

# Stella Maris College

(AUTONOMOUS)  
MADRAS 600 086

College Day : March 13, 1993

## Principal's Report

Our respected guest of honour this evening, Smt. Margaret Alva, Honourable Minister of State, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'sa, Provincial and President of our Governing Body, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, Secretary of the college, esteemed members of the Governing Body, respected academicians and colleagues, dear parents, friends and benefactors of the college, members of the faculty, administrative and supportive staff and cherished students:

The events of the past year that hasten to become a part of the annals of the history of Stella Maris have carved indelible impressions, of our search for truth, our quest for excellence, our struggle for radical transformation.

While our achievements are indicators of the tremendous potential that lies within, our setbacks, failures and restlessness spur us onward, towards new horizons, new dawns streaked with rays of hope.

It is said, the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity. Therefore, it behoves us, as educators of young minds to assist in the formation of individuals, to train them for a creative, enlightened and responsible exercise of their freedom. One of the greatest strengths of Catholic Higher Education is, that it rests upon an implicit philosophy or theology of the human person, as an entity viewed in totality, a judicious blend of the mind and the spirit.

In an age where higher education generally is threatened with impersonality, the educational process at Stella Maris aspires to form the whole person, to enable, not merely the minds of the students to be sharpened and expanded, but to assist them to possess enlightened freedom, ennobling values and creative responsibility. This task would have been an onerous one to shoulder, but for the vivacity of our students, the unstinting commitment of our faculty and the unwavering support of the management, administrative and supportive staff.

On this our 45th College Day, while we take just pride in our accomplishments, we remain grateful for the benevolence of the Almighty and seek His bountiful blessings on all our endeavours, secure in the knowledge that it is not possible for civilisation to flow backwards while there is youth in this world.

SMC-1

At the end of five years of Autonomy, the Inspection Commission on the Functioning of the Autonomous Colleges under the University of Madras, visited the college in April 1992 and commended the excellent functioning of the college and acknowledged the faculty and student appreciation of the spirit of freedom that has brought with it positive winds of change to the academic world. On the recommendations of the commission the autonomous status has been extended to the college for a further period of five years. The Quinquennial Inspection Committee from the University of Madras also visited the college in September 1992.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the fact, that despite the multitude of extra-curricular activities, the intense involvement in projects and curricular programmes, our academic record has been consistent and commendable. The overall percentage of passes for B.A. degree is 79%, B.Com. - 98%, B.Sc. - 84%, M.A.- 79% and M.Sc. - 85%.

Before I embark on a brief account of the happenings at Stella Maris, during the academic year 1992-93, I would like to place on record our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to three of our senior faculty members and four members of our administrative and supportive staff who have been cherished members of the Stella Maris family and who will be retiring this year.

Mrs. Pramila Ethiraj of the Department of Economics has contributed richly to the growth of the department over the 34 years she has been in service.

Dr. Mrs. Mythili Raman of the Department of Sanskrit has endeared herself to one and all with the wealth of her knowledge, her religiosity and her serenity during her 27 years of service.

Mrs. Sushila Felix has been a faculty member of the Department of Chemistry for the past 30 years. The calm and meticulous manner with which she discharges her responsibilities has been an asset to the department. These qualities serve her admirably in her present role as Controller of Examinations.

Sr. Rose, bursar of the college for the past 25 years has served the faculty and the students with unflagging enthusiasm. Her efficient tenacity, her calm demeanour and her indomitable will have been a source of inspiration to all of us.

To three of our supportive staff, Mrs. Ponnamma, Mrs. Francina and Mrs. Saroja we would like to express our deep debt of gratitude and appreciation. Loyalty and hard work have been the hallmark of their devoted service of this campus which they consider their own.

We wish all of them a fulfilling and contented retirement and may the bonds of friendship forged with Stella Maris remain true and strong.

I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. Jayalakshmi who so ably and sincerely administered the examination unit of the college in her capacity as Controller of Examinations in the first five years of Autonomy. I wish her happy years of fruitful endeavour.

The members of the Faculty are the moving spirit behind any Stella Maris venture. Constantly on the move, they keep pace with developments in their field of specialisation, giving generously of their time and efforts to the students. The faculty also serve actively as consultants and office bearers of government and non-government organisations. They are actively engaged in research, organisation of seminars and conferences at National and International levels and are called upon to be resource persons and serve on academic bodies of Universities and other Institutions.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy, Head, Dept. of Botany, Dr. Mrs. Ramani, Head, Dept. of Economics, Dr. Ms. Jatinder Singh and Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan, Dept. of Fine Arts and Dr. Ms. Geetha, Dept. of Chemistry who have received their doctorates this year. Sr. Flavia, fmm, and Mrs. Margaret Clarence, of the Dept. of English, Mrs. Kamala Arvind, Dept. of History, Mrs. Ulaganayaki, Dept. of Tamil and Mrs. Arputharani Sengupta, Dept. of Fine Arts have submitted their doctoral theses. Several of our faculty have registered for their research programmes.

As the world is shrinking we are extending arms across the seas and the universality of the teaching experience is seen in various exchange programmes. Stella Maris College hosted visits from several Fulbright Scholars who served for a while on our faculty. Dr. Karen Subramaniam, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of California, Los Angeles is currently serving on the faculty of the Social Work Dept. and Dr. Betty Bernard, on the faculty of the English Dept. Dr. Cathleen Feeley, Fulbright professor gave a few guest lectures to the students of the Dept. of English. Ms. K.G. Rama, Senior Lecturer in the Dept of Social Work has been invited by the Clarke University, USA under their Fulbright Scholar - in - residence programme to teach at their department of International Development. Mrs. Chitra Krishnan has returned after a successful one year sojourn at the Sorbonne University in Paris where she had gone on a UGC sponsored French Government scholarship.

The achievements of various members of the faculty are too innumerable to report in detail; therefore I will content myself with highlighting a few details.

Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhawan, prolific writer that she is, has two major publications to her credit this year which have received commendable reviews. She was also instrumental in the formation of the Anubhuthi Club which brings to the fore the creative literary talents of students.

Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan held an exhibition of water colour and ink painting at the Chola Art gallery in December 1992. Dr. S. Geetha has received tremendous appreciation for the Home Kit she devised to detect Food Adulteration. It was even the subject of discussion on the floors of both the Houses of Parliament. Intense interest in her work continues to be generated in the media, particularly in the Southern states.

Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy co-convened a National level training in Phytochemistry organised by the Krishnamurthy Institute of Algology at Loyola College in December 1992. A manual on Futurology intended for CBSE students has been published by a committee of experts under my chairmanship and with Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan, Department of Chemistry as co-ordinator.

Mindful of the Chinese proverb that says "all the flowers of the future are in the seeds of today", the management and the faculty have spared no efforts in moulding the young entrusted to their care. Humbly aware of the awesome task before us several value and growth oriented programmes were launched on campus, besides offering Value Education courses in the curriculum. Retreats and other campus ministry programmes have offered the students a deepening of their faith-experience in the Transcendent. In a multi pluralistic set-up when the crisis brought on by the degeneration of the moral fabric of the Indian society is deepening, a positive note was struck by the Inter-Faith Dialogue programme initiated at Stella Maris College in collaboration with the Institute for Development Education, Madras. Ably co-ordinated by Sr. Sundari and Sr. Teresa several of these programmes have enabled the students to discover their innate potential and to experience the vibrant forces within.

To cope with the ever increasing pressures of the rapidly changing world of today, the college offers professional counselling services to students. The team comprising of Dr. Emma Gonsalves assisted by a group of faculty members has been a boon to the student community. The Peer Group sessions and Leadership Training Programmes have contributed towards generating a healthy atmosphere on campus. Thanks to the financial support extended by the United Board for Christian Higher Education, these programmes have been made possible.

Programmes that cater to the growing needs of the students specially to prepare them for their future careers are conducted regularly at Stella Maris. Special mention must be made of the Women's Entrepreneurial Development Programme co-ordinated by Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan, the ISTD programme co-ordinated by Dr. Mrs. Sundari Krishnamurthy and the IAS preparatory course conducted by the Department of History.

It is not sufficient to supply information in the classroom. It is also essential to create a spirit of inquiry. The college library is a haven where the pursuit of knowledge may be carried on in a modern, well equipped and

## COLLEGE DAY



Principal addressing the gathering

Chief Guest,  
Hon'ble Mrs. Margaret Alva,  
in conversation with  
Sr. Edith Tomory, f.m.m.



Guard of Honour - NCC Unit

## CONVOCATION DAY



Chief Guest  
Mr. Sankara Subbaiyan,  
I.A.S. inaugurates

Graduates assembled  
in solemnity



## SPORTS DAY



Mrs. Saravana Perumal  
◀ gives away the Trophy to Marissa Paris,  
Captain of the Athletic Team

Crossing human hurdles  
▼



efficiently-run environment. This is borne out by the fact that it was adjudged the Best Library in Madras by the Mylapore Academy.

Students' activities are manifold in their diversity. They enthusiastically undertook field trips and participated wholeheartedly in curricular projects. To expose students to social realities, several departments organised camps in rural areas as part of their curricular programmes. This exposure to the rural reality has been an indelible learning experience. The Inter-Disciplinary Orientation, the Social Awareness Programme and Value Education have evoked an enthusiastic student response and contributed towards the creation of well rounded personalities and well balanced minds.

In the arena of academic brilliance two students whose achievements require special mention are Srividhya Rajagopalan of the Department of Economics and C. Kalpana of the Department of Physics. Srividhya took the Stanford-Binet IQ test early this year and emerged with the result of 194, way above the genius line of 140. This places her among the top 12 people in the world. Having several scholastic achievements to her credit Stella Maris is proud of her accomplishments and wishes her a bright and exciting future.

C. Kalpana has won laurels for the College at the National level. In the All India Essay Competition conducted by the Department of Atomic Energy on the role of Nuclear Power Generation in India, Kalpana was chosen out of 1500 prospective candidates to present her paper at the Baba Atomic Research Centre where, of the 15 candidates, she emerged with top honours winning the first prize and a cash award of Rs. 5,000. An achievement that also merits mention here is that of Ms. Deepa Ramanathan, Department of Economics who received the All India Achievers Awards 1993 at its conference held in Bangalore. Deepa was also awarded the Gem of India Award for excellence in Bharathnatyam by Dr. Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resource Development at New Delhi. She was also conferred the title of 'Natyamani' by the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board in recognition of her excellence in Bharathnatyam.

I would now like to highlight some of the special activities and programmes of individual departments. The History Department compiled an audio-visual package for presentation to higher secondary students explaining the scope and prospects of pursuing a career with history as their major subject. Prepared in both English and Tamil this package received an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. To familiarise Japan to the college community the department also presented an aesthetically pleasing and informative exhibition entitled "Sakura" held over two days.

The Economics Department organised the A.D Shroff Elocution Competition, the Dr. St. Helen Vincent Edowment Lecture which was delivered by Dr. V. Palanichamy, IAS, Commissioner for Collegiate Education, Madras. The Department also organised the Human Resource Development Seminar.

The Fine Arts Department organised several creative workshops and seminars. Special mention must be made of the Linoleum Block Printing workshop organised in January, the poster generation workshop and the workshop on Advertising Design in February 1993. The creative efforts of the students of the department were displayed during their annual art exhibition. Inaugurated by Mr. Achuthan Kudallur, an eminent artist, the exhibition highlighted the diverse media and techniques used in artistic-creative endeavours.

The English department conducted workshops and seminars that were well appreciated. Special mention must be made of the Bicentenary Birth Anniversary celebration of P.B. Shelley held on October 21st, 1992 the script of which has been accepted by the UGC Education programme. A two day seminar on New Literatures in English was held in February 1993 and evoked an enthusiastic response.

The Department of Chemistry organised the annual inter-collegiate quiz competition for the award of the Sr. Juliet Irene rolling trophy.

The Departments of Botany and Zoology organised a two day seminar entitled "Sustain Life". The seminar with its lectures, visuals and project presentation by the students was both revealing and informative. The Department of Zoology also organised an Inter-school exhibition on 'Environment and Health' in August 1992. The enthusiastic participation of 11 schools and their contagious vitality made it a pleasurable experience.

The Social Work Department has reached out in fields such as health services in slums, community awareness programmes on AIDS, and environment, health and hygiene. The students participated in a 5 day rural camp at Thiruverkadu village conducted under the auspices of the Feminist Association for Social Action. A household survey, an exhibition on Women's issues and several awareness programmes were among the numerous activities organised during their stay. A follow-up programme and a regular schedule have already been drawn up. The students of the Department of Social Work, as part of their field work received placements in various organisations to experience on-the-spot training under supervised guidance.

A group of talented students under the able direction of Mr. Santhan P. Alexander and co-ordinated by Mrs. Bernadine Joseph of the English Department staged a comedy thriller "A Tomb with a View". Written by Norman Robbins this two-hour highly entertaining play with distinct macabre overtones held the audience in thrall. The highly commendable reviews made this amateur theatrical venture a doubly resounding success.

The literary skills of the students were revealed in the numerous departmental and student publications during the year. The articles, poems, stories and illustrations in the Literary Journal of the English Department,



'Khilthi Kalyan' of the Hindi Department, 'Ankur' of the Economics Department, the 'Udaya' and 'Stella Times' by the students reveal a creativity that is matchless in its originality and skill.

'The Spirit of Youth in search of Truth' was the motto of the students' union. An abundance of youthful spirit was revealed in the variety of programmes organised and in the exuberant participation of the student body. Competition on campus and outside never lacked participants or spectators. Special programmes to celebrate Workers' day, PTC Day, Teachers' Day, Union Day were efficiently organised. Special mention must also be made of 'YUVBHAVANA' the Inter-year competitions which was marked by friendly rivalry, tremendous participation and display of skills that left one wondering. The seminar on 'Human Rights' organised by the Union brought to the fore a topical subject that is particularly relevant in today's world where Human Rights violations are the order of the day.

The office bearers of the union carried out their duties with enthusiastic dedication and youthful charm and they were aided in this by the able guidance and willing support offered by the Deans of Student Affairs, Sr. Christine, Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhawan and Mrs. Jacinta Fenelon.

Student participation was not limited to the union organised programmes. The Peace Rally held in February evoked an enthusiastic response for promoting the cause of communal harmony and national unity. Our students once again brought alive the 'Human Christmas Tree' and participated with characteristic verve in the pageant. Another innovative artistic experience which our students depicted was the tracing of the history and the development of the computer through the medium of Bharathnatyam. Directed by Mr. David Thomas and produced on the occasion of the 19th National Conference of the Computer Society of India, the programme was highly appreciated and lauded for its aesthetic quality. Concern for the hearing impaired took concrete shape when 10 of our students, 7 of whom were NCC cadets, escorted a group of deaf and dumb youth on a trek to the Anaimudi hills enabling them to discover and enjoy nature in its pristine form.

The various departmental and non-departmental clubs functioned smoothly organising well attended programmes on a regular basis throughout the year. Special mention must be made of the Enviro Club which in collaboration with the parent club of the University of Madras organised many inter-collegiate workshops on Water Quality Management and Assessment and Projects on Pollution in the Cooum river and drinking water in Madras.

The Spic-Macay Chapter continued to open the minds of the students to imbibe and appreciate aspects of India's multifaceted cultural heritage.

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the All India Association for Christian Higher Education for the southern region, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra

Pradesh was held at Stella Maris College in January 1993. During the celebrations eminent educationists including our former principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent were presented awards in recognition of their yeoman service to the cause of Higher Education.

Considered the scourge of the society of today, no disease has evoked so much concern as AIDS. Facts mixed with fiction have been devoured by a susceptible population. To dispel these ignorant notions, yet to increase an awareness of the deadly potential of the disease the NSS unit of the University of Madras has been indentified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Youth Affairs to conduct "Universities Talk AIDS". A weeklong programme was organised to reach every student on campus in 13 colleges in Tamil Nadu including our own. The week culminated in a state level function organised at Stella Maris College to observe World AIDS Day on December 1st 1992. The talks held in this connection as well as the programmes organised by the NSS unit of our college served their purpose, namely to make the student population and the community at large more aware of the disease and dispel clouds of obscurantism and ignorance. As a follow-up, the department of Zoology organised AIDS awareness programmes in various schools.

Drug abuse has long been the focus of international concern. The International Federation of Catholic Universities has selected Stella Maris as one of the Asian Centres to participate in an International Research - Action Project on Culture and Drug Abuse in Asian Settings. Launched in June 1992 with Sr. Christine its director and Mrs. Poppy Kannan, the research co-ordinator and Ms. Benita, the research assistant, the project involves an in-depth research into the various dimensions of the drug issue with particular emphasis on the cultural aspects and an action programme to be launched in collaboration with other related organisations in Madras city. It is hoped that the project with the guidance of the core group consisting of faculty members and experts in various related fields will have an impact on the society.

Illiteracy is the vast unconquered expanse that needs to be targeted by those who care. Due to the untiring efforts of the National Literacy Mission, about 180 districts in India have seen a ferment of social change in the form of the Total Literacy campaign. As a result of this campaign, around the year 2000 AD the country would witness for the first time a total environment stabilising around 120 million children in the formal system. By the end of 1993 there will be around 60 million neo-literates who would be pursuing post literacy activities. In this context it gives me great pleasure to state that Stella Maris College with 55 of our motivated student volunteers, under the dedicated guidance of two faculty members, Ms. Chandunissa, Department of Economics and Dr. Ms. Geetha, Department of Chemistry and the able supervision of Ms. Teresa, has launched the Functional Literacy Programme as part of the MANAR project supported by the UGC, in 2 villages Nemam

and Kuthambakkam in Chengai-MGR district. The literacy kits from the State Resource Centre and the financial assistance received from the Indian Bank have gone a long way to take a positive step towards eradicating illiteracy, which includes health care, population education and economic development activities. The enthusiastic response of the villagers has been an encouraging experience.

A Functional English Course for 110 PTC conductors and drivers was conducted by the Department of English. The course proved to be so popular that at the request of the PTC crew it was extended into the second semester. A 15 day session entitled "The Quality of Life" was conducted at the end of the course and certificates were awarded to successful participants.

Remedial teaching programmes are conducted by several departments to cater to the academically needy students of the college. A bridge course, an unique one of its kind, has been introduced in the college with a faculty member appointed for the purpose to motivate and train a small and select group of students who lack the confidence and the skills required to embark on a graduate course after their school leaving examinations.

The National Service Scheme with its 343 student volunteers has successfully undertaken 23 projects in and around Madras city, with Ms. Prabha Nair a dedicated and untiring co-ordinator at its helm. Some of the highlights of their activities that need to be mentioned are the International Literacy Day celebrations held at Thirukazhikundram and Thiruporur in Chengai-MGR district and the 10 day special camping programme at Vallam, Chengai-MGR district, that covered 7 villages to create awareness, motivate and enlist learners for the total literacy programme. The volunteers lent their services to and helped organise various functions such as the World Elders' Day held under the auspices of Helpage, India, the Functional Literacy for street and institutionalised children organised by the Department of Social Defence at Asha Nivas and the Special Olympics India - Tamil Nadu Meet organised by the Rotary Club at the YMCA grounds and a 12 day Regional Workshop for the preparation of graded post literacy materials on Women and Children organised by the UNICEF and the National Board of Adult Education at the Madras School of Social Work. The street play group of the NSS performed laudably at national and state-level workshops to promote greater awareness in the community of the prevailing social conditions. The International Womens' Day celebrations held under the auspices of the Commission on Addiction concerns, during which the NSS volunteers performed street plays at slums and other public places on themes ranging from addiction to abuse of women, has come in for a great deal of appreciation. The volunteers of the NSS and the co-ordinator deserve a special word of appreciation for their commendable dedication and commitment to the cause of the neglected and needy.

The Stella Maris College NCC unit has won many laurels and this is due in no small part to the dedicated commitment of the NCC officer Captain Gita Samuel, who has instilled a strong sense of discipline and responsibility in her cadets. The cadets participated in various camps, took part in treks and competitions and more often than not emerged victorious. For the fifth year in succession our unit was awarded the Banner at CADOFEST conducted by the D. G. Vaishnav College.

At the Republic Day camp held at New Delhi, Sgt. Subadhra, Dept. of Chemistry secured an All India second ranking. Sgts. Nicola, Florina and Aarthi and Lance Corporal Sintha also attended the camp. Sgts. Nicola and Sintha participated in the Rajpath March on January 26th, 1993. Captain Margaret Mary was adjudged second in the All India First Aid and Home Nursing Competition while Corporals Radha, Akila and Rohini represented the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry directorate in first aid, home nursing, firing and signals competition. Senior Under Officer Nrithya Govindarajan was selected for the Indo-Canadian Youth Exchange Programme and spent 3 months in Alberta. Nine of our students took part in the ceremony when the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, of which five were NCC cadets.

Sports has inculcated in the students a spirit of sportsmanship, created a competitive team spirit and contributed to the physical well being of the student community. Under the stewardship of our physical directress Mrs. Malathy Kumar we have earned many laurels. Mention must be made of the participation in inter-collegiate tournaments in which our Basketball team often emerged victorious, winning the Buck Memorial Inter-Collegiate Basket Ball Tournament, the State level Citra Basket Ball Tournament, and the Kokila Raja tournament amongst others. Several of our students donned the University colours in games such as basket ball, cricket, hockey, table tennis, kho-kho and lawn tennis. Our students also represented Tamil Nadu in Cricket, Basket Ball, Tennikoit, Hockey and Rowing. S. Karpagam, Dept. of Botany won the national individual championship for the year 1992. The Sports Day celebrated in December was marked by enthusiastic participation and revealed skill and prowess.

Ujjwala, the Women's Forum of Stella Maris College continues its dedicated service to further the cause of the Indian Women. The highlight of this year's activities was the publication of a compilation of articles by the staff and students on women related themes. It was fitting that the publication was released at the celebrations held in connection with International Women's Day.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge those who unobtrusively shoulder the administrative duties under the guidance of Sr. Celine and facilitate the efficient working of the college. The examination unit deserves

mention for the smooth conduct of examinations and the timely publication of results.

Mention must also be made of the service rendered by the supportive staff under the direction of Sr. Annamma Luka who toil tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the college.

Having placed before you a report of the activities, though not comprehensive, of the past year, I would like to reiterate my deep sense of gratitude to:

- Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, Provincial and President of our Governing Body, Dr Sr. Mary Ann, Secretary of the college, Dr. Sr. Mary John, and Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul, our Vice- Principals, the Deans of Students Affairs, the members of the faculty and the administrative and supportive staff for their deep commitment and sharing of responsibilities in the administrative and the teaching-learning process.

- Our dear students who with their youthful exuberance add to the vitality of life on campus.

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

- The All India Association of Christian Higher Education, the Xavier Board, the United Board for Christian Higher Education, The Indian Bank, the Stella Maris College Extension Counter of the Indian Overseas Bank and other private and public sector organisations and agencies who have generously funded our student welfare programmes and projects.

- The Pallavan Transport Corporation, the Police Department, the Madras Electricity Board, the P & T Department, the Madras Telephones, the Corporation of Madras, AIR and Doordarshan Kendra and other public utility departments for the timely service rendered by them.

- Thank you dear parents, friends and benefactors for your continued support and sustained interest in all the happenings of the college.

As another eventful year draws to a close, we must set our eyes on the New Age that is to emerge. We need to develop the sense of the cosmic whole as envisaged by Rev. Bede Griffiths, in his New Vision of Reality. A new understanding of our environment therefore will put an end to this age of the exploitation of nature. Beauty always arises from this harmony with nature.

In the present challenging times we need to overcome discord and establish universal harmony. In this context, I would like to quote Jawaharlal Nehru— A strong wind arising somewhere creates a cyclone in one place and

an anti cyclone in another. So, if harmony is to be achieved by the individual it has to be supported by some kind of social harmony throughout the world.

It is when the truth of the Transcendent order of reality is rejected that we become exposed to the hostile forces of the subtle world. It is then that the perennial philosophy, the traditional wisdom found in all great religions of the world offers a means of solace and recovery. A cosmic universal religion, with essential values of each religion preserved in a living relationship with the other religious traditions of the world needs to emerge. This is a task for the coming centuries, as the present world order breaks down and a new world order arises from the ashes of the old.

The aspirations of our youth, their hope for a harmonious world order will be presented in the cultural programme that you will witness this evening.

In our search for truth , in our determination to be artisans of this new world order, may the Wisdom of the Almighty grant us the courage and the vision to tread unknown paths, to forge ahead undaunted.

Thank you and God bless.

\* \* \* \* \*