



## 2018–19

Good evening and a warm welcome to our 72nd College Day celebrations. Today is also International Women's Day, a day to celebrate our identity as women. Happy Women's Day to all women present here. I extend a warm welcome to Thiru. S. Krishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. From October 2017 Thiru. Krishnan also holds full additional charge as Managing Director, New Tirupur Area Development Corporation, Vice Chairman in-charge of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, and Chairman, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. We thank you, Sir, for taking time off from your busy schedule to be here with us this evening.

I extend a warm welcome to Sr. Fatima Furtado, Superior, Stella Maris Convent; Sr. Susan, Secretary of the College; Vice-Principals; Deans; faculty; members of the

Governing Body; the Academic Council; administrative and support staff; retired faculty; parents; alumnae; benefactors; friends; FMM Sisters; Rev. Fathers; and you, my dear students.

On this occasion, I greet very specially the faculty members, administrative and support staff who will be retiring after several decades of dedicated service: Dr. K. H. Rajini, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Vice Principal, who retires after nearly 38 years of service; Ms. Suganthi Lark Josephine, Associate Professor, Department of Physics who retires after 34 years and eight months; Ms. Alphonsa Simon, former Superintendent, who has taken VRS after 33 years and four months of service; Mr. S. Joseph Antony Prabhu, Superintendent, who retires after 34 years and two months; and three Support Staff: Ms. Devamma, who retires after nearly 26 years of service, Ms.

Kamala, after 21 years, and Ms. Muthamma, after 19 years of service.

Thank you for your invaluable services to this institution. You have been a vital part of our community, and have contributed in many ways to the growth of the institution. We pray that you may be blessed with happy and peaceful years in retirement.

It is with deep sadness that I remember Mr. Selvaraj, our gardener, who passed away in November. He was with us for many decades, working tirelessly in the sun, pruning, watering, and nurturing our green spaces. We pray that God may bless his family with comfort and peace while they grieve this irreparable loss. Sr. Glory who was a member of our Stella Maris Community for several years passed away peacefully on 5 March. Let us pause for a minute in silence for the repose of their souls. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The academic year 2018-19 has been memorable in many ways. Our team-work, unstinting efforts to improve the educational experiences of our students, and the empowered leadership demonstrated at every level, testify to the progress towards the fulfillment of our vision and mission objectives. Through the work we do, we hope to advance towards the attainment of Pope Francis's vision, that, I quote, "Knowledge must always sense that it is at the service of life, and must confront it directly in order to keep progressing. Hence, the educational

community cannot be reduced to classrooms and libraries but must be continually challenged to participation."

I will now present to you some of the activities that have taken place on campus.

The College is in the process of curriculum revision, under the leadership of the Deans of Academic Affairs, Dr. Juliana Joe and Dr. Sr. Lourthu Mary. The revisions incorporate interdisciplinary options on an outcome-based curriculum foundation. The two new B. Voc. programmes which have been sanctioned by the UGC with funding—Banking and Financial Services and Insurance, and Tourism and Hospitality—will begin from the next academic year.

Faculty of all departments have participated in conferences, seminars and workshops at both national and international levels. Many of them have published articles in Scopus indexed and other peer reviewed national and international journals. Faculty of the Department of Mathematics have the distinction of having published the maximum number of research papers in the College. A total of 24 research papers have been published by faculty both individually, and with research scholars in peer-reviewed journals.

Conferences and seminars at the international, national, regional and state levels have been conducted by individual departments as well as through collaboration with other departments within institution and with other

external institutions. International conferences have been conducted this year by the following departments: The Department of Hindi in collaboration with Hindi Kashmiri Sangam; the Department of Social Work on Health Interventions and Social Work; 'Towards a Sustainable Environment' by the Department of Sociology in collaboration with the Department of Criminology, University of Madras; the Department of Commerce Shift II on Innovation and Transformation. The departments of Economics, English, Fine Arts, History, International Studies, Social Work and Public Relations jointly conducted a two-day international conference titled 'Peace Building and Conflict Transformation: Moving from Violence to Sustainable Peace'. The Department of Commerce Shift I organised a state-level conference on The Entrepreneurial Recipe for Business Success in collaboration with FICCI FLO and TIE, Chennai, and the Department of Social Work organised a conference on Social Action Initiatives for a Clean and Sustainable Environment. The Department of B. Voc. organised a two-day national level conference on Energy-smart Food for Humanity. Faculty from the departments of Social Work, English and the SAP Coordinator came together to organise a one-day regional level conference on Service Learning, the culmination of a year-long SL project supported by the United Board. A national conference titled 'Community-Based Care for Older Persons: Assessment and Intervention' was conducted by the Department of Social Work in July 2018. The Department of Fine Arts celebrated the 70th year of its establishment with a National

Seminar titled 'Looking Beyond: Confluence of Art and Design' in September.

The Department of Social Work also organised programmes for the entire College community. They include a programme in commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons: A Coalition to End Human Trafficking. The coalition was launched at Stella Maris, titled 'ShOUT for Freedom' in collaboration with the International Justice Mission and NGOs. The 70th International Human Rights Day was celebrated in partnership with the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women and the International Justice Mission on the theme of Sensitisation on Women's Rights and Human Trafficking,

The Department of Value Education, in collaboration with the Campus Ministry conducted retreats for all Catholic students. Workshops and guest lectures on a range of topics were also organised for students.

The IQAC of the College, coordinated by Dr. Shiny Vairamon, has held several training sessions focused on quality enhancement for faculty through the year. An Academic Audit of all programmes was also undertaken.

The awards and fellowships that have been conferred on faculty are a testimony to their dedication and devotion to duty in the field of education. Dr. Shrinidhi S. Head, Department of Public Relations, was selected to participate in the Arts for Good Fellowship Programme organised by the







Singapore International Foundation. Ms. B. Sunita, Sports Officer, has received a certificate, medal and a cheque of Rs. three lakhs from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, as a member of the basketball team that represented Tamil Nadu at the 35th National Games in Trivandrum and won the silver medal. Dr. Srabani Bhattacharyya, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, received the Acharya Abhinav Gupt Sahitya Sharada Award from the Hindi Kashmiri Sangam at the international Hindi conference, in Dubai, in August. Ms. S. Aishwarya, Assistant Professor, Department of Bioinformatics received the Har Gobind Khorana Best Young Scientist Award at the eighth national conference on Natural Sciences organised by the Bose Science Society, Tamil Nadu Scientific Research Organisation, Pudukottai,

in September. Ms. K. Vijayalakshmi, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, was presented with the WOW 2018 Wisdom of Woman Award towards Public Welfare and Educational Services by Youth Environment Services, Chennai. Dr. V. Jude Annie Cynthia, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, received the Paeraasiriyar Ratna Award from Kaviarasar Kalai Thamizh Sangam, Chennai. Dr. Sandra Joseph, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, was conferred the Distinguished Alumna Award for committed service in the field of higher education for women by the Providence College for Women, Coonoor, in January. She also received the Award of Excellence from the Indian Development Foundation for Participation in Resource Mobilisation for Humanitarian Causes. Dr.



Mary NL, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, has been awarded the Distinguished Woman in Science Award by Venus International, Chennai. Dr. S. Sathya Bama, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, received the Bharat Vidya Ratan Award from the International Business Council for outstanding achievements and her committed role in the field of education, in February. Dr. K. H. Rajini, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, received the Best Teacher Award from the Lions Club of Chennai, Periamet, in September. Sister Rani Sahaya, NSS Programme Officer, is the recipient of the 2019 Wonder Woman Award from the Geo India Foundation.

The following faculty members of the Department of Computer Science have

received awards for their contribution to the discipline: Dr. I. Lakshmi, Ms. Renuka Devi, Ms. Diana Judith received the Best Women Faculty Award and Dr. I. Lakshmi and Dr. Swetha Margaret received the Best Researcher Award from the International Research Foundation, in May, 2018. Dr. I. Lakshmi also received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Life Time Achievement National Award from IRDP in May, 2018 and the Best National Teacher award from the Glacier Journal Research Foundation. She was also the recipient of the Adarsh Vidya Saraswati Rashtriya Puraskar from Global Management Council, Glacier Journal of Scientific Research, Gujarat, in June, 2018. Dr. I. Lakshmi also received the Women Research Award at the 68th International Conference on New Trends in Engineering, Science

and Management from the International Organisation of Scientific Research and Development in July 2018.

Faculty members have been invited by institutions of eminence abroad for academic meetings and programmes. Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph, Principal, was invited to attend the General Assembly of the International Federation of Catholic Universities which was held at Maynooth University, Ireland, from 23 to 27 July 2018. Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph has also been invited to attend the Women's Leadership forum to be held in April 2019, co-organised by the United Board and Ginling College at Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China, where she will make a presentation on the best educational and administrative practices successfully adopted at Stella Maris. Dr. Lakshmi Priya Daniel, Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts, has been invited as a panelist for the Asian Campus Ministry Forum co-organised by the United Board and the International Christian University, Tokyo, in which "The Role of Campus Ministry in a Multi-religious Context" will be discussed.

Dr. Madhavi Kanaiah, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Ms. Harriet Sathyavathi, SAP Coordinator and Ms. Nandhini D., Assistant Professor, Department of English have been sanctioned a United Board Project titled 'New Possibilities in the Pedagogy of Service Learning: Capacity Building for Newly Recruited Faculty'.

Several faculty members are members of Boards of Studies of colleges and

universities, of faculty selection committees and on advisory boards of institutions. Five faculty members have been approved as supervisors for doctoral programmes by the University of Madras: Dr. Margaret Thomas, Dr. Lakshmi Priya Daniel, Dr. Swapna Satish of the Department of Fine Arts, Dr. Anbumalarmathi, and Dr. Veena Gayathri of the Department of Biotechnology. The postgraduate Department of Biotechnology has been recognised as a research department by the University of Madras. The following faculty members have received their doctoral degrees this year: Dr. Nithya T. Department of Commerce, Dr. Lora Deva Prasana, Department of Social Work, Dr. N. Amritha Department of Zoology, Dr. Mary Abraham, Department of Social Work, Dr. Dhanalakshmi V., Department of Mathematics and Dr. Jayalakshmi of the Department of Economics.

The Department of Sociology has launched a new initiative through its Gender Centre which was formally opened in December by the Principal. The Centre hopes to bring into focus contemporary issues on gender and promote knowledge on the subject in schools.

A pioneering Go Green initiative of the Department of Botany was the Ignite the Spark Workshop conducted this semester for over 800 students of Shifts I and II in collaboration with the IQAC.

Through the activities of the SMICMR, the College has continued to forge









collaborations with international institutions with joint programmes promoting academic cooperation. This year, we have signed MoUs with the following institutions: Trinity Western University, Canada; Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan; Concordia University, California; College for Creative Studies, Michigan; Alfred University, New York; Binary University, Malaysia; Dominican College, New York; Institut Etude Economiques Commerciales (Institute of Economics and Commercial Studies); INSEEC MSc and MBA, Paris; Bordeaux, Lyon and Chambéry, France; the Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Cologne for faculty and student and other academic exchanges, and research collaborations, George and Associates Consulting Firm, New York; Golden

Jubilee Biotech Park for Women Society, Kanchipuram District; and M/s. Computer Age Management Services Private Limited, Chennai, International Justice Mission, Chennai, for departmental and collegiate value-added programmes.

The Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which aims at providing strategic funding to eligible, state higher educational institutions has been awarded to Stella Maris. The scheme, awarded on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans, which would describe each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education, allows for an amount of Rs. five crores to be given to the institution.



At Stella Maris, students are encouraged to participate in outreach programmes that will lead to the growth and development of underprivileged communities. The College has been selected for the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, the flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development that aims to enrich rural India. The scheme aims to link higher education institutions with a set of at least five villages, so that the institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base. Under this scheme, higher education institutions will participate in development activities particularly in rural areas. The programme is coordinated by Dr. Nirmala Alex, Assistant Professor, Department

of Social Work and NSS Coordinator. SMCDRIVE, the College Extension Centre, has been conferred the Award of Excellence by the Indian Development Foundation, Mumbai, as the best supporting Partner Institution. A state-level seminar on "The Need for a Millet Diet" was organised at SMCDRIVE in August, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective and Millet Network of India.

A Community Centre was inaugurated on 9 July 2018 at S. S. Puram. The activities carried out at the centre include offering counselling services, conducting medical camps, education and awareness programmes and running physiotherapy clinics.

A rally was organised for promoting girl child education at St. Raphael's Girls Higher Secondary School, Santhome, Chennai, in February, by SMCDRIVE and the District Social Welfare Board.

On Both Sides, the College Play, was performed by the Stella Players, the College theatre group, on the 22, 23, and 24 of February. The College has been listed as Active Local Chapter for the NPTEL Programme for the July to October 2018 semester, out of 2100 Local chapters. There were three toppers from our College for the session: two students, Nethra N. and Aparajita S. and one faculty member, Dr. Kalpana Jayaraman. The Librarian, Ms. M. Mahalakshmi was acknowledged as an active SPOC for the third Consecutive Semester for the NPTEL Programme.

The Stella Archives has broken new ground with the setting up of its own curation unit.

The digital capacity of Stellarchives is also being strengthened to unite Stella Marians all over the world, and to enable it to grow as a digital archive by disposition and design. Unnathi, the Students' Wing of the Department of Social Work, in association with Thozhamai, an NGO organised a programme in which the UNICEF's Global Report on Children in a Digital World was released. Youth Advocates and Unnathi, in association with Thozhamai and UNICEF, Chennai, organised a Youth Symposium: Youth Voice to End Child Marriage.

Ms. Vijayambigai T. of third year Social Work won the Bhumi Earth Award 2018 from SRM University for her exceptional work in volunteering. She also won the National youth champion finalist award and a medal from iVolunteer awards 2019 for her exemplary work in India's social development. Held annually since 2012, iVolunteer is India's largest volunteering network.





Three second BSW students Tryphena Persis, Jerishta Jane, and Deborah Lakshna Roopavathy K. and Ms. Monisha of third year BSW received the Award of Excellence: the IDF SLP Mentor Award, conferred for participation in Resource Mobilisation for Humanitarian Causes in October.

Ms. Agnes Sharon, senior NSS volunteer of the Department of Physics participated in the international youth exchange programme organised by the MHRD, and represented the University of Madras.

Ms. Rachel Patricia, of third year Psychology, was selected to represent India as the only student leader for the Global Training session and International Committee meeting on Educating Today and Tomorrow, Students Building a Safe Learning Environment, at Rome, Italy. She is the General Secretary of the Young Catholic Students Movement, a unit of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India. She was granted an audience and interaction with the Holy Father Pope Francis. She was also interviewed by the Vatican Radio on her responsibility as the General Secretary of YCSM.

Ms. Amruthavarshini Hariharan of first year Chemistry was conferred the title Kalai Ila Mani and awarded a cash prize for her excellence in Bharatanatyam by the Tamil Nadu Government, in February 2019. Ms. Shivani of third year B. Com. A&F came second in the World Ranking in Performance Management and third in Financial Reporting in the ACCA examinations.

The second year MSW students won the overall championship at the National Conference on Youth Well Being, Challenges and Perspectives, organised by the Social Work Department of Patrician College, in February. As part of institutional initiatives to support the academic and skills development of students within and beyond the curriculum, students are offered opportunities to undertake internships to hone their research skills as well as undergo hands-on training to prepare for the workplace. Ms. Swetha of first year M.Sc. Chemistry has received an Internship Grant (April 2019- June 2019) at KIT, Germany. First year M.Sc. Chemistry students, Ms. Swetha, Ms. Cresecentia Yazhini and Ms. Soumya N. Thankanchan are recipients of the INSA Fellowship 2019. Three other students, Lavanya, Antonia and Darshini have been invited by the College of Science and Engineering, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan, to visit the Department of Chemistry for a month (April-May 2019) as part of a student exchange programme. Ms. Zenia Zuraiq of second year Physics was selected to do an internship at the Mahatma Gandhi University and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. She also attended the 15th Annual National Initiative for Undergraduate Sciences Camp, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education.

Ms. M. R. Janani, Ms. Antonet Arokiarani and Ms. C. Pavithra of second year M.Sc. Bioinformatics, under the guidance of Ms. E. Nandha Devi, Head, received a Student Project grant from the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology.

Our NCC cadets have, as always, done Stella Maris and their units proud. Naval Cadet Varshini. V of second year B.A. Economics participated in the All India Republic Day Camp 2019 and was awarded the All India Best Cadet Gold Medal in the Senior Wing of the Navy. She was invited to participate in the Prime Minister's Rally 2019 at Garrison Parade Ground on 28th January 2019 and received the prestigious baton from the Honourable Prime Minister. Arockia Rexi F. of second year Mathematics was selected to participate in the All India Republic Day Camp January 2019. Cpl. Princy of second year Commerce Shift II participated in the Ek Bharat, Shresht Bharat Cultural Camp at Delhi and performed in the Cultural programme in the PM's rally on 28th January 2019.

Swathi T. of second year Physics was selected to participate in the All India Thal Sainik Camp conducted at Delhi. Flight Cadet Priyanka S. of II year Economics obtained the Best Pilot Gold Medal in the IGC State Level camp at King's College, Thanjavur, and was selected to participate in the All India Vayu Sainik Camp 2018. Cpl. Niveditha K. of second year History, was selected to participate in the All India Republic Day Camp and participated in the march-past on Rajpath on 26 January 2019.

The NSS and YRC Units celebrated their golden jubilee year in 2018. Some of the activities undertaken by the NSS and YRC volunteers this academic year include: Swachh Bharat summer internship, Swachh Bharat cleaning campaign at Egmore railway station: Porur lake cleaning, the

Pakhwara project at the Bharat Petroleum office, campaign against usage of drugs (commemoration of anti-drug abuse day), anti-human trafficking day organised by the International Justice Mission, blood donation camps, celebration of Geneva Convention Day, dengue awareness programme, promotion of disability rights, youth parliament, breast cancer awareness rally, world mental health day, and walk for freedom. C.J. Jaishamol of second B.Sc. Mathematics was selected for the Republic Day Camp and the NSS Parade in New Delhi this year.

We have excelled in sports and games this year as well. At the 18th Asian Roller Skating Championship held in South Korea, Pranamyra Rao I. K. of third year Sociology won the Silver Medal in Solo Dance and the bronze in Quartet. She also won the gold medal at the 56th Roller Skating Championship held in Visakhapatnam in Quartet and a silver in the Solo Dance.

Subi Suvetha of third year B.A. Economics obtained the fourth place in Speed Skating at the 18th Asian Roller Skating Championship held in September 2018 at Namwon, South Korea. She won the gold medal in 100 metres, silver medal in the 3000 metre Relay, and silver in the 500 metre Track at the 56th Roller Skating Championship organised by the Roller Skating Federation of India in Visakhapatnam. Ria Sharon. A of second B. Com. and the team, which represented the University of Madras for the South Zone Inter-University Basket Ball Tournament in

November 2018 at SRM University, Chennai, were the winners of the tournament. At the Khelo India National Basketball Tournament held in January 2019, L. Gayathri of third year B. Com. was a member of the team which represented Tamil Nadu and won the tournament.

Graceline Swetha. B of second year M. Com. was a member of the team which represented India at the Fist-ball International Tournament held in November 2018 in Melbourne, and won the third place.

Maria Ashitha. C of first BA History represented the Tamil Nadu State at the 26th Junior National Fencing Championship held at Rudrapur, and came in third in Foil. At the All India Table Tennis Inter-University Tournament held in February, at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, V.S. Kokila of third year B. Com. and team represented Madras University and were the winners. At the University of Madras B. Zone Inter-collegiate championships, our College teams obtained the Winner's title in Badminton, Handball, Hockey, Tennis and Table Tennis, the maximum number in recent years.

As an outcome of MoUs, students and faculty are encouraged to visit institutions of higher education abroad to broaden their horizons and obtain exposure to diverse cultures and educational processes. A group of nineteen students from the Department of Fine Arts, accompanied by Dr. Margaret Thomas and Dr. Swapna Sathish attended a Summer Study Abroad Programme at Liverpool Hope

University in May 2018. Fourteen students from various Departments participated in the Big Hope 2 "Young Leaders Congress" at Liverpool Hope University, UK. They were accompanied by Dr. Kalpana Jayaraman of the Department of Zoology and Dr. Vidhya Srinivasan, Head, Department of Commerce, Shift II. Twelve students from the Department of Sociology attended a two-week summer programme on the Sociology of Leadership at Trinity Western University, Canada, accompanied by Dr. Sasita, Head of the Department.

Several programmes were planned for the year by the Students' Union to involve every student on campus in one event or the other. The Union hosted the biggest intra-collegiate cultural event for this year themed Ready, Set, Explore, in November 2018. Subsequent events included Cultural Diversity Day, Dandiya Night, Entrepreneurs' Day, showcasing the creativity and skills, of students and alumnae, Aquilae, the intercollegiate cultural competitions, Horizon—Club day, and Neon Night. Union Day, the culminating event will be held this month.

In the changing educational scenario, it is not just faculty members whose knowledge and skills require to be enhanced. Members of the administrative staff are also expected to upgrade their skills periodically. Sr. Veera, Bursar, and Ms. Gayathri, administrative staff, attended a State-Level Workshop on Public Financial Management Systems (PFMS) in January. Mr. Tamilarasu C. and Mr. Akash Kumar R. attended the National Seminar



on Office Automation in Higher Education Institution at Fatima College, Madurai. Sr. Diana, Ms. Deepa and Ms. Gracie from the Bursar's Office, and Mr. Shekhar, Auditor, will attend a workshop on implementation of Expenditure, Advance and Transfer (EAT) Module on the direction of the Ministries of Finance and Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Forty-five companies visited the College for campus recruitment this year. In addition to multinationals such as Deloitte, Ernst and Young, Goldman Sachs and others, fifteen new companies visited for the first time: Five hundred and seventy students had registered, out of which 210 have been placed so far. The Career Guidance Cell is responsible for the process.

The new hostel, Snehalaya, was inaugurated on August 29, 2018. In addition to student residence rooms, it also houses well-equipped guest rooms, and a common room. The new academic block is under construction. It will house classrooms, seminar halls, two conference room, AV room, lecture halls, faculty rooms, additional library space, and laboratories.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris College launched the "Buy a Brick" initiative to help raise funds for the new building and with the support of both the alumnae, students and faculty of the College, have been able to raise an amount of 26 lakhs. Mrs. Sheela Rani Chunkath, IAS, an alumna of the College from the Department of Economics,

batch of 1972 to 1977, addressed the retired faculty association members, SMART, on the benefits of Ayurveda and healthy eating habits.

The College community came together to render aid to those affected in the floods in Kerala last August. Contributions by way of cheques, clothes and other utilities were sent to the affected people. The College also stepped in to help the victims of the Gaja Cyclone which hit several districts of Tamil Nadu. Teams of volunteers from the College community— Sisters as well as faculty and students travelled to the affected areas to offer succour to the victims.

Scholarships amounting to Rs. one crore twenty-four lakhs sixty-six thousand, nine hundred and eighty-five rupees were disbursed to 2,205 students this year. They include institutional, government, and private scholarships.

As we forge ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to our vision and the continuing search for truth. As I conclude this report, I thank God Almighty for accompanying us through this eventful journey. My special thanks to Sr. Leena D'Souza, Provincial, and to all the Sisters at Stella Maris.

I place on record the many organisations especially the UGC, DBT and DST, Government of India, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, the University of Madras, the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, and the International Federation of

Catholic Universities, for their support and encouragement. A special word of gratitude to our sponsors who have generously offered financial support for our building project:

M/s. Shyam Kothari Foundation

The Ramco Cements Limited

Mr. Nalli Chinnasami Chetty, Nalli Silks

The Managing Trustee

Visalakshi Arunachalam Trust,

MRF Limited

TAFE

Sun Foundation

I also thank the many other contributors whose generosity was instrumental in enabling the building project to become a reality.

I extend my gratitude to all those who have made our achievements possible. I am immensely grateful to the Vice Principals, Deans, heads of Departments and faculty members, the Controller and Associate Controller of Examinations, the IQAC Coordinator, the NCC Coordinator, NSS Programme Officers, Director of Physical Education and the Sports Officer, the Librarian, Archivist, Director-SMCNC, and the Public Relations Officer. A special word of thanks to Sr. Hilda and Sr. Arul and the administrative and support staff. I thank Sr. Veera and her team for their meticulous management of finances.

My deep gratitude to the hostel wardens for their selfless service to the residents on campus. I also thank very specially the club advisors for their support and involvement in the activities of the various clubs.

Thank you dear parents, benefactors and well-wishers for your interest, generosity and for your presence here this evening to participate in our celebration.

A special word of thanks and congratulations to the faculty of the Departments of Mathematics and BSW who have organised the College Day celebrations this year. A big thank you to Dr. Margaret Thomas and Dr. Swapna Sathish of the Department of Fine Arts for the beautiful PowerPoint Slides, and Ms. M. Meenakshi for the photographs.

May the Star of the Sea be the beacon that guides us as we explore new horizons in the future.

Thank you and God bless!

