

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, CHENGALPATTU, TAMILNADU – 1935



In the time line of St. Mary's Convent's history the year 1934 is the highly remarkable and a great memorial year especially the January 29th of 1935 is a red letter day since that was the day the beacon of light out shadowed the Sisters of St. Ann to commence the service through Education at the Southern Region. In response to the divine call of His Lordship, the Bishop of Mylapore Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fragoza, Rev. Mother Assuntina the Provincial Superior sent Rev. Sr. Ermanna, Sr. Berchmans and later Sr. Bianca as a small community to take care of the School at Chengalpattu.

In 1936, at the very start of the activities in the mission the sisters saw the necessity of having a boarding home. High school was started at the request of Don Carlos De Se Fragoza, the then Bishop of Mylapore, the sisters took up the apostolate of Education in Chengalpattu in 1934. In 1937 a shed was added for the

school due to increase in number. In October 1938 His Excellency new bishop Rt. Rev. M. Guerreiro paid visit and felt sad to see the living condition of the sisters and ordered immediately to build a room above the school and a playground and to give the press building which belonged to boy's school and Parish. The building was renovated and blessed on 3rd December 1940 by His Excellency. Before Fr. Sanctus could leave India (To Portugal) he advised Mother Provincial to take up the whole management. In 1942 the management was handed over to the Sisters and the support from the Diocese was withdrawn from then on.



On 4th June 1943 Teachers' Training School was opened and began to function from 11th June. On 24th January 1944 Sr. M. Silvestra passed in Needle work exam and it was a blessing to her to start a Tailoring centre. The year 1943 was an important year in the history of St. Mary's. In March 1943, the first set of eleven girls was sent for the S.S.L.C. and passed out with centum results. The pioneering efforts of 1939 were crowned with success.



A great deal of credit goes to Sr. M. Margaret Ferting who initiated the Old Students Association in 1945 which proves to be an enduring value up to date. Every year on 26th January (Republic Day) the old student's day is celebrated. The Past pupils greet and meet and enjoy the day to the full. Their contribution to the growth of the school is praiseworthy.

On 28th April 1945 a foundation was laid by Rev. Msgr. Francis Carvalho for the High School. It was blessed by Fr. Rock the Parish Priest on 5th November 1945. Higher Secondary School became fully-fledged in September 1984. The anxiety of the people of Chengalpattu for their children to be educated in English Medium was solved with the introduction of an English medium Parallel section from Standard 6th onwards in June 1988. The aim of this institution is to inculcate in children the Gospel values and to give sound formation in order to build up their all-round personality.

In the year 1949, 5th March Sr. Corina was made Superior and on 12th June 1951 Sr. Eufрасina took up the High School. The blessing of the new hall with 3 classes was erected with the permission of Bishop Fr. Carvalho. On 4th June 1956 Sr. Julia was taken the Charge of the Community. In January 1957 Sr. Bianca was superior. September 30th 1959 Sr. Francis took up the High School as Headmistress. February 6th 1960 was a great day for the Elementary school which reached to height of celebrating the Silver Jubilee and His Grace Dr. Louis Mathais

Presided over the function. From the time of history there were chosen ones among the sisters, in whose able hands the responsibility to lead the community was entrusted. St. Mary's was fortunate to receive dynamic animator like Sr. Corina, Sr. Bianca and Sr. Alice etc.

Sr. Alice took up the charge in the year 1961, 9th January. On 2nd April 1965 Sr. Alice and Sr. Dolores went to meet His Grace for the settlement of the land. Till 1965 the property was belonging to the Diocese unconditionally. Sr. Alice with her intuition and great effort brought it under the ownership of the Congregation. In 1980 according to the Charism of the Sisters of St. Ann, Sr. Philomena Putti, a promising sister started a Technical School.

St. Mary's Teacher Education unit comprises St. Mary's College of Education and St. Mary's Teacher Training Institute. The College was successfully established under the leadership of Sr. Mildred and the stewardship of Sr. Nirmala Joris in the calendar year 2007. These educational institutions excel in its mission, with vision, under the able and efficient guidance of the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence. It aims at providing and awakening educational empowerment to the women folk hailing from all walks of life to be self -sufficient prestigiously and proudly in the competitive world. It has marked a noble legacy in the educational scenario of Chengalpattu.

