

## Mother Prioncious FMM

(Second Principal)



Original Name:	Daly, Annie Maria
Education:	M.A. English Literature
Nationality:	Irish
Active years as Principal:	24 June 1955- 30 May 1961

On 24 June 1955 M. Prionsias, took over as Principal. Her tenure was marked by expansion both in the strength of the students and structures in the campus. It is under her leadership SMC found this present green campus. Her vision and detailed planning was the need of the time and she stood up to the occasion as an excellent administrator. Thus in four years' time Stella Maris constructed her Social Welfare Center in 1957, Our Lady's Hostel in 1958, and a line of buildings in 1960: Science block, Main Building, St. Joseph's hostel, Chapel, Co-workers quarters. The shifting of the College with all library books and laboratory equipment from Santhome to the new premises (Cloisters) in Cathedral Road took place from April to May in 1960 and the official ceremony for the inauguration of the College at the Cloisters took place on 21 June 1960.

Stella Maris was gaining momentum not only in infrastructure but in every aspect of higher education. On 7 March 1956 a University Commission, which inspected all the departments, expressed satisfaction at the progress of the College. Affiliation was granted in June 1956 for B.Sc. Zoology with Chemistry and Botany as subsidiaries. Changes were introduced in the University system. Instead of a two-year intermediate course followed by another two-year course for the B.A/ B.Sc. degree, students were to pass through one year of pre-university class followed by a three-year degree course. The academic year 1958 saw the opening of two more courses of study: M.A. Indian Music and B.A. History of Fine Arts, thus Stella Maris became a Post-Graduate College. In 1959 two M.A. courses in English and Economics were introduced. Even at that time Post graduate students visited other colleges twice weekly to attend intercollegiate lectures. Departmental libraries were set up in accordance with the University Regulations.

M. Prionsias opened portals for internationality and inter-culturality. Twenty Stella Marians set out on a world tour in 1958, post graduate students encountered students from California in 1960.



Stella Marians in Rome – 1958



Stella Marians with Californian students - 1960

The cultural and academic programmes explicitly showed to the society how gifted Stella Maris Students are who came from the different states of India and from abroad nurturing each other with their culture and perceptions. The college play, dances and songs were not only designed for entertainment but for empowerment of the society to respect women education and their interests in the field of study.



Stella Marian Orchestra- 1956

M. Prionsias introduced Old Students' Association to foster fellowship among the alumnae, to facilitate creative involvement in the activities of the college and to encourage joint endeavor in the building up of the wider community and society. On 23 July 1960, at an official function presided over by Sri. A. L. Mudaliyar, Vice Chancellor of Madras University, expressed his appreciation: "*Stella Maris 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.*"

In 1961 Stella Maris had to say adieu to her principal M.Prionsias, who was needed as the first Principal of Fatima College, which was later transferred to Vijayawada as Maris Stella College.

Extract from: The Journey Continues by Dr. Sr. Sheila O'Neil fmm  
(Former Principal of Stella Maris College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.  
Pgs: 272-274