



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

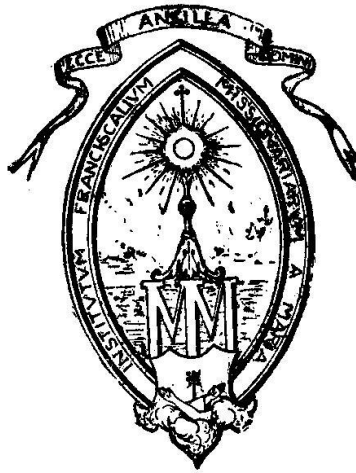
1947—1948

MYLAPORE

INDIA

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

for the higher education
of women



Conducted by the
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

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STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

NATIVITY NOTES

We know that it is customary for College Principals to furnish an Annual Report on their respective colleges for the whole academic year that is about to close. "How about the Report from Stella Maris?" The question came somewhat as a surprise. An annual report from an Infant College that is still in its cradle—scarcely able to walk or talk! Why! it is only a few months old!!

Nevertheless, recurring insistence on the part of our well-wishing Friend-Inquirer prompted us to reconsider our somewhat hasty reply, and here we are with a few Nativity Notes on an Infant that counts among its sponsors the most devoted and magnanimous Leaders in Ecclesiastical and Educational circles of Madras.

The somewhat premature opening of the College took place on August 15, 1947. I say 'premature' because it was intended to inaugurate the college only when a suitable locality had been chosen and appropriate buildings erected. Circumstances changed these well-devised projects; human planning gave way before the action of Divine Providence.

Existing colleges found it difficult at that moment to cope with the heavy applications of incoming students. Should they be turned away disappointed? Very Reverend Mother Marguerite of the Sacred Heart,

Superior General of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, answered in the negative. These young Indian women must be given the advantages of a liberal college education. His Excellency, Dom Mederios de Guerreiro, Bishop of Mylapore, showed himself especially interested and enthusiastic from the beginning.

Onerous were the problems that confronted the Administration. Adequate buildings had to be selected, University requirements had to be satisfied and Public Education regulations to be complied with—all within the space of a few weeks.



Confidently the
students approached
the Sisters.

The formal dedication on August 15 was presided over by H. E. Dom Mederios de Guerreiro, Bishop of Mylapore, assisted by the Cathedral Clergy. Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister of Prohibition, officially opened the college; henceforth Stella Maris would enjoy the privilege of being a constituent college of the University of Madras. Our abiding gratitude we owe to His Excellency, Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, who found a solution for our many problems; Mr. R. Ravi Varma, Registrar of the University, who has maintained a constant and friendly interest in the proceedings. Cheer and inspiration came to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary from:—

Rev. Father Jerome D'Souza, S.J.,

Rev. Father Murphy, S.J.,

Rev. Father Varin, S.J.,

Mrs. Cleetus, Principal of the Hobart's Women's College;

Mr. Sundararajan who has rendered vital service to Stella Maris and

Mr. Rhenius Peters.

To these especially, and to all those who in any way were instrumental in bringing into existence this new Institution of Learning we acknowledge our indebtedness and hold them in grateful esteem.

It was on August 18, that the pupils of St. Raphael's High School combined their Independence Day Demonstrations with the formal opening of Stella Maris College. Several thousands of people filled the compound and witnessed a charming entertainment given by the pupils on an open-air stage. Mrs. Cleetus delivered an address on the significance of the College to the citizens of Madras. It was on that same occasion that His Grace Archbishop Matthias, S.C., Archbishop of Madras, gave a much applauded speech on Indian Independence and the role of Stella Maris College in the India of to-morrow.

Future of the Infant College

Stella Maris looks ahead to that day when it will be full-grown and permitted to take its rank among the first class colleges of Madras. The Staff and Student Body have their own visions of the future—spacious lecture rooms, quiet libraries, laboratories, music halls and art studios. The site has already been chosen, blue prints are being drawn up and, God willing, the project will be completed in the near future.

OUR PRESENT READINGS

Courses of Study: We began this year 1947-'48 with a Junior Intermediate class offering under Part I—English; Part II—Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam and French; Part III—Ancient History, Indian History, Modern History, Indian or Western Music, and Logic. Subject to the approval of the University of Madras, we propose in 1948-'49 to add Mathematics to the Intermediate Course, to begin a B.A. Course in Economics and History, and to add German and Sanskrit. Art also we hope to include as early as possible.

Activities: Our students have organized a number of literary and social activities, debates and musical concerts. Our first social endeavour was a Christmas Fete, which gave the students the joy of providing and personally presenting gifts of sarees for a group of old ladies whom they have adopted as "their poor". Last term an historical excursion to St. Thomas' Mount was organised. This term, thanks to the kindness of the Director and Medical Staff, we had the opportunity of a very instructive, pleasant visit to the King's Institute, Guindy.



“ We Students Gather Here ”

COLLEGE SONG

We students gather here
Our College to revere,
Our loyalty to sing, until the echoes ring !
O Stella Maris, dear !
Our hearts will ever pray
That thy dear light, our beacon bright
May shine along life's way—
That thy pure light, our Star so bright
May bless our every day.

In Truth and Charity
Let our dear Motto be ;
The torch that burns—the hope that yearns
Towards true Fraternity !—
And may our souls aspire, with great ideals afire
To stainless Purity !

O Stella Maris dear,
May each succeeding year
Bring hearts more noble here ;
That God may bless our happiness—
Stella Maris, our College dear !

The years may come and go
But thy Star here below
Shall kindle Heaven's light,
A constellation bright!
O Alma Mater blest, we love thy gentle crest.
May its sweet ray turn night to day,
And lead us to its Light—
Oh! bid us shine with light like thine
Of Charity divine.

Our athletes are enjoying the usual College games
and soon we hope to be taking part in Inter-Collegiate
Competitions.

The College sharing the public grief in the tragic loss of Mahatma Gandhiji, our great national hero, held a condolence meeting on February 3rd, 1948, during which addresses of sympathy and admiration were delivered by the Principal, staff and students. After the ceremony of garlanding his venerable portrait, two minutes of silent prayer were respectfully observed by all. On February 10th we celebrated Gandhiji Memorial Day. Addresses were read by the students, recalling the life-history, virtues, teaching and legacy of the Father of India. A resolution was taken ever to uphold the admirable principles of peace, unity, toleration and non-violence for which India's patriot laboured and died.

In India's great hour of need may Stella Maris Students, present and to come, be ever amongst her most devoted and upright children.

GOD BLESS INDIA !



In the Library.

An abundance of current literature has been arriving, donated by friends from abroad.

Copies of the "Spectator" come from various quarters: England, Australia, India. The Geographical Magazine hails from Fruit Hill, Providence, U. S. A.

The Listener, Punch, Times Literary, Review of World Affairs, Round Table, New Statesman, The Economist, Tablet, Everybody's and Mathematical Magazines offer a wide choice of reading matter for interested students.



The Spectator and Punch are Geographical Favorites among these literary-minded young women.



The Geographic Magazine from America is the delight of every student.



Absorbed in the latest arrivals from London.

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