



**STELLA MARIS
COLLEGE
CHENNAI, INDIA**

Celebrates

*The Life and Charism of
Mary of the Passion*

***The Handmaiden's
Message***

*A multi media
presentation by the
faculty and students of
Stella Maris College*

March 15, 2003



**Blessed Mary of
The Passion**



BLESSED MARY OF THE PASSION

(Hélène de Chappotin)

May 21, 1839 – November 15, 1904

FOUNDRESS

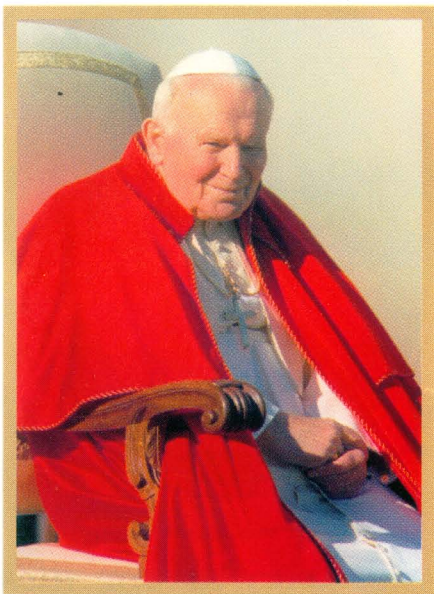
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

BEATIFIED

October 20, 2002

"I am consecrated to God. My end is Love."

-Mary of the Passion



“An extraordinary woman, marked by a boundless love for the Absolute, strong in times of trial and suffering, always serene, easily forgiving and generous, and outstanding for her indefatigable zeal. She was endowed with nobility of heart, with a superior intelligence, and with a tenacious will, surrendering herself entirely to God by her offering of herself to Him and dedicated to the salvation of souls. She occupied an important position in the Church, and in the evolution of missionary spirituality, and distinguished herself by her renowned holiness, sincerity, and uprightness”.

From the decree, issued in Rome on January 1, 1979, on the occasion of the introduction of the cause of Beatification of Mary of the Passion.

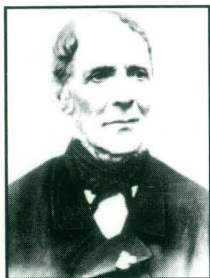


Mary of the Passion let herself to be seized by God, who was able to satisfy the thirst for truth that motivated her. Founding the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, she burned to communicate the torrents of love that sprang up in her and wished to extend them over the world. At the heart of the missionary commitment she placed prayer and the Eucharist, because for her, adoration and mission blended to become the same work. Drawing on Scripture and the Fathers of the Church, combining a mystical and active vocation, passionate and intrepid, she gave herself with an intuitive and daring readiness to the universal mission of the Church. Dear Sisters, learn from your foundress, in profound communion with the Church, and welcome the invitation to live, with renewed fidelity, the intuitions of your founding charism, so that the number of those who discover Jesus, who makes us enter into the mystery of the love that is God, may be more abundant.

(Homily of October 27, 2002, on the occasion of the beatification of Mary of the Passion)

BLESSED MARY OF THE PASSION

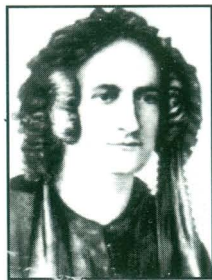
The founder of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Mary of the Passion (Hélène Marie Philippine de Chappotin de Neuville) was born on May 21, 1839 in Nantes, France. She was the youngest of the five children born to Charles de Chappotin and Sophie Galbaud du Fort.



Charles de Chappotin



Le Fort



Sophie Galbaud du Fort

From childhood, she showed eminent natural gifts and a deep faith. In December 1860, with the consent of the Bishop of Nantes, she entered the Poor Clares, whose ideal, based on St. Francis' simplicity and poverty, attracted her.

On January 23, 1861, while still a postulant, she had a profound experience of God. This experience marked her entire life. A short time after, having become seriously ill, she had to leave the convent.

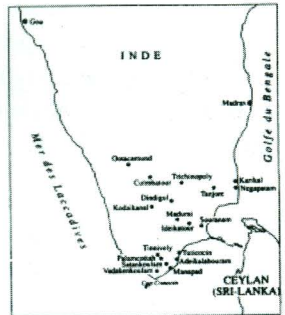


"Love is the very Being of God!"

-Mary of the Passion

When she was well again, her confessor directed her to the Society of Mary Reparatrix whose members were dedicated to Eucharistic adoration in union with Mary at the foot of the Cross, making reparation for the sins of the world. She was accepted into the order on August 15, 1864. In Toulouse, she received the religious habit and the name “Mary of the Passion”.

In March 1865, while still a novice, she was sent to India, to the Apostolic Vicariate of Madurai, entrusted to the Society of Jesus. In 1874, a new house was founded in Ootacamund in the Vicariate of Coimbatore, under the direction of the Paris Foreign Mission Society. However, in Madurai, the dissensions became exacerbated to such an extent that, in 1876 some religious, among them Mary of the Passion, were driven to leave the Society of Mary Reparatrix, reuniting at Ootacamund under the jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore, Mons. Joseph Bardon, M.E.P.



Tamil Nadu in South India

In November 1876, Mary of the Passion went to Rome to regularise the situation of the 20 separated sisters and on January 6, 1877, obtained the authorisation from Pope Pius IX to found a new Institute which was to be specifically missionary and was to be called the “Missionaries of Mary”. Her activity as a missionary would remain deeply marked by the years she had lived in India, having experienced first hand the conditions and difficulties of life on the missions.

I said to Love: 'I love You so much I could die,' and Love replied, 'It is I who loved you so much that I did die,' and all the love of Jesus' Passion pierced my heart.
 -Mary of the Passion

Her intense activity drew its dynamism from contemplation of the great mysteries of faith. For Mary of the Passion, all led back to the Unity-Trinity of God-truth-love, who communicates Himself to us through the paschal mystery of Christ. It was in union with these mysteries that, in an ecclesial and missionary dimension, she lived her vocation of offering.

For her, Jesus in the Eucharist was “the great missionary” and availability to Mary in the readiness of her “Fiat” traced out for her the path of unconditional self-giving to the work of God. Thus she opened her Institute to the horizons of universal mission, accomplished in Francis of Assisi’s evangelical spirit of simplicity, poverty and charity.



She took great care, not only of the external organization of the works, but above all of the spiritual formation of the religious. Gifted with an extraordinary capacity for work, she found time to compose numerous writings on formation, while by frequent correspondence she followed her daughters dispersed throughout the world, relentlessly calling them to a life of holiness. “Surely when I was twenty-one I could not understand your wishes for my path in life, my God, nor what the term true power meant...I can see true power resplendent: Truth and Charity: God communicating himself to the Church through the Holy Spirit”.

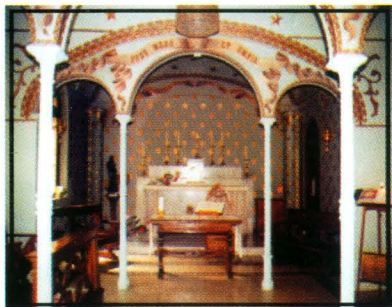
Worn out by the fatigue of her constant journeys and daily labour, she died after a brief illness on November 15, 1904 in San Remo, Italy. Her mortal remains repose in a private oratory of the Institute’s

*I saw love, truth and unity.
I saw that to live of one is to live of the other.
-Mary of the Passion*

Motherhouse in Rome. The Congregation now has 7712 sisters of 78 nationalities who are working in 76 countries, on every continent.

In February 1918, in San Remo, the Informative Process was opened for the Cause. After the Consultors voted unanimously in its favour, the Decree for the Introduction of the Cause was published on January 19, 1979, with the approval of His Holiness John Paul II.

On June 28, 1999, the Sovereign Pontiff John Paul II solemnly promulgated the Decree on the heroicity of the virtues of Mother Mary of the Passion. On March 5, 2002, the healing of a religious, suffering from “pulmonary and vertebral TBC, Pott’s Disease”, was



recognised as a miracle granted by God through the intercession of the Venerable Mary of the Passion. In April 23, 2002, the Decree for the Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God was promulgated. On October 20, 2002, the Sovereign Pontiff John Paul II, beatified Mary of the Passion



*(Published in 'The Hindu'
dated Oct. 27, 2002)*

*“There is so much to be done in the world!
Would that I had a thousand lives.”*

-Mary of the Passion

CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF MARY OF THE PASSION

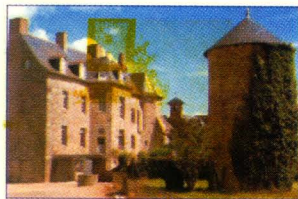
- 1839 May 21, birth of H el ene de Chappotin, daughter of Charles de Chappotin and Sophie Galbaud du Fort.
- 1850 First Holy Communion, Death of her cousin, Aurelia, and of her sister, Martina.
- 1854 Death of her sister, Louise
- 1856 Retreat in Nantes: God claims her for the first time.
- 1859 Death of Madame de Chappotin.
- 1860 Entry among the Poor Clares.
- 1861 Self-offering for the Church and the Pope. Return home.
- 1864 Entry into the Society of Mary Reparatrix.
- 1865 Departure for India
- 1866 First profession. Appointed Superior at Tuticorin.
- 1867 Appointed Provincial of the Madura mission.
- 1871 Perpetual profession



I see the profound order of the Love that causes the 'Here am I' of the Incarnate Word not to be uttered, but to be fully expressed in his very Being.

-Mary of the Passion

- 1874 Foundation of Ootacamund.
- 1876 Deposed from the office of Provincial.
Departure for Rome.
- 1877 Jan 6, Foundation of the Missionaries of Mary at Ootacamund
Opening of a novitiate in Saint-Brieuc (France)
- 1880 Journey to Rome. Foundation of the Chatelets.
- 1882 Foundation of the house in Rome.
Drafting of the Constitutions of the Missionaries of Mary.
Entry into the Franciscan Third Order.
- 1883 Deposed from the office of Superior General by the Pope.
- 1884 Deposition revoked by the Pope. General Chapter and re-election as Superior General.
- 1885 Foundations in Marseille and Carthage.
First approbation of the Constitutions Official Franciscan adoption: Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.
- 1886 Foundations in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), China, Paris
- 1896 Definitive approbation of the Constitutions.



*The invitation to say, 'Here am I' is a great river
flowing forth from the Blessed Trinity.*

-Mary of the Passion

1900 July 9, Martyrdom of seven Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Tai-Yuan-Fu, China



1904 Nov 15, Death of Mary of the Passion in San Remo, Italy.



Beatified Nov 24, 1946
Canonised Oct 1, 2000
Saint Marie Hermine de la Jésus
Saint Marie de la Paix, Sr. Maria Chiara
Saint Marie Adolphine
Saint Marie Amandina
Saint Marie de Saint Just
Saint Marie de Sainte Nathalie

1979 Introduction of the Cause for her beatification.

2002 Oct 20, Beatification of Mother Mary of the Passion by Pope John Paul II



*I feel as it were waves of love churning up within me,
longing to pour themselves out on the world.*

-Mary of the Passion

BLESSED MARIA ASSUNTA

Mary of the Passion said, "Happy is the simple soul, who lives in the transparency of truth and charity".

One who lived the truth of these words was a simple, unassuming person Maria Assunta, who hailed from the town of Marches. When Mother Mary of the Passion first met young Maria Assunta, she looked deep into her eyes and said "You are from Marches, the land of saints. You too should become a Saint!"



These words so impressed the young novice that it seemed as if she had taken the very letter of her Mother Superior's words to heart. All who had the privilege of knowing Sr Maria Assunta spoke of her saintly demeanour her pious nature, the soul of one who lived by the motto "All for Jesus".

Sent as a missionary to the foundation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in China, she died in 1905, during an outbreak of typhus, after a period of suffering patiently borne. She was only 28 years old. It is reported that after her death the room where she was laid out was filled with a divine perfume the scent of which lingered long after the funeral.

Mother Marie de St Agnès fmm, Superior General wrote : "Our little Assunta has understood the grandeur of the call of God in its absolute simplicity which is true wisdom. She asked for God's grace to make souls understand the purity of this intention, which is that one does everything for God, everything for the love of God. This is true wisdom. Very young, very simple, she moved directly to her goal."

Blessed Maria Assunta was beatified on November 7, 1954.

*Make of my heart and of the Institute a burning fire
that will set the earth ablaze!*

-Mary of the Passion

THE HANDMAIDEN'S MESSAGE

The life and charism of Mary of the Passion

A multimedia presentation by the faculty and students of Stella Maris College

Stella Maris College seeks, this evening, to present the life of one who lived over a hundred years ago and whose life was inexplicably transformed, touched as she was by the spirit of one, who over 2000 years ago, was born into a lowly carpenter's family and was recognized as the Son of God and hailed as the Messiah.

We thus trace the life of H el ene de Chappotin who first took the name of Mary Victim of Jesus and of Jesus Crucified and later Mary of the Passion.

This is a life like no other, marked as it was with rainbow hued experiences but from which the essence of pure white shimmering faith was distilled – a faith that pervaded every pore of her being and wafted outwards to fill the world and every one she touched.

To capture the indomitable spirit, the bubbling effervescence, the profound faith, the agonising tribulations and the unflagging hope we have used a narrative style illustrated with aptly and tastefully worked video presentations, interspersed with dance and music. The choice of the dance and music has been made in keeping with the lofty spiritual subject and the mood of quiet celebration of the life of one who has been a source of inspiration to countless men and women the world over.

The Great Missionary of the Institute is Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed and adored. The power of the Eucharist has not been sufficiently understood, nor has prayer joined to action for the transformation of the peoples.

-Mary of the Passion

The music for the dances has been specially composed for the occasion. The nine short dance pieces have been choreographed to capture various facets of the life of Mary of the Passion.

- i) The mood of prayer (invocation dance with flowers)
- ii) Breaking the temporal bonds in a quest for spiritual solace
- iii) The power of faith that fills and transforms the individual
- iv) The resurgence of the divine spark which like nature regenerates after a storm
- v) The violence of rejection and the healing power of acceptance
- vi) The light of hope of radiated by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary that they spread across the globe
- vii) The violence of martyrdom and spiritual renewal
- viii) The various stages of the river of the life of Mary of the Passion from the singing brook to the deep quiet stream flowing on for all eternity
- ix) Exuberant Thillana

The wide range of dances put up by our talented dancers includes the Classical Bharatha Natyam, Ballet, Contemporary, Western and Folk.

The musical background pieces are both classical recordings and live pieces. The gifted choir and soloist perform original compositions as well as well known classics. The songs include the *Ode to Joy*, *Via Dolorosa*, *Lift thine Eyes*, *Ave Maria*, *The Lord's Prayer*, *Make me a Channel of your peace*, *Abide with me*, *Voices that Challenge*, *Old Rugged Cross*, *Magnificat* and the *Hallelujah Chorus* (from Handel's *Messiah*)

I see ever so clearly that true power is the truth and charity that God communicates to the Church through the Holy Spirit.

-Mary of the Passion

The life and charism of Mary of the Passion

THE HANDMAIDEN'S MESSAGE

A multimedia presentation

NARRATORS

Subiksha Krishniah
02/EL/27
Divya Jacob
02/IS/115
Priyanka Joseph
02/EL/17
Anne Maria Cyriac
00/EC/23
Mythily S Nair
02/EL/36
Deepali Gupta
00/EL/59
Dhaarini Parthasarathy
02/SC/03
Vidya R
02/IS/127
Deepika Elizabeth
02/EL/30
Tessy George
02/CA/102
Rupha Ramani
02/EL/38
Nayana Jayarajan
01/EL/22

CHOIR

Neha Bhalla
00/EL/37
Puja Bhalla
01/SC/28
Varna Chelliah
00/EC/43
Preethy Gaspar
00/EC/05
Dawn Pledger
00/EC/46
Anjita Rajan
00/EC/21
Gayathri Bashi
00/EL/29
Anne Samuel
Faculty

Sowmya Madhavan
00/CM/03
Suhana Salim
01/FA/42
Rashmi Devaprasath
01/CM/623
Nirupama Raman
02/CH/35
Anjana Raghavan
02/SC/05
Anjale Sarah Stephanos
01/CM/11
Micheline Igayemi
00/SC/02
Kirthana Santosham
02/CA/619
Cheryl Dowie
01/CM/602
Thushanti Selvarajah
00/SC/47
Symantika Chelliah
01/EC/20
Sangeetha Joseph
00/CM/573
Anupa Paul
02/ZL/02

Soloist: Nina Menezes
01/EL/102

FOLK DANCERS

Deepa - Coordinator
00/CM/38
Asweni
01/CM/01
Usha M.
01/CM/08
Evangelin
00/CM/20
Augustin B.
01/CM/64
Shruthi
01/EL/04
Lakshmi
01/EC/14

Amudha
02/HS/06
A. Sangeetha
Sivadasini
01/HS/33
Roopa Thomas
02/CA/606
Sangeetha M.
02/CA/629
Elizabeth K.V.
01/HS/26
Sunitha K.
01/CM/625
Aruna Saraswathi K
02/MT/20
J. Farinal Nancy
01/MT/56
Sheeba
00/MT/48

CONTEMPORARY

DANCERS

Merin
01/CM/624
Mridula
00/CM/23
Nandhita
00/ZL/27
Deepa
00/ZL/09
Preethi
01/PH/43
Kripa
01/SC/42
Subhashini
00/CM/650
Rashmi
01/CM /543

Ballet : Anoushka

00/CM/19

WESTERN

Mridula - Coordinator
00/CM/23
Prarthana
02/BT/25

Rashmi
01/CM/543
Kripa
01/SC/42
Merin
01/CM624
Nisha
Nandhitha
00/ZL/27
Subashini
00/CM/650
Mridula
02/EC/46
Mathangi
02/EC/22
Melinda
00/CM/21
Archana
02/EL/60
Deepa
00 ZL 09
Swathi
00/CM/77
CLASSICAL
Mary
00/EC/06
Mohana Dharani R.B.
01/CM/731
Sushma
00/ZL/04
Madhuri Prabhala
00/EC/20
S. Sreepriya
00/SC/24
Praveena
02/EC/15
Manasi
00/EC/13
Archana
01/CM/715
Ashwini
02/EC/127
Aswathi
01/CA/636

*I see where Mary is leading me.
I am to offer my life for the triumph of true power.*

-Mary of the Passion

Naveena
02/EC/63
Meena
00/CM/563
Shobitha
02/CM/21

Indian Classical Music

Mishra Rajaram
02/ZL/14
Mega Rajaram
01/ZL/13
Bharathi Ramasubban
01/CH/02

Pot Painting

Students,
III BA Fine Arts,

Student Production Team

Mithra Suresh 00/EL/53
Stage manager
Nidhi Paul - 00/CM/566
Costumes & Assistant Stage
Manager
Vaishnavi R. - 02/EL/08
Sound & Light Co-ordinator
Divya Thomas - 02/EC/112
Coordinator - Narrators

Bayiravi Mani - 00/CA/529
Coordinator-Dancers
Sowmya Nandakumar
00/EC/07

Production Assistants

Neethu Victor
00/CM/572
Chachu Joseph
02/CM/560
Tia Ann Roy
02/EC/47
Darshini K. Babu
02/EL/39

K. Anupama
01/ZL/22
C. Ruby
01/ZL/24
Riba Mohan
02/FA/17
Lisa Mathew
02/FA/10
Jenny George
02/CM/552
Soumya Skandan
02/BT/36
Nidhi Shah
02/BT/11

CONSULTANTS:

- Video & Lights
- Video Technical Assistants

Picture Productions
Fr. Thaddeus, SDB - Director,
Software Bics, Yellagiri Hills
Fr. Maria Arokiaraj, SDB
Arockia Chinnapparaj,
M. Joseph, Leo Thomas

- Sound
- Dance Choreography
- Music Composition – Indian
- Accompanist (Piano)
- Training of Choir & Arrangement
of Music for Women's voices
- Technical Director

Prithvi
Jayanthi
Rajesh Vaidya
Leslie David

Augustine Paul
Mithran Devanesen

WORKSHOPS:

- Body Techniques Workshop
- Voice Workshop

Mangai Padma
Mithran Devanesen

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

- Sr. Hilda fmm, Sheila Singh & Premi

PROGRAMME SUPPORT:

- Sr. Florine Monis fmm & Sr. Ann Mathew fmm

FACULTY:

- Dance
- Western Music
- Costumes
- Assistant - Video Production
- Art Consultant
- Painting - Cross
- Stage and Altar for Mary
of the Passion
- Research Consultant
- Video Production and Conception
- Creative Director and Script
- Concept & Production
- Patrons

Saroja Krishnamoorthy, Gita Sridhar & Ramaa Narayanan
Christina Rajkumar
Geetha Swaminathan, Sheila Singh
Mridula Jose
Ashrafi Bhagat
Anne Samuel

Sr Mercy fmm
Sr Christine Antony fmm
Gita Bala
Chitra Krishnan
Sr. Annamma Philip fmm
Sr. Rita Marneni fmm
Sr. Maria Sundari fmm

I see God within me in an irresistible way.

-Mary of the Passion

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary....



AROUND THE WORLD	:	7712
NATIONALITIES	:	78
WORKING IN	:	5 CONTINENTS
COUNTRIES	:	77
FMM IN INDIA	:	1400

Five Provinces in India

Providence Convent

Dharmaram College, P.O.
Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560 029.
Phone : 080 5536272
provi.providen@bgl.vsnl.net.in

Immaculate Conception Convent

1252, Big Baazar Street,
Coimbatore - 641 001.
Phone : 422 2398698
icprofmm@md5.vsnl.net.in

St. Thomas Convent

18, Rosary Church Road,
Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004
Ph : 044-24981564
fmm@md4.vsnl.net.in

Villa Theresa Convent

66, Dr. Gopalrao Deshmukh Marg,
Mumbai - 400 026
Ph : 022-387 4916
prov.vithera@bom5.vsnl.net.in

Prabhalaya

W-89, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi - 110 048
Ph : 011 6484647
prov.fmmdelhi@ndf.vsnl.net.in

www.fmm.org

Our Mission Today
The whole world is our homeland



O God, in your admirable Providence you led your servant, Mary of the Passion, to found an Institute dedicated to the universal mission. Now that your Church counts her among the Blessed, grant us the graces we ask of you through her intercession.

Grant, above all, that we may learn from her how to be always ready to do your will and to grow steadfastly in your love.

Amen