt. And that has always been the forte of Stella Maris. Change, adaptability, reliability benchmark standards of an institution that turns out women of character by the thousands every year, year after year. And all of this and more without compromising on the core values of truth and charity.

It seems a long time since I set sail. Eleven years ago I sat at the other end of this room. Standing here today, I feel somehow, that the wheel has come full circle. If I have been able to look back and on ahead, it is Stella that taught me that fine art. For, the values imparted by this institution acts as a bulwark against which we rest when stormy seas of events, words, thoughts and deeds, inadvertently said or deliberately initiated, threaten to unnerve and throw us off track. Unfailingly, a star shines through, providing that cheery, reassuring light at the end of every tunnel. And I'm sure that I am not alone when I say that on that odd occasional moment we have all followed that star to safety and to peace.

As for me, every time I come back to Stella Maris, it is a homecoming. I come home to rest at a still centre, to rejuvenate my spirits and so to fly.



**STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP & OTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT  
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*Her Excellency the Governor of  
Tamil Nadu, Justice M. Fathima Beevi  
on College Day, 8 March 1997.*

*The traditional Birthday Cake  
50 Years - 15 August 1997*



*The blessing of the new canteen  
by Rev Fr Dr Kurien Thomas  
15 August 1997*



*Dr. J. Thangamani,  
former Head, Department of  
Mathematics being felicitated on the  
occasion of the Golden Jubilee*



*Dignitaries at the Golden Jubilee  
Celebration, 20 August 1997:  
Dr Muthukumaran, Secretary, State  
Council for Higher Education, Chennai,  
Dr A.C. Muthiah, Vice Chairman  
and President, SPIC, Ms M. Sheela Priya,  
IAS, Secretary to the Governor,  
Tamil Nadu, with the Principal  
Dr Sr Annamma Philip, fmm*

*Shri K.S. Mani, Supportive Staff being  
felicitated on 25 years of service*



***Purno A. Sangma***  
Speaker Lok Sabha



17, August 1997

Societies which are mother-centred are peaceful, compassionate and enlightened. We need to establish such a society in our country. For the purpose, we have to empower women. The surest way to empower women is to provide them education.

This has exactly been the mission of the Stella Maris College, Chennai over its half century of service to the nation. I heartily felicitate the college in its Golden Jubilee.

I also salute, with all humility, the indefatigable spirit of the sisters of the Society of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (fmm) for transforming what started as a modest endeavour in a small building into a tall and proud landmark institution of national eminence.

***-Sd-***

***Purno A. Sangma***



## *The Golden Jubilee Celebration*

On 15 August 1997 Stella Maris College saluted the Tricolour and entered the spirit of the Jubilee, praying for reconciliation, forgiveness and purification. The air was thick with hymnal chants, incense and camphor, as the entire college offered prayers for peace and renewal.

It seemed as it were a historical record. The postal department brought out a cancellation to recognize the institution. The cancellation on a special cover designed by the college, was released by the Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu, Shri Theodore Bhaskaran at the Independence Day-Golden Jubilee Celebration on the 15th morning, over which Dr V.C. Kulandaiswamy, former Vice Chancellor, Anna University presided.

Here was an occasion for celebration. The new canteen was blessed by our chaplain Father Kurien Thomas, following which the students had a parade and a float- what better than the sail! There was singing and dancing and jubilation. There was a 5-layered cake and a community repast. It was indeed a blessed day, of laughter and vibrancy, and a validation of fifty years of existence.

Since Aug. 15, 1947 our country India and Stella Maris College have shared unique bonds of historical tradition having come into being as independent entities on that memorable day. The college organised a spectacular commemorative function on Aug. 20, 1997 at 5.30 p.m. at the open air theatre on campus.

The chief guest was to have been the Hon'ble speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma who being indisposed was unable to come. Dr Muthukumaran, Secretary, State Council for Higher Education, Chennai and Former Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University kindly consented to preside.

The galaxy of guests of honour included His Grace Dr Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, Dr A.C. Muthiah, Vice-Chairman and President, SPIC, Chennai, Dr Mani Jacob, General Secretary, AIACHE, New Delhi, Ms M. Sheela Priya, IAS, Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu, all of whom offered their warm and appreciative felicitations.

On this occasion the college had the honour of assembling together all the members of the Faculty, Administrative and Supportive staff who have put in more than 25 years or more of service to the institution. This list includes 20 retired members of the faculty, 14 current members of the faculty, 9 retired members of the non-teaching staff and 8 current members of the non-teaching staff. They were felicitated by Sr Mary Rose, fmm, the Provincial Superior of the Madras Province. The two former principals of the college Dr Sr Helen Vincent, fmm, and Sr Irene Mathais, fmm, were also felicitated. Citations were read by Ms Jean Fernandez, Faculty of the English Department, to two former members of the faculty Dr. Sr Helen Vincent, and Dr Mrs Radha Paul on their being conferred the Tamil Nadu State Government Award in recognition of their services to the cause of the Higher Education.

The evening was made even more unique by the presence of 3 special invitees who had the privilege of belonging to the very first batch of students of the college i.e. 1947-1949: Ms P. Sundari, Ms. Rosabelle, and Ms Margaret.

The Special feature of the Golden Jubilee Celebration was the release of :

- The Golden Jubilee Souvenir - by Dr A.C. Muthiah  
1st copy received by the  
Chief Guest Dr Muthukumaran
- The Video Cassette entitled  
*The Stella Marian Saga*  
*On the Road to the Future* - by His Grace Dr Arul Das James  
Received by Sr Mary Rose
- Swaranim Bharat-*  
Dr Mrs Madhu Dhawan,  
Head Dept of Hindi  
(Frank Brothers, New Delhi) - by Dr Mani Jacob  
Received by  
Dr Ms Darley Verghese Former Head,  
Dept. of Hindi.
- Principles of Environmental Chemistry* - by Dr Mani Jacob  
Dr Ms Geetha Swaminathan  
(Bi Publications) Received by Dr A.C. Muthiah
- Allied Biochemistry -*  
Dr Ms Geetha Swaminathan &  
Dr Mrs Yeshodha Doraiswamy  
Dept. of Chemistry et al  
(Margham Publications) - by Dr Mani Jacob  
Received by Dr Sr Annamma Philip
- "Existential Estrangement in the Fiction of-  
Flannery O'Connor"*  
Dr Sr Flavia Mariapragasam  
Vice Principal and Head,  
UG Dept. of English  
(New Century Book House P Ltd.) - by Dr Mani Jacob  
Received by His Grace Dr Arul Das James
- Diskette - *Saras Guide for  
College Education -*  
Ms Rukmini Srinivasan  
Dept of Chemistry &  
Ms Sheela Subramaniam,  
Former Student, SMC - by Ms Sheela Priya  
Received by Ms Tara Mohan Rao  
Secretary, Alumni Association

The Evening's Programme began with a short but competently executed and much appreciated cultural programme by the students of the college. It included the singing of the Tamil Thai Vazthu, an invocation from the Vedas and a couple of patriotic songs in a variety of languages. The evening came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem rendered by the police band that was in attendance right through the evening.

And so as we look forward to the new millennium yet another chapter opens in the life and times of Stella Maris.

## *From The Visitor's Book*

It was a pleasure to visit this college which has made such magnificent progress in the short space of a couple of years. The buildings are spacious, well designed. I was particularly struck with the care taken to provide necessary amenities to the students, which are about the best I have seen anywhere in this university area. The students seem very happy. There is a good hostel provided for them. I am sure this institution will play a notable part in the promotion of women's education in this part of India and I wish the institution every success.

-Sd-

***Dr A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar***

Vice Chancellor, University of Madras

6 February 1950

It was a real joy to visit this college and we are grateful to the authorities for giving us this opportunity. We watched the students participating in the sports and during the stay what struck us most was the perfect understanding that existed between the staff and students. The girls were cheerful, free and quite at home with their teachers and at the same time showed great respect towards their superiors.

This beautiful college, though young, is undoubtedly playing a great part in the cause of women's education. We congratulate the reverend sisters most sincerely for the noble work they are doing and wish them and their students all happiness.

-Sd-

***Dr P.V. Cherian and Mrs Tara Cherian***

28 February 1953

It gave me great pleasure and happiness to visit Stella Maris College and to address the students. I was very much impressed with the good spirit of everything, especially with the family spirit which pervades the institution.

I wish the college, staff and students God's choicest blessings and every success.

-Sd-

***Most Rev Louis Mathias***

The Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

26 August 1953

I was happy to visit this morning the educational institutions conducted by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Mylapore where over three thousand girls are being formed as the future citizens of this country. I was particularly pleased to see Stella Maris, the university college, which in a short time has succeeded in meeting the cause of higher education of our young women.

May the Lord bless abundantly the labour of these sisters and direct the students under their charge to retain in their hearts what they receive in their minds.

-Sd-

***Most Rev Valerian Cardinal Gracias***

Archbishop of Bombay

19 October 1954

डॉ. जी. डी. शर्मा  
Dr. G. D. SHARMA

सचिव  
SECRETARY



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D.O.No.F.8-1/97(Secy.)

13 August 1997

Dear Dr Philip,

Preparations are afoot to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence and it is wonderful that Stella Maris College celebrates the Golden Jubilee this year and that too on the 15th of August.

Indian women have played their part in the freedom struggle. After independence too, they have made their mark in different fields. There may be innumerable problems and perhaps we have a long way to go, but we hope to succeed. It is important that our youth be given a value based education. Your college has an important role to play in educating our young girls. When they pass out from the college they will play an important role in our society.

I wish your college a successful march into the 21st century.

With regards.

Yours sincerely

(G.D. Sharma)

Dr (Sr) A. Philip, fmm  
Principal  
Stella Maris College  
17, Cathdral Road,  
Chennai - 600 086.

gold and blue continue to shine as the brightest star in the firmament of education! Let the devotion of the members of the staff ever remain full to the brim.

*-Sd-*

***Justic S. Mohan***

24 January 1981

Tonight, after the convocation ceremony, I conclude my two days spent in Stella Maris. Words can hardly express the joy that I feel in seeing how the little seed sown in 1947 has grown: my sisters from the country guiding with great competence and selfless dedication the academic work, the staff working in great union with them for the promotion of the students, the students themselves happy, full of fun, but still serious at their work, and eager to acquire knowledge!

My prayer and loving wishes will accompany the academic life of the college, grateful to God and the present college authorities for the happiness of this new encounter with dear Stella Maris.

*-Sd-*

***Sister Luigia Vittoria Alini, fmm***

24 January 1981

I was very happy to visit this college and preside over its annual day celebrations on the 23rd February. Stella Maris has a well-deserved reputation as one of the best institutions of higher learning in South India, excellent not only in academic standards but in its services for the all round development of the student's personality. I found the NCC guard of honour very smart and the cultural programme of exceptionally high standard.

I have no doubt that Stella Maris, with its devoted band of teachers and competent management, will continue to be a model of excellence in the years to come.

*-Sd-*

***His Excellency Dr P.C. Alexander***

Governor of Tamil Nadu

24 February 1990

This temple of learning for women in higher education is established in excellence and refinement. I am happy I came. The eminent Sr Principal and the learned faculty are totally dedicated for the great cause.

*-Sd-*

***Dr S. Lakshmi***

Vice Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University

14 February 1992

It has been a pleasure to be in the campus of Stella Maris College on Sports Day. I am thrilled at the talent exhibited in the events. My congratulations to the Principal, the Physical Directress



and other members of the faculty on their sustained efforts in the field of sports. The country looks to such good institutions such as Stella Maris for developing sports talent.

*-Sd-*

**Mr M. Gopalakrishnan**

Chairman, Indian Bank  
19 February 1992

Thank you for your warm welcome here in this beautiful land where Mother Foundress lived and suffered and where our charism has such roots! Your prayer this evening was deep and meaningful. May the Lord of peace, joy and love fill each of you with His love.

*-Sd-*

**Sister Rose Mary Sullivan, fmm**

23 November 1992

Congratulations on all your achievements. May the future be more fruitful than your past. God bless you and your work.

*-Sd-*

**Mrs Margaret Alva**

Minister for Human Resources, Government of India.  
13 March 1993

It was a great pleasure to come back to college after so many years. The same talent and brightness is evident in the faces of the students who really form the cream of our educational institutions. The college has grown in stature and dimensions and has kept pace with the times.

*-Sd-*

**Ms S. Jayanthi**

Secretary for Education, Government of Tamil Nadu  
Convocation 1993

I was delighted to visit this important institution of women's education and address the students about the emerging economic situation globally and at the national level. I was happy to note the intelligent questions they put, showing their awareness about the problems of the country. I wish the students a bright and happy future. I give my best wishes to the Principal and staff members of the college.

*-Sd-*

**Mr C. Subramaniam**

Former Governor of Maharashtra, Union Minister and Minister of Tamil Nadu  
14 March 1994

It was a great pleasure for me to visit this institution today and I am very much impressed with the perfect discipline and order over here. This is the first college where I have seen Indian music and art given good encouragement. The staff and students were very polite and the Rev Mother Principal was very kind to take me round the institution.

I wish this institution a glorious future and I sincerely hope that every year will be a fresh milestone in the path of progress. My most cordial blessings to the Principal, staff and students of this college which I hope will be a real "stella" star of light and learning to the thousands and thousands of girls in this large country.

-Sd-

**Reverend A. Padiyara**

The Bishop of Ootacamaund  
12 September 1956

It was indeed a great pleasure for me and my wife to be present at the College Day celebrations. We were impressed with the perfect discipline and decorum observed by the students during our stay for about two hours. We were happy to find the students cheerful and with pleasant manners. It appears that they have succeeded in developing fellow-feeling and a sense of discipline and orderliness in an atmosphere of love and affection that exists between the students and the teachers, most of whom have dedicated their selfless services for the well being of this educational institution.

I wish the all round development of the institution to meet the increasing need of the country for the spread of education among women along the right lines and for preparing worthy citizens to join the national efforts of reconstruction of the country. We are grateful to Reverend Mother Superior, Principal and other members of the staff for creating an atmosphere, by their selfless dedicated service, conducive to the development of the latent faculties of the students and helping them to build up their character and integrity and for inculcating a sense of true service to humanity.

-Sd-

**His Excellency Bisnuram Medhi**

Governor of Madras  
2 March 1960

Stella Maris College has acquired for itself a great reputation in these parts, a reputation based on quiet, solid, unostentatious work. I wish it well in the future.

-Sd-

**Dr S. Radhakrishnan**

Vice President of India  
23 July 1960

Stella Maris College deserves our warm gratitude for the excellent educational work it is doing. The Madras University is proud of this institution.

-Sd-

**Dr N.D. Sundaravadivelu**

Vice Chancellor, University of Madras  
11 February 1972

I have been delighted to stay at this college for a whole week admiring the wonderful work being done here and trying to be of use. May Stella Maris continue to inspire generations of students with the light and love of God, and may the Franciscan Sisters of Mary prove to be the Lord's chosen instrument to open up new paths to God in the field of higher education in India.

-Sd-

**Father M.M. Balaguer, SJ**

20 August 1972

Stella Maris is one of the institutions of excellence in this state and the country. The devotion and academic specialisation of the staff, the spirit of intellectual and moral rectitude of the college and the ability and enthusiasm of the students whom I have met, make this institution one of the pioneers in the university world- a pioneer that we sadly and badly need. I am glad to have been able to participate in the 1973 College Day and wish the college all the best in academic and spiritual success.

-Sd-

**Dr Malcolm S. Adiseshiah**

Vice Chancellor, University of Madras

24 February 1974

Education and culture are synonymous with each other. In Stella Maris they are intertwined. The students who enter the portals of this college are cultured to be pearls among people and nurtured and educated to become shining exemplars to the youth of India.

May Stella Maris occupy the stellar place in the sun.

-Sd-

**Gemini Ganesh**

18 February 1976

It is a joy to return to visit Stella Maris College after thirteen years and to see the progress and development that has gone on here, providing an ever fuller and more adequate education to young Indian girls. May the efforts of the staff always be rewarded by graduates who take their place in society by love and service of God and this country.

-Sd-

**Sister Alma Dufault**

Superior General, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

15 February 1977

I am indeed happy and privileged to have just now delivered the Convocation Address to the graduates of the year 1981. If education, as Ruskin said, does not consist in teaching people what they do not know, but make them behave as they do not behave, this institution can take all the credit. What excellent behaviour, what fine decorum what wonderful discipline. The three pillars of teaching, seeing much, suffering much, and learning much are the very foundations of this college. Let the star of



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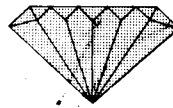


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